



In October of each year, the AFL Victoria Country Umpiring Department calls for nominations for the **V/Line Umpire Academy Program** for the following season.

Local community umpiring groups have the opportunity to nominate:

- young developing umpires from all disciplines who are NUAS Development Umpire Accredited for participation in our junior football programs &
- older, more experienced umpires who are NUAS Advanced Umpire Accredited that would be considered for selection in a wide-range of umpiring appointments.

When all nominations have been received, the location of the Academies is established and work commences prior to Christmas with the distribution of a pre-season summer training program.

Post-Christmas, usually in mid-February, the Academy Program commences where fitness levels of all participants are measured.

Coaching sessions at the Academy Program include on-track coaching with discipline-specific coaching groups and indoor-coaching sessions that range from umpiring philosophies, personal goal-setting, the completion of self-development plans and an outline of what the year ahead will include.

Leading up to, and throughout, the season four Academy sessions are conducted at each Academy venue and are often linked in with other football Programs.

Local Umpire Coaches who are active participants in the National Umpire Coach Accreditation Scheme also attend and conduct skill-based coaching sessions where the participants are exposed to *“a different voice”* where the expectations of the performances are extremely high.

Unlike previous years, we are thrilled to be able to announce that the facilitation and management of the V/Line Umpire Academy sessions will be overseen by full-time Regional Commission Umpiring Staff – whose details appear also in the table below.

Leading into the commencement of the new season, the location of the V/Line Umpire Academy training venues look like being:

Region	Likely Academy training venue	Program Manager
AFL Barwon	Geelong	Jock Hillgrove
AFL Central Victoria	Bendigo	Sharon McColl
AFL Gippsland	Sale and Drouin	Nick Cullis
AFL Goldfields	Ballarat	Roger Le Grand
AFL Goulburn Murray	Shepparton	To be appointed
AFL North East Border	Albury	Mark Bywater
AFL South East	Beaconsfield & Cranbourne	Carl Fletcher
AFL Sunraysia	Mildura	Roger Le Grand
AFL Western District	Warrnambool	Jock Hillgrove
AFL Wimmera Mallee	Horsham	Roger Le Grand
AFL Outer East	Beaconsfield & Cranbourne	To be appointed

For more information about possible inclusion in the **V/Line Umpire Academy Program**, please call:

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