

OFFICIAL



Mercantile Cricket Umpires' Association

Newsletter 1: December 2025

Editor: Dean Caia

ASSOCIATION ALERTS

Fees: Due by 31st December 2025: \$90

Meetings (Tuesdays at St Kilda Sports Club)

13th January 2026, 7pm

10th February 2026, 7pm

10th March – Finals Meeting & BBQ, 6.30pm



OFFICIALSHQ ETTIQUE



OfficialsHQ assumes by default that you are available. If your availability changes AFTER 8pm Sunday prior to the weekend in question, you MUST email or SMS John Sexton*

You MUST accept your appointment in OfficialsHQ. If your availability changes after receiving an appointment notification, you MUST email or SMS John up to 6pm Friday*

IF IT IS AFTER 6PM FRIDAY YOU MUST CALL JOHN AND AT THE VERY LEAST LEAVE HIM A MESSAGE*

POCKET PROFILES



Umpire	Adhisha De Silva
Suburb	Glen Waverley
Country supported	Sri Lanka
Years umpiring MCA	1
Mode of travel	Car
Favourite cricket shot	Cover drive
Most loved umpire gear	Broad brimmed hat
White or Black shoes for MCA umpire	White
Bowler bowls ball which bounces twice before popping crease	No Ball
Favourite cricketer	Sannath Jayasuriya (SL)
Plays like	Geoffrey Boycott (Eng)



Umpire	Rohit Raju
Suburb	Docklands
Country supported	India
Years umpiring MCA	2
Mode of travel	Public Transport
Favourite fielding position	Backward square leg
Most liked MCA ground	Flemington Road Oval
Most desired afternoon tea food	Chicken sandwich
Bowler bowls ball which bounces and then drops dead in front of batsman	Call no ball and then dead ball
Favourite cricketer	Jonty Rhodes (South Africa)
Plays like	Shahid Afridi (PAK)

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Our very own Graham Slater was an accomplished local cricketer, most notably for Mont Albert and Emerald Hill Cricket Clubs. In the summer of 1977/1978, Graham represented Mont Albert against West Hawthorn. Slats played a magnificent innings hitting 2 fours and 1 six, opening the innings. Unfortunately, Graham lost his wicket at 49, dismissed caught, one short of the coveted 50!

MERCANTILE MAYHEM

Surprisingly, we are not the only Mercantile Cricket Association that exists. There is also, a same name Association in Sri Lanka, which fixtures matches for grades from A to G, established in 1911. This Association is much more flash, with its own facility incorporating indoor cricket nets, a bar and even a karaoke and billiards room.



EAR TO THE GROUND

We all love umpiring at Flemington Road Oval (FRO), with its small boundaries, picturesque setting and proximity to the Royal Children's Hospital, an iconic Melbourne institution. The servo across the road also serves a killer meat pie! However, FRO only originated in the MCA as a turf cricket ground, due to a failed East West Link tunnel project.

The original plan was to demolish Ross Straw Field in Royal Park, which at the time was a cricket turf wicket facility, to be replaced by FRO. Due to community concerns including by the Royal Park Reds who were slated to lose their Poplar Oval base as part of the development, the East West Link tunnel project was eventually cancelled.

In the meantime, FRO was turned into a turf cricket ground whilst Ross Straw Field was converted into a synthetic cricket ground, still in use today.



RULES RECAP

How often should the batting team change the scoreboard? Every 2 overs [Rule 11.2](#)

Are helmets compulsory whilst batting? No. Only a recommendation [Rule 4.2](#)

If a ball hits into a tree or other obstacle grounded inside or outside the boundary, what is the correct decision? Six runs, if in the opinion of the umpire at bowler's end, that the ball would have carried over the boundary on the full (CAUTION: Fawkner Park Oval 1 has an overhanging tree!) [Rule 7.3](#)

Are there restrictions in the number of runs one player can make in any one innings? Yes. D grade only. After reaching 100, a player is deemed to be “retired not out” and may only return to bat once no one else of the batting 11 is left to bat [Rule 14.2](#)