



AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter

2009 – Week 15

*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.

Geelong FUL – All Female Umpires Day

Last Saturday the Geelong Football Umpires League ran an all-female umpire day at the Bellarine Football League match between Geelong Amateurs and Portarlington. Field, boundary and goal umpires for the U18's, reserves and senior football matches were made up from female umpires. The Age ran a story on the day (see attached and below).

Geelong FUL should be congratulated for their continued promotion of umpiring as an opportunity that is open to everyone regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or disability. Geelong FUL will next month have field, boundary and goal umpires for an U18 match made up of umpires with disabilities. This is another outstanding promotion.

What are you doing to target your recruiting at people from a wide variety of backgrounds?

SPORTING LIFE



The all-female umpire crew: Janine Monk, Jess McCluskey, Rebecca Goring, Jacqui Ginn, Leigh Davis, Erin Keating, Amy Clapp, Kaitlyn Marriner, Gwenda Bell.

Female umpires leading the way

GEE LONG folk will happily tell you they're ahead of the game on many fronts, not least their football. So, as the AFL turns its community focus to women's round this week, down the Princes Highway they're already reflecting on another successful weekend where the girls ran the show. "We had all-female field, goal and boundary umpires in seniors, reserves, under-18 and under-14 games at a Bellarine Football League match between Geelong Ansea and Portarlington on Saturday, and it went really well," said **Steve Keating**, director of the Geelong Football Umpires' League. "We didn't even realise it was women's round in the AFL this week. We did the same thing last year too. They're two clubs that have really embraced the concept." On a football weekend marred by an incident in a Riddell District Football League match in which a 16-year-old central umpire was allegedly punched by a 28-year-old player from Rockbank, the Geelong initiative represents a happier, more grown-up tale of officialdom. And with Geelong boasting around 35 registered female umpires — and counting —

it's one we'll be seeing a lot more of. "Women have been a big growth area for us," Keating says. "There's an 8-10 week program at Sacred Heart girls school in Geelong which is a basic, introductory umpiring course. There's a lot of girls showing interest in footy."

Taking charge

GIRLS like Keating's 17-year-old daughter **Erin**, who was one of three central umpires in charge of the senior match on Saturday, her sixth in the "ones" this season. Dad is naturally proud, if a little nervous. "I'm a bit protective," Keating says. "There are probably not too many 17-year-old girls umpiring senior men in Australia." Erin, a school captain at Geelong High, loves what she's doing and recognises the importance of women forging a path in a male-dominated sport. But she did give Dad reason to think his concerns were justified on Saturday, when a fight broke out on the wing at Queen's Park. "A bit of a melee started and I had to break it up, so I just got rid of two of them, there were a couple

of yellow cards," Erin said yesterday. "It was a bit awkward because it was right in front of the clubrooms and the interchange benches. I copped a bit, but it broke it up anyway, that was the main thing." Erin said both teams were very welcoming of the female officials at a function held in the rooms afterwards. She was shocked and disappointed to hear of the Riddell league incident. "A lot of guys get aggressive on the field, but to go that one step more and actually physically assault someone, it's really disappointing to hear."



Erin Keating.

Innovation mark II

BESIDES staying on top of her VCE, and training twice a week with the umpires plus extra fitness sessions, Erin Keating's next big mission is the state under-15 championships next month, in which she will be one of six female umpires drawn from throughout Victoria. "I went last year too and there were three of us, so it's a real improvement. There's more girls coming through and we've got a really nice group coming together now." Geelong Football Umpires' League will revert to letting blokes have their turn on the whistle too this week, but chairman **Brendan Beveridge**, who came up with the women's game concept, has other plans afoot to ensure football embraces the whole community. "Next month we'll have a Geelong and District League under-18 game umpired by people with disabilities," Steve Keating says, adding that local Paralympian **Richard Colman**, who won silver and bronze medals on the track in Beijing, goal umpired a game last year in his wheelchair.

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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 1st 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. What happens in the situation where a stretcher is called for an injured player but he elects to walk from the playing arena?
2. What is the change of control area in the three-umpire system?
3. A field umpire fails to notice that a boundary umpire has signalled that the football has gone out of bounds. Play continues and a goal is scored. After the goal has been scored the field umpire notices the boundary umpire's signal. What does the field umpire do?
4. A player is head-butted prior to the commencement of the game. You report the offending player. As the field umpire can you also award a free kick for an incident prior to the commencement of the game?
5. When is a field umpire permitted to cancel a mark by calling 'play on'?
6. When is a player deemed to be in possession of the football?
7. The goal umpire considers that a behind has been scored. The boundary umpire considers that the ball has

- gone out of bounds on the full. What is the decision?
8. A player kicks the football from 35 metres out and it passes between the goal and behind posts. A teammate of the player who kicked the ball is grabbed high and slung to the ground before the field umpire gives 'all clear'. The non-controlling umpire observes this infringement. What should the field umpires do in this situation?
 9. What is the name given to the situation where an umpire needs to rapidly increase his or her pace during a game?
 10. A goal has been scored and the field umpire is ready to recommence play. As he approaches the centre circle for the ball up a player is pushed into the centre square. What should the boundary umpire do?

