

MERLE SHORT SERVICE AWARD

NOMINEE: *GEORGE JAMES*
ASSOCIATION: *MELBOURNE*
YEAR AWARDED: *2001*



STATEMENT OF ACHIEVEMENTS:

George first became involved as spectators babysitting his two young children whilst watching his wife, Sue, play at Melton.

George began his involvement in umpiring at Werribee in 1982, when Melton Club joined the Werribee Softball Association. Here is a brief history of George's contribution to softball:

- 1987 to 2006 – Committee Member to Victorian Softball Umpires Association (In 1988 the VSUA was superseded by the Victorian Umpires Committee)
- 1989 to 1991 – Member of Victorian Umpires Committee Allocations Sub Committee
- 1992 to 2003 – Coordinator of Victorian Umpires Committee Allocations Sub Committee
- Victorian Umpires Committee Training Sub Committee Member
- Victorian Senior Umpire Examiner
- Victorian Senior Umpire Rules Lecturer
- State League Sub Committee representative
- Tournament Chief Umpire various Victorian State Championships
- Deputy Chief Umpire various Victorian State Championships
- 1987 to 2006 – Umpired at Victorian State Championships
- 1987 to 2006 – Umpired Victorian State League Competitions
- 1991 – Attained Level 4 umpire accreditation
- 1989 to 1997 – Umpired National Fastpitch League officiating in 66 games
- 1990 to 2001 – Umpired at 44 National Championships
- 1994 – Attained Level 5 Umpire Accreditation
- 1997 – Attained Level 6 Umpire Accreditation
- 2002 – Selected as a member of International Umpire Training Program
- Umpired various international events including Australia v Chinese Taipei, Japan, New Zealand
- 1995 – Umpired Australian Masters Games (Melbourne)
- 1997 – Umpired Australian Masters Games (Canberra)
- 1998 – Umpired Australian Masters Games (Adelaide)

- 2001 – Umpired Australian Masters Games (Newcastle)
- 1994 – Umpired World Masters Games (Brisbane)
- 2002 – Umpired World Masters Games (Melbourne)
- 2005 – Umpired World Masters Games (Edmonton, Canada)
- 1997 – Umpired ASF Masters Games (Sydney)
- 1998 – Umpired ASF Masters Games (Adelaide)
- 1999 – Umpired ASF Masters Games (Melbourne)
- 2000 – Umpired ASF Masters Games (Brisbane)
- 2006 – Umpired ASF Masters Games (Brisbane)
- 1996 to 2006 – Umpired Victorian Masters Games
- 1982 to 2000 – Member and umpire at Werribee Softball Association
- 1992 to 2000 – Umpired at Waverley Softball Association
- 1995 to 1999 – Umpired at Knox Softball Association
- 1997 to 2006 – Member of Melbourne Softball Association

SUPPORTING STATEMENT:

We believe George is a worthy recipient of the Merle Short Service Award having been an active member of our state umpiring body from 1987 to 2003, a period of 17 years.

In recognising George's achievements that warrant this award, also recognised should be George's other invaluable contributions to softball, at association, regional, state, national and international levels.

We believe that George is a great ambassador for our sport. Wherever you find George, from local club to international events, you will find him interacting with fellow umpires, coaches, players and administrators willingly assisting, mentoring and or supporting them.

We are honoured to have George James as a member of our Association. We believe Melbourne Softball Association, our members and those who participate from other Associations have benefited greatly from George's commitment and contribution to softball at Fawkner Park, as have those throughout Victoria.

