



## AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter

2009 – Week 14

Visit the AFL Umpiring Development website for the latest umpiring info -  
<http://www.afl.com.au/umpiring>

Through the AFL Umpire Coach PD program the Australian Football League along with each State Umpiring body is continuing to commit to its promise of providing stronger support and training to Umpire Coaches throughout Australia. The AFL sees Umpire Coaches as having the greatest influence over the environment in which an umpire participates in, and sees the coach as the key person in providing support for all umpires within their group.

### **Umpire Handbooks**

Umpiring handbooks are a great resource that can be used to assist your umpires. The Newcastle Umpiring Group has provided the attached example of their handbook. Other umpiring groups may be able to modify this for use within their own group.

The umpiring handbook can be used to cover important information including:

- League by-laws that relate to umpiring
- Schedule of payments and fixtures
- Insurance information
- Contact details for coaching staff and committee members
- Code of conducts
- Observers information
- Umpire selection philosophy

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### **Umpires Quiz**

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Last year we provided three umpire quizzes that could be used at training or another setting. Due to popular demand we will provide each quiz over the next three weeks. This week we have provided the 1<sup>st</sup> quiz. Some questions and answers may need to be amended to reflect local circumstances. We would like to thank Steve Ardill, Umpires Coach, Riverland South Australia (Year 3 PD participant) for his contribution in providing each quiz.

#### **QUIZ ONE**

Questions:

1. Which law details the specific offences for which a player or official can be reported?
2. When does a game actually commence?
3. What must a Team Manager do if it is necessary to replace the guernsey of a player during the match with one that displays a different number to that originally worn by the player?
4. The Loxton captain has requested the field umpires count the number of players Loxton North has on the playing surface. Loxton North is found to have twenty players on the playing surface. What happens in this situation?
5. A player in possession of the ball has the ball pinned to him by the tackle. You are the field umpire. What's your decision?
6. A ball hits the goal post on the full from a set shot? As the field umpire what should you do?
7. A player has a set kick for goal 40 metres out. Whilst he is in the act of kicking a defender shakes the goal post. The ball is kicked out of bounds. As the field umpire what do you do?
8. What is the Spirit of the Law for *Tackling*?
9. The field umpire has given all clear for a behind. What does he do next?
10. The field umpire has given all clear for a behind. What does the boundary umpire do?

Answers:

1. 19.2.2 (1 mark)
2. When the ball touches the ground in the act of bouncing or leaves the umpire's hands in the act of throwing

- the ball into the air, or when a player, who has been awarded a free kick, brings the football into play – Law 11.2.2 (d). (1 mark)
3. Advise the field umpire at the next interval in play. (1 mark)
  4. (i) The field umpire shall award a free kick to Loxton in either the centre circle or where the play was stopped, whichever is the greater penalty against the offending team.  
(ii) A fifty-metre penalty will then be imposed.  
(iii) Loxton North will lose all points it has scored in the match up to this time.  
Law 5.5.3 - (3 marks)
  5. Ball up if no prior opportunity/Holding the ball if player has had prior opportunity. Law 15.2.3 (a) – (2 marks)
  6. (i) call and signal 'all clear' using one hand  
(ii) tap your upright forearm three times  
(2 marks)
  7. (i) advance the mark to the centre of the goal line {Law 15.7.2 (a)}  
(ii) report the offending player {Law 19.2.2 (k)}  
(2 marks)
  8. *A player who is tackled illegally while in possession of the ball shall be awarded a free kick.* (1 mark)
  9. Use verbal control to clear the goal square area (1 mark)
  10. Use a 'trigger point' and strive to take up a position on the 50 metre arc for the kick off (1 mark)
- TOTAL NUMBER OF MARKS FOR THIS SET = 15

### **Essentials of World Class Coaching**

Over the next 10 weeks we will delve into 10 essential characteristics for world class coaching. Wayne Goldsmith from [www.sportscoachingbrain.com](http://www.sportscoachingbrain.com) has found that successful coaches across various sports share similar characteristics. Umpire coaches should take the time to consider whether they have each characteristic and how they can enhance this characteristic in their coaching. The 4<sup>th</sup> essential characteristic of a world-class coach is 'the confidence to be yourself – to be unique'.

#### **4. The confidence to be yourself – to be unique.**

**The essence of greatness is uniqueness.** It is uniqueness and daring to be different that sets the great coaches apart from the rest. It is their courage in being innovative, their courage in being creative and the capacity to be futurist in their thinking that helps them achieve special things – and importantly to achieve them before their competitors. Being the same – copying / replicating / duplicating: these things do not create greatness. Think of all the great people you know or know of. What makes them great? **Difference, individuality, uniqueness.** Great coaches do it their way. They learn from the great coaches of the past and the present only to improve on them in the future. They know that being the best means doing it differently. It means having the faith and courage in yourself to keep being different when everyone around you is telling you that difference is wrong.

Source: Wayne Goldsmith, [www.sportscoachingbrain.com](http://www.sportscoachingbrain.com)

### **Coaching Topic – Qualities of an Umpire**

This week we continue the 16 part series that takes an in-depth look at the key skills involved in umpiring.

These should provide coaches with practical advice about the key teaching points of each skill.

The 13<sup>th</sup> umpiring skill to be examined in this 16 part series is the qualities required from an umpire.

#### **Skill**

##### **Learning Outcomes –**

- **The Bottom Line:** We want the umpire to be valued both as a person and for what he or she adds to our game of Australian Football.
- To achieve this, the umpire's behaviour needs to reflect:

Integrity	Of good character and behaviour. Strong sense of right from wrong.
Honesty	Truthfulness both to yourself and to others
Impartiality	All sides treated equally: fairness: unprejudiced
Trust	Belief by others in your reliability and strength; They expect you will do the right thing
Respect	Regard for, and paying heed to, others and they will do the same for you. Professional behaviour can earn respect

### Method –

To test whether your group understands the qualities sought in an umpire, you can conduct questioning, discussion or role play sessions addressing a range of situational examples.