Answers:

1. The player for whom the stretcher was called is not permitted to resume playing until after a period of 20 minutes has elapsed (excluding intervals between quarters). {Law 7.3.2 (f)} – (1 mark)
2. Areas on the ground between the centre square line extended to the boundary and the 50 metre line. (1 mark)
3. The field umpire directs the goal umpire to annul the score and a throw in takes place. (Law 8.2.3) – (1 mark)
4. Yes provided that the incident occurs after the coin has been tossed to determine choice of ends. (1 mark)
5. Where the field umpire is of the opinion that he or she has incorrectly blown the whistle to award a mark that was not subsequently completed. {Law 14.6 (a)} – (1 mark)
6. (i) player is holding the football
(ii) player in act of bouncing the football
(ii) player dives or lies on top or drags the football underneath his or her body. (3 marks)
7. A behind is signalled and recorded. (1 mark)
8. (i) The field umpire shall signal 'all clear' and the goal umpire shall signal and record the score.
(ii) A field umpire will award a free kick to the player infringed against with the mark being the centre of the kick off line.
(Law 12.4.1) - (2 marks)
9. 'trigger' or 'acceleration point' (1 mark)
10. Blow his/her whistle and notify the field umpire of the infringement {Laws 8.2.2 (iii) and 11.3.4 (d)} – (1 mark)

TOTAL NUMBER OF MARKS FOR THIS SET = 13

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 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 5th essential characteristic of a world-class coach is 'the energy to work hard consistently'.

5. The energy to work hard consistently.

Greatness is not free. Excellence is not easy. World class coaches have an energy and an enthusiasm which is infectious. They are often the first ones to arrive at the training environment and the last to leave. Their attention to detail and level of understanding about the sport, the team, each individual player and staff member comes from spending more time working on being the best of the best. They leave nothing to chance – they do not assume or presume – they just get on and do it day after day after day. They inspire not with words, but with actions and the consistency and passion and professionalism they demonstrate in all that they do.

Source: Wayne Goldsmith, www.sportscoachingbrain.com

Coaching Topic – Reports & Tribunal

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 14th umpiring skill to be examined in this 16 part series is the elements involved in report and tribunals.

Reports & Tribunal

Learning Outcomes –

- A player who is seen by the umpire to have committed a reportable offence under law 19.2.2 must be reported by the umpire and will likely be required to attend a tribunal hearing. The umpire will also be required to attend the tribunal to explain what he saw and heard. The umpire is simply a witness and not a prosecutor.

- The umpire needs to do some elementary things, both on field and off-field, to carry out the reporting and tribunal duties.
- Umpires should prepare a checklist of reporting duties applicable to their league.

Activity–

- Indoor whiteboard exercise to compile a check list specific to your league:
- Each umpire is asked to write up and explain one task for the umpire to perform under these headings:
 - On-field Reporting duties
 - Off-field Reporting duties
 - Tribunal Duties
- When all tasks have been identified, a volunteer from the group should key and print the checklist in a presentable form for use by all umpires in that group as part of their umpiring kit.
- Resources required for this activity - Whiteboard and markers.

Method –

On Field Reporting Duties:

- When you see a reportable offence (and there is no advantage play taking place), you should:
 - Use whistle, voice and signal to stop play and add time on
 - Run in to quell any retaliation
 - Tell the offender he is being reported for _____ (eg “striking No 11 do you understand?”) and note how he responds. Do this immediately if possible or at the end of the quarter if not
 - Tell the victim of the report
 - Note the essential details on your match note card in your pocket or sock: abbreviate eg “10L on 15T: RF to LF” (meaning No 10 Lions struck No 15 Tigers with a right fist to the left side of face)
 - Set up free kick, signal time off and recommence play
 - Note further details of the offence at the end of the first or third quarters on-field for an offence in those quarters (or at half or full time off-field for other quarters).

Off Field Reporting Duties

- At half time or after the match, make notes for your personal use at the tribunal of all the relevant details you can recall relating to the offence. Think what will the tribunal may need to know about how, when, where and why the offence took place. (See example below)

When What quarter and approx time through quarter	
Who No and team of offender No and team of victim	
Where Location of incident on the ground	
Direction Which way was each team attacking in that quarter	
Play Describe play immediately before the incident	
Incident Describe offence and position of players involved: how many blows: left or right hand: how many landed: to what part of body	
Effect Condition of victim: blood?: did the blow cause him to go to ground: did he require treatment from a trainer	
Ball Where was the ball when the incident occurred	
Distance How far were you away from the incident (use diagram)	
Other players Were other players in the immediate area Did they obscure your view	
Free Kick Did you award a free kick for the incident: specify offence	
Umpires Approximate position of the other umpires at the time of the incident	
Provocation Did you see or hear any previous exchange between these players	
Report What did you say to the player when reporting him	

Response	
What did the player say and/or do when told he was being reported	

- Tell the team managers, when they call at your rooms, there is a report and they should return in about 10 minutes to collect their copy.
- Complete and sign each copy of the report form.
- Get another umpire to check the details on the report form.
- Place original of report form in the match envelope and give the copies to the team managers and retain one for you.

