

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE READING OUR GAME REPORTS:-

For Members of the Waverley Nation:

You are the people that these match reports are written for. The sole intent of these reports is to provide information and maybe some entertainment for those who attend games, but especially for those who cannot. If any member of the 'Waverley Nation' wants to make any comment about the content or style of these reports then we will certainly listen and take any good advice on board.

For NON-Members of the Waverley Nation and supporters of other clubs:

The Waverley Baseball Club does not receive any "spin-off" from visitors to this club web site. While we are quite pleased for non-Waverley members to use our web site as a resource, it really has no benefit for us to receive additional visitors. The Waverley Baseball Club could decide to "password protect" sections of our web site to exclude non-members but we don't wish to alienate the many visitors that enjoy and appreciate what we produce.

So, while we have no intent to do other than to serve our own members, we really don't want to annoy, upset or frustrate anyone. If you do become in any way annoyed, upset or frustrated by reading the reports on this web site I'd suggest that you do yourself a favour by NOT READING them and/or NOT VISITING our web site. It would be difficult to stumble upon these reports by accident in the normal course of internet usage so you might like to remove any "links" that you have created.

Might we suggest that you instead read the very good, unbiased, reports written by Kingsley Collins on the Baseball Victoria web site.

Our FIRSTS report writer has never and will never read or participate in any "chat rooms or forums" so you are wasting your time and effort if you think that this might be a good vehicle to let us know what you think about these reports. And, besides, we are mature enough to accept any criticism while taking on face value the integrity and/or credibility of those making the criticisms.

For UMPIRES:

Let me assure anyone who does not know our writer that he does indeed respect, admire and like baseballs' umpires. It is a simple and often stated fact that anyone who truly loves the game of baseball (and all other similar sports), as we do, fully realises that the game would not exist without umpires. The game of baseball cannot start until the umpire calls "play ball" and the game would be farcical without them.

My respect for ALL umpires comes from the fact that I have also tried to do this job many times in junior baseball... it is not always easy. Secondly, you must always have respect for anyone who puts in the time and effort to do what can often be a thankless task. People who umpire baseball do it mainly for the same reasons that people like me work on baseball web sites and write reports for little reward... because we all love this game... end of story.

I have personally chatted with most of Baseball Victoria's regular division one umpires over several years and I can say quite sincerely that I genuinely like most of them. To use an age old tongue-in-cheek adage, most of them actually become human before and after games when the veneer of the uniform is irrelevant.

While people in all walks of life have different personalities, most agree that the very best umpires are those who have enough self-confidence to bring their own personality into the heat of battle. Most players prefer umpires who attempt to communicate on a normal level without resorting to the "over officious" tones and actions that can cause conflicts. Those same umpires are the ones who usually accept criticism the best and will learn most from making mistakes without the need to become overly defensive.

I can assure you that many members of the Waverley Baseball Club have not hesitated for one moment to point out any of the errors that are regularly posted on this web site and it certainly wouldn't pay to be over-sensitive to the fact that it is much easier to point out mistakes than it is to do the work in the first place! The same applies to baseball umpires who should never be too concerned about the occasional error of judgement or the fact that someone might need to mention it. Nobody with reasonable intelligence expects anyone else to be perfect and any reference to an umpiring error should never be taken as a "personal attack".

Having said all this, you should find that umpires are very rarely mentioned on this web site in a negative context and on occasions when they are it will be with the sole intent to paint the picture of what happened for our member readers. Any opinion about the event will not be a personal attack.