

Waikato Hockey Junior Umpires Academy

2021 Report

An approach to achieve competent intermediate level umpires, through individual mentoring and support was launched at the Intermediate Grade pre season umpires/coaching briefing meeting. An additional objective was to create confident umpires who may then consider future umpiring involvement. Approx 65 parents/coach's/players attended.

At that meeting 10 people registered for the Academy with 2 more joining during the season.

Highlights were —

- 1) very positive feedback from Coach's/parents/spectators.
- 2) the significant umpiring improvement by the academy members.
- 3) having the umpire/mentor labelled jacket was a huge success. It showed the watching public that I was there for a purpose.
- 4) 7 umpires shirts were awarded to Academy Members.
(Awarded upon achieving a level of 7+ out of 10 for this grade).
- 5) 38 individual mentoring sessions were held for Academy Members plus 17 interactions with non academy members.
- 6) 3 of the members, all beginner umpires, were asked by their respective team managers/coach's to be their umpire at this years Aims Games. Great achievement by the individuals concerned.
- 7) 9 members indicated that they enjoyed the mentoring and will continue umpiring next season.

Negatives were —

- 1) with the games spread over 6 venues, 1 mentor could not cover all mentoring opportunities. Frequently the travelling time between local venues would cut into actual mentoring time.
- 2) often various members were scheduled to umpire at the same time, hence mentoring opportunities were missed.
- 3) 2 of the more qualified members were often not scheduled by their respective school to umpire.
- 4) with 5 of the 12 academy members living in Matamata, I could only mentor them when umpiring in Hamilton.
- 5) 2 of that 5 only umpired in Matamata, hence I never mentored them.
- 6) trying to mentor an academy member whilst the other umpire had min umpiring skills, with wrong calls, interfering with calls, and all over the field (eg. awarding goals at both ends) made for some frustrating moments

Summary.

Overall a very rewarding project. More pre season promotion of the Academy approach would ensure more members, but this would require more mentors. 2 parents said another family sibling would join next year, plus at least 3 team managers/coach's said if only they had known earlier. All managers/coaches I spoke to strongly support this mentoring approach.

Des Meads
Coordinator