Tribunal Duties:

- Arrive early looking neat and presentable. You can take in your notes and refer to them.
- Be positive, forthright and honest. Say what you saw (and what you did not see if asked)
- Avoid vague responses eg “er maybe”, “might have been” “possibly”
- Be polite before during and after the hearing
- After completion of your evidence, your job is done...you can leave the premises
- The resultant decision of the tribunal is not your concern

Key Points –

- Tell the player he is being reported immediately or at end of quarter
- Take the time to complete forms correctly

Umpire Coach Advice

This is an article that highlights the benefit of creating a family friendly environment in assisting recruitment. We would like to thank Steve Ardill, Umpires Coach, Riverland South Australia (Year 3 PD participant) for the provision of this insightful article.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

They say that the family that plays together stays together.

Recently in a Spencer Gulf League under 18's match at Port Pirie four members of the Carter family took to the field as umpires. Terence Carter was one of the field umpires. His brothers, Gerard and William ran the boundary and dad Mark was one of the goal umpires.

If that's not a record you can add sister Louise who is also a goal umpire in the Spencer Gulf League and mum, Leanne who is in her first year as Secretary-Treasurer of the Port Pirie Umpires' Association.

And younger siblings Harry and Mary can't wait to don the green shirts and join their umpiring family on the field.

And if anyone thinks they can top that Mark emailed me to say that his family can claim a third generation umpiring link. Mark's father was a League field umpire in Launceston, Tasmania. When he came to South Australia he joined the ranks of the SANFL country umpires and finished his umpiring career in the Independent Schools' competition.

One of the enduring attractions of the sport of umpiring is that it is 'family friendly'. There are few sports where family members from 10-70, male and female can participate together. Spanning the generations all can find a niche whether as a field, boundary or goal umpire.

In the Riverland Football League we can also boast some strong family links amongst our running umpires.

We have a trio of umpires from the Wilksch family in field umpire, Mark and sons Nathan (boundary) and Keenan (goal). I recently suggested that wife and mum, Jenny might consider getting involved in umpiring. Mark reminded me that she was already involved – washing and ironing the umpiring uniforms for the family. He was concerned that this might cease if Jenny took up the whistle or flags!

Recently goal umpire Liz Florance umpired her first RFL 'A' grade game in the Berri v Loxton match at Berri. Officiating in the same game as a field umpire is her husband, highly experienced RFL field umpire, Tony.

We also have brothers Luke and James Clarke amongst our ranks and father and son goal and field umpire combination Murray and Stefan Dalglish. In addition there are the four members of the Trussell family – field umpire Michael, wife and boundary umpire, Trish and boundary umpiring sons, Zac and Kale.

So in your efforts to recruit umpires to your Panel you may not need to look too far and wide. Don't forget the 'family connection' in your recruiting strategies. Perhaps the parents, siblings, spouse or even grandparents of your current crop of umpires might be your next recruit.

Umpiring is one of the few sports that mum and dad can pursue without needing to employ a 'baby-sitter' for the kids. You simply bring them to the game and they can umpire as well. And they'll get paid to umpire. You won't ever need to give them pocket money again. Well that's the theory anyway!

Perhaps you've got a story 'family friendly' story about umpires you'd like to contribute. Is there anything to match the Carter clan's contribution to umpiring? Let us know!

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. We encourage umpire coaches to submit their advice.

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.

Question:

A player is awarded a free kick near the boundary line. He goes back (along his line) to take the kick and in doing so is now outside the boundary line. The player decides to kick the ball forward to a player standing just inside the boundary line. In other words he decides not to kick the ball directly over the player on the mark. The defending player on the mark sees the intent of the kicker, and accordingly moves sideways outside the field of play in an attempt to stop the kick. The defender succeeds and makes contact with the ball (without encroaching the mark) and the blocked kick does not re-enter the field of play. Should this be a boundary throw-in or is the player given another kick because the ball has not re-entered the field of play?

Answer:

In this instance a boundary throw-in should occur. As long as the player does not encroach the mark or the protected area it is a boundary throw-in. Interestingly, this situation occurred in the West Coast Eagles v Collingwood match last weekend where the umpire correctly called this out of bounds. Attached is a short video clip that explains the situation from that match.

Please send your questions to Umpire.Development@afl.com.au.

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. We encