

## Memo on Neutral Umpires, Umpiring and the Role of Captains

Dear TSCL Captains, Neutral Umpires and Friends,

The TSCL Umpiring Committee along with the TSCL EC wants to sincerely thank each one of you and your teams for your support to the process of NEUTRAL umpiring. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to stand as NEUTRAL umpire and the effort involved in standing for 70 overs, for more than 6-7 hours during the game.

The basic GOAL of our experiment with neutral umpiring is to remove the element of the perceived bias associated with a batting team's umpire. We also understand that 2009 season is the first year of neutral umpiring in the TSCL and it is going to be a tough "switch" for our league. We recognize the fact that some teams are going to feel frustrated especially when they feel hard done by some of the decisions of the neutral umpires. We assure you that your continued commitment and respect to the neutral umpiring process is going to be vital and important for the success of our league in the future seasons.

Within the first few weeks of neutral umpiring this season, we are already learning about the umpiring process. We are also identifying key issues and problems associated with the neutral umpiring. To make the umpiring process smoother, better and easier for all the teams, your support and discipline is very important. These improvements can only be achieved with the help from each and every TSCL family member.

Here are some KEY guidelines for the Captains, neutral umpires and their team mates regarding the neutral umpiring process.

- **CAPTAINS are solely responsible** for not only sending a prepared neutral umpire to the game but also for **RESPECTING** the neutral umpire while playing their own games. Captains are responsible for their team's behavior towards neutral umpire and are solely responsible for upholding the Spirit of the Game.
- **Experience** has no substitute! Experience with umpiring is very important and we will be getting better at it as we umpire more games. We need to understand that some of our neutral umpires have passed their tests but might lack some experience, as far as umpiring goes. We firmly believe that irrespective of the testing, there is no substitute for experience.
- **RESPECTING** the neutral umpires is very critical and vital for the league. We firmly believe that the neutral umpire is best "positioned" to render the decisions that he makes on the playing field.

**Here are IMPORTANT DOs and DONTs** for Captains and Umpires that they should focus on during this year's experiment with neutral umpires.

### **Role of Captains:**

- 1) **Captains set the examples and standards.** Captains should make sure that his team mate who is going to neutral umpire is AWARE of all the basic and new rules of our league games such as free hit, power play, use of correct signs etc. An unbiased, honest Captain is EQUALLY necessary for the success of the neutral umpire.

- 2) **Umpire evaluations are important.** Both winning and losing captains should write a “realistic” although “balanced” report about rating the neutral umpire. It would be WRONG for the winning captain to offer a “glowing rating” to the neutral umpire while the losing captain is “critical” of that same umpire.
- 3) **DON'T appeal excessively and unnecessarily** as well as questioning the umpire's decision. While, we do not forbid the bowler and/or the Captain from “gently” asking the neutral umpire to justify his decision, it needs to be completely understood that the neutral umpire is fully justified in not offering an explanation of his decisions.
- 4) **Assign an umpire** who has a working knowledge of the TSCL rules and regulations. A quick attempt at educating these umpires by their own captains could be helpful.
- 5) **Use the league's website (www.cricketchan.com) and Yahoo groups page regularly.** There is a wealth of useful and practical help available that is not meant to remain on these sites but for Captains and Neutral umpires to download and help themselves in the process.
- 6) In addition they could contact any of the members of the TSCL EC, before, during and after the game.

### **Duties of a Neutral Umpire:**

1. **Arrive on time for the games.** Come prepared for the game (with pen and paper, ball counter) by at least being on time for the game, i.e at least 30 minutes before the start of play.
2. **Come PREPARED with the “umpire-helper”** that the TSCL President has posted on the yahoo group's page and cricketchan website.
3. **Be professional and respectful and help to uphold the Spirit of the Game.** Earn the respect of the teams by reading and staying updated with all the TSCL rules prior to the game.
4. **Your feedback is very crucial:** Give your feedback to TSCL EC and report (call or e-mail) the important events that happened during the game that you think the EC should know about. Such feedbacks will help us improve the umpiring experience with every game. An Umpires Self-Evaluation Form is posted on the yahoo groups page and cricketchan.com
5. If you need help with anything, please contact any of the members of the TSCL EC, before, during and after the game.

The TSCL EC has full confidence in our neutral umpires regarding their decision making process We seek the assistance of the Captains and the players to lend a helping hand in making this process as smooth as they possibly can.

Thank you for your time.

Sent by the 2009 TSCL Sub-committee on Umpires with input from the TSCL EC