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**CIRCULAR**  
**3 November 2010**

**ID:** C10053

**TO:** Club Presidents, Secretaries, Captains, Competition Officers, Junior Coordinators, BoSS

**FROM:** Michael Schetter, Manager Surf Sports

**SUBJECT:** Officials Colour Shirt Program

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Put simply the Colour Shirt Program is an initiative which helps support, develop and value beginner officials. It provides visual indicators, via a specific uniform, to highlight officials are new in their role. Importantly it involves education and promotion by your club and surf lifesaving in general to create a positive culture for beginner officials. The underlying purpose of the program is to assist clubs to recruit, support and thereby retain beginner officials

The aim is to make all beginner/inexperienced officials easily recognisable to all participants and spectators with the objective being that people will identify that these officials are 'learners' and will lead to greater tolerance and a reduction in harassment, thereby making officiating more attractive to participate in.

The program is based on the successful SANFL 'red shirt' program. That program found that the abuse received by inexperienced officials was reduced and contributed to a greater retention rate of 'inexperienced' officials.

Newly trained officials will be provided with a florescent green official's shirt. We will provide mentoring and support to the new official and promote and raise awareness of the program and its aims to all members.

The program has been extremely successful and spread across a number sports including:

Baseball SA, Basketball SA, Country Basketball SA, Canoe SA, Football Federation of SA, Gymnastics SA, Hockey SA, Lacrosse SA, Netball SA, SA Rugby Union, SANFL, Softball SA, Squash SA and Touch Football Australia (SA Branch).

Your club will receive support material including a resource manual with all relevant information (including many templates with information ready to send to members), posters and 'wallet cards' for distribution. The education component is a critical part of the program and, if done well between clubs and SLSSA we can make a real difference in recruiting and retaining new officials.

The program is supported by the following groups with Scouts being a major sponsor of the program across South Australia.

**Supported by:**



Government of South Australia  
Office for Recreation and Sport



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