1. An inexperienced observer is telling you what he saw in your match but you know he is wrong. Do you
  - a) walk away to avoid an argument
  - b) tell him he is wrong
  - c) **confirm what you saw and did not see**
  
2. You meet a player before the match who is returning from a long suspension for violent offences. Do you
  - a) **say hello and wish him well for the match**
  - b) warn him to behave in this match
  - c) ask him if he has learnt anything from his suspension
  
3. A player with a bad reputation sees you enter the ground and shouts to you “Not you again when are we going to get a real umpire!”. Do you
  - a) **ignore him and keep walking**
  - b) counsel him about how he speaks to umpires
  - c) respond by saying “I’ll try to do well if you do likewise”
  
4. The captain of the home team questions you on-field about a decision you think you have made incorrectly. Do you
  - a) ignore him
  - b) tell him “No time to discuss it now”
  - c) **reply “Yeah..I think I stuffed it up...sorry”**
  
5. The home team invites you into their clubrooms for afternoon tea at half time. Do you go or not? Why?.....**No**
  
6. Before the match, you are spoken to by a friendly group of players which includes one aboriginal lad who stands back and remains silent. Do you
  - a) speak generally to the group and wish them well
  - b) close the conversation politely and move on
  - c) **introduce yourself to the aboriginal lad and engage him in conversation**
  
7. An irate parent abuses you as you leave the field. Do you
  - a) **ignore him**
  - b) ask him to control his language please
  - c) invite him to speak to you after the match
  
8. A club official wants to talk to you about your performance as you leave the field after the final whistle. Do you
  - a) ignore him
  - b) tell him you will speak to the coach or the captain if they have anything to raise
  - c) **invite him to speak with you after the match paperwork has been completed**
  
9. A senior umpire, whom you dislike because he is egotistical, has seen the last half of your match and comes into the change room after your match and tells you what you did wrong. Do you
  - a) tell him to piss off
  - b) tell him you don’t want to talk to him until after the match paperwork is complete
  - c) **ask him if he will go through his concerns with you at training**
  
10. A club patron carrying a beer approaches you in the bar area after the match wanting to talk about your performance. Do you
  - a) ignore him and move away
  - b) make an excuse that you must leave because you are late for a dinner appointment
  - c) **spend some time with him and listen to his views**
  
11. A group of home team players having a drink with you after the match invite you to accompany them to the local nightclub. Do you go or not. Why?.....**No**
  
- 12..The match observer is attempting to explain to you some deficiencies he noted in your match performance but you suspect he does not know what the coach requires of his umpires. Do you
  - a) politely close the conversation and leave
  - b) tell him he does not know what he is talking about and leave
  - c) ask him what he understands are the requirements of an umpire in those situations
  - d) **take his comments on board but ask if it is OK if you confirm what the coach wants**
  
13. At a briefing session for umpires, the coach embarrasses you by describing an incident in your last match that you handled badly. Do you
  - a) laugh along with the group and forget it
  - b) ask the coach to outline how you should have handled it
  - c) **talk to the coach later and ask him not to embarrass you in future when discussing incidents**
  
14. At bouncing practice, the umpire next to you attempts to bounce and the ball rebounds directly into his face causing him to stagger backwards and fall over in comic fashion. Do you
  - a) laugh and tell him to do it again

- b) tell him to speak to the coach about his technique
- c) say “ I’ve done that...it hurts...but I think I can show you how to avoid it happening again”
- d) tell him to go back to the manuals and start again

**Key Points –**

- Do the right thing.

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### **Umpire Coach Advice**

This is a 10 minute session that was used recently at Yarra Juniors by Geoff Deveson, Head Coach (Yr 3 PD Participant). He would like to share the experience with other Coaches in the Professional Development Program.

#### **CORE VALUES OF AN UMPIRE**

The Group was asked to discuss what they thought were the Core Values of an Umpire.

A number of ideas were generated and a simple list developed.

The Umpires are now asked to take this small list - as a handout to each match and self critique against the list.

Over the coming weeks we will discuss those values and see if they have helped the Team / Task and Individual Development.

What do you do in developing the Young Adult/Umpire? Maybe you could do a similar exercise, not only with young umpires!

#### **Umpire Core Values:**

- Be assertive not aggressive
- Exemplary behaviour
- Take pride in appearance
- Maximise your performance
- Ability to perform the task
- Create a cooperative and enjoyable experience
- Encourage good sportsmanship
- Earn respect

Geoff Deveson  
Year 3 PD Participant  
Head Coach  
Yarra Juniors

If you have any coach advice you would like to submit to the network of umpire coaches please email them to [Umpire.Development@afl.com.au](mailto:Umpire.Development@afl.com.au). We encourage umpire coaches to submit their advice.

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### **Ask the Ump**

In this section coaches are invited to send in questions which are answered by the AFL Umpiring Department (Jeff Gieschen, Rowan Sawers and Peter Howe). The idea is that this provides an opportunity for umpire coaches from across the country to seek technical advice on any area of umpiring they may be interested in learning more.

Please send your questions to [Umpire.Development@afl.com.au](mailto:Umpire.Development@afl.com.au).

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### **Umpire Coach Activity**

If you have any coach activities you would like to submit to the network of umpire coaches please email them to [Umpire.Development@afl.com.au](mailto:Umpire.Development@afl.com.au). We encourage umpire coaches to submit their activities.

Umpire coach activities from last year can be found on the AFL website by clicking [here](#).



AFL UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT  
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