

FOOTBALL

Learning the rules of fair play

MOST young boys dream of sprinting across the MCG playing for their favourite AFL team before thousands of fans.

Rhys Pottinger (13) wants to carve out a slightly different career in the AFL.

He will be a neutral element in the game as an umpire.

The HBF junior sports heroes' inspirational achievement awards nominee gave Australian Rules football a go for about a year when he was 10 years old, but found it was not for him.

Three years later, he has umpired countless games as part of the Swan Districts Junior Football Umpiring Association.

"I decided I wanted to go



into umpiring and give it a go," he said.

"I want to make a career of it; a few people have said they could see me in the AFL."

Rhys won the Junior Football Encouragement award in 2010, and in 2011 he won the main Junior Football Umpire Award.

He is now between seasons but will get back into training in February 2013.

His mum Joanne could not contain her pride for the work he has done and what he has achieved.

"The umpiring position can be a thankless job at times, but he always approaches each game with professionalism and keeps himself updated on all appropriate rules," she said.



Rhys Pottinger aspires to a career in umpiring.

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