

# PRAYERS FOR OFFICIALS



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## PRAYER FOR WISDOM

*Composed by Colm McCaughan*

Lord my God, thank you for this opportunity  
to officiate at this match.

Grant that I may have the wisdom of your Spirit  
to discern my decisions wisely.

Give me a spirit of calmness when there is pressure.

Give me a spirit of forgiveness

when players and spectators disagree with or abuse me.

Give me a spirit of courage to make the tough decisions.

And finally, give all of us here

a spirit of joy in taking part in this match.

You, Lord, who are with us in all aspects of our lives, be with me now!

I make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*Colm is a religious education coordinator in NSW,  
a rugby union referee and a cricketer.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Composed by Fr Steve Ardill*

God of life, you give us games, sports and recreation  
to care for our bodies, recreate ourselves anew,  
and to grow in relationship with you and one another.

I thank you for the opportunities I've been given  
and the abundant joy I've experienced as an official.

Help me to always remember that I am only a servant of the game.  
With your help, may I strive to always witness enthusiastically to my faith,  
be the best decision-maker I can be and humbly admit my mistakes.

May my interactions with the participants always be respectful.  
May I contribute positively to the creation of a safe playing environment  
and the enjoyment of the players, team officials and spectators.

And, at the final whistle, may I exit the field  
knowing that I've given my all for the game  
and most importantly for your greater glory.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*Fr Steve is a priest in the Diocese of Port Pirie  
and an Australian rules football umpire.*

*"[Volunteers] keep alive, through their choices and their testimony,  
a culture of gift and a style of gratuitousness; they help sport to  
remain service-oriented for others, not only focused on the economic  
and bureaucratic dimension."*

GIVING THE BEST OF YOURSELF: A DOCUMENT ON THE CHRISTIAN  
PERSPECTIVE ON SPORT AND THE HUMAN PERSON, 2018