

# Quick Guide to Sports Commentating

## 1. Prepare for Sports Commentating

Sports commentating is more than just turning up to the ground an hour beforehand, then throwing the headphones on and expecting the call to go perfectly to plan.

There are things you should do to prepare for a commentary role even before you walk into the ground/commentary box.

Apart from having a genuine interest in your chosen sport, you need to take the time to prepare for the game you are calling. Generally, you should allow yourself at least a solid day to familiarise yourself with the teams, and in particular the players!

Research each player, their playing positions and gather personal stats and achievements. This will help to 'colour up' your call. Names of players – practice them until you get them right, and out aloud! There is nothing worse than stumbling over a player's first or last name during a broadcast.

Familiarise yourself with the ground at which the game is being played at. What are the landmarks and streets around the ground? This will help paint a better picture for the audience (and you) of where the plays are being made during the broadcast, especially if it is a radio broadcast.

## 2. How to for Sports Commentating

On game day arrive at least two hours before kick-off or the first bounce. Do some vocal exercises. If you have not done this while travelling in your car to the game, do it in the box prior to the game. If there is a feeder game in the lead up to the main game you will be commentating, use this as an opportunity to warm up the vocals.

Make sure you have your research notes laid out around you and easily accessible for when you want to refer to them. Find the team managers and request the final team lists. In most cases there will be late changes to the team lists, it is important you know who's in and who's out and what position each player is playing in.

What is the weather doing? How will the conditions effect the game? Get to know your surroundings.

Most importantly, take some deep breaths and relax!

**GAME ON!**

In your opener to the broadcast, set the scene!

E.g., Welcome to Sunday arvo football at Suncorp Stadium as the Brisbane Broncos host the Melbourne Storm in their round five clash. It's a warm 32 degrees and sunny in the river city, conditions most certainly favouring the home team, who will kick off from the Caxton street end of the field. The Melbourne Storm are coming off

two rare losses and looking to redeem themselves, meanwhile the Broncos are searching for their first win of the season under new Coach Kevvie Walters.

### **Remember the 3 fundamentals of Sports Commentating**

- Player ID (first name and/or last name)
- Position on the field
- SCORE!

## 3. Important tips for Sports Commentating

- Light and shade in your delivery is important. You do not want to peak in the first five minutes of your call!
- Know when to move into varying levels of excitement. Call it as you see it and allow your natural reaction to control the pace.
- If you have other members in the commentary team, know when to bring them in for special comments on a certain play to compliment your call. It gives you a chance to take a breath and reset too. Hand signals allow for smooth interaction and communication between commentators as well.

## 4. Links to find out more:

- [CMTO Pathways Presentation - Resource Booklet](#)
- [CMTO Pathways Advanced Presentation - Resource Booklet](#)
- Sporting/player stats:
  - <https://www.footywire.com/>
  - <https://www.zerotackle.com/rugby-league/fixtures-results-2021/>