



Ground Official Duty – Ashfield Pirates FC

Ashfield Pirates FC is committed to providing a safe, respectful and well-run matchday environment for all players, officials, volunteers and spectators.

In line with **Football Canterbury requirements**, clubs must provide a **Ground Official for every field** on which a match is played at their home grounds. Where a ground has multiple fields in use, **a Ground Official is required for each field**.

The role of the Ground Official is a serious responsibility. Their presence helps ensure matches run smoothly, standards of behaviour are maintained, and any incidents are recorded appropriately. Failure to provide a Ground Official may result in **significant sanctions** being imposed on the club and the team involved.

When is a Ground Official Required?

Saturday Afternoons – Senior Men's Matches Only

For **Senior Men's teams (AAM, O35M, O45M, O55M)** playing at a Pirates home ground on **Saturday afternoons only**:

- The team playing the match will provide the Ground Official for **their own game**
- In the case of a **club derby**, only the **home team** is required to provide the Ground Official

Pirates home grounds used on Saturday afternoons:

1. Pratten Park
2. Hammond Park

All Other Matches (All Teams, All Other Times)

A Ground Official **must be provided for your own game** if **any** of the following apply:

- You are playing at a **Pirates home ground**, regardless of whether you are listed as the home or away team
- You are the **home team** playing at an away ground
- You are playing at a **neutral ground**, regardless of home or away status
- You are playing a **Mid-week (evening or night) match**, whether at a home, away or neutral ground

Pirates home grounds:

1. Pratten Park
2. Hammond Park
3. Ashfield Park

Organising a Ground Official

- Teams short on players, officials or spectators are encouraged to coordinate with another Pirates team playing immediately before or after their match where possible
- If this is not possible, the team **must organise a volunteer themselves**
- Teams playing at Pirates grounds as the **away team** are still required to provide a Ground Official for their own match, including local derbies

Ultimately, **each team is responsible for ensuring a Ground Official is in place for their game.**

Ground Official Requirements & Responsibilities

Ground Officials must:

- Be **18 years of age or older**
- Arrive **at least 10 minutes before kick-off**
- Wear the **orange Ground Official vest** (located in the team kit bag)
- Introduce themselves to the **Referee before the match**
- Position themselves **away from the technical areas and team benches**
- Ensure spectators remain **behind ropes or fences** and do not enter the field of play
- Keep the area **behind the goals clear at all times**
- Ensure **no one enters the field of play** unless signalled by the referee
- Assist the referee **when requested**
- Enforce **NO SMOKING and NO VAPING** on or near the field
- Enforce **NO ALCOHOL** regulations, including:
 - No alcohol near playing fields during matches
 - Alcohol consumption only after the final match of the day and only in permitted areas
- Remind the **final team of the day** of their responsibility to assist with field pack-down

Managing Incidents

In the unfortunate event of an incident (including verbal or physical altercations):

- Only intervene **if it is safe to do so**
- At no stage should any Pirates volunteer or official place themselves in danger
- Do **not** attempt to physically separate individuals if it puts you at risk

It is **critical** that the Ground Official records a **detailed account** of the incident, including:

- Player numbers
- Teams involved
- Sequence of events

This information is essential should Football Canterbury require a formal report.

Incident reports must be:

- Recorded in the **match-day folder** (located at the canteen), **or**
- Emailed to **info@piratesfc.com.au**

Where required, Pirates staff at home grounds are available to assist.
The **Club President must be notified immediately** on **0411 411 142** or via **president@piratesfc.com.au**.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to add the Ground Official to the match sheet?

While not mandatory, it is strongly recommended. This is particularly helpful if follow-up information is required after an incident.

Ground Officials can be added in **Dribl** by selecting [Add Official](#).

What if we are the last game of the day?

You must provide a Ground Official for your own match.

What if we are the home team playing away, or playing at a neutral venue?

You are required to provide a Ground Official for your own game. This includes Mid-week matches.

What if we are playing an away game at a Pirates ground?

You must provide a Ground Official for your game, including derby matches.

Do we only need to provide a Ground Official for our own team?

Yes, unless you have agreed with another Pirates team to cover each other's games. Regardless, responsibility remains with your team to ensure coverage.

Fines & Consequences

If a Ground Official is not provided:

- The **Referee may refuse to start the match**
 - Football Canterbury may issue a **\$120 fine** (first offence)
 - All **player cards will be deactivated** until the fine is paid
 - Subsequent offences incur a **\$230 fine per instance**
 - All fines are passed directly on to the team or individuals responsible
 - Where judicial proceedings arise, the absence of a Ground Official places the club and team at a significant disadvantage
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Final Word – The Pirates Way

Ground Officials play a vital role in upholding the **values, safety and culture** of Ashfield Pirates FC. By fulfilling this role properly, we protect our players, support referees, and ensure football remains a positive experience for everyone involved.

Thank you to all volunteers who step up and support the club, your contribution truly matters.