

Cricket Leinster Match Officiating Committee Report – September 2021

In the Spring of this year, Cricket Leinster formed a Sub-committee, that would report into the Cricket Committee, to deal with the area of match officiating - taking in all match officials and officiating. This ranges from the parents who help out with youth games, the scorers who scribble the scores on a spare bit of paper, all the way up to the scorers who serve their clubs week in week out, and the LCU&SA appointed umpires that officiate at the top levels of the club game, and all levels in between.

As with a number of other areas of Cricket Leinster activity, Covid has put development in the game to the back seat, instead prioritising the playing of matches throughout this difficult 2021 season. Nonetheless, many issues have been reported through the year, and it is the intention of this Sub-committee to work with interested parties in improving the standard of match officiating at all levels of the game within the province.

Some of the areas already identified are:

- A lack of gender diversity within our umpiring ranks,
- Umpiring capacity in Open Competitions, with many players no longer getting enjoyment from matches that don't have neutral umpires appointed,
- The standard of umpiring at all levels, which was the single biggest complaint received by the sub-committee this year, and
- The standard of scoring in matches where players take their stint for ten overs, and the quality of information being recorded. How can this be improved?

Over the coming months, the sub-committee will be working with CL staff, the LCU&SA and IACUS to improve the match officiating experience for all involved.

In so far as the 2021 season is concerned, LCU&SA made over 800 appointments, involving 63 umpires, and clearly the pandemic situation played a part in limiting the availability of some officials to stand. We thank all those who took the field to stand in matches this summer, and would also like to pay tribute to Matt Anson, LCU&SA Appointments Secretary, for the thankless task of maximising availability throughout the season.

Paul Reynolds
Chair, Match Officiating Sub-Committee
September 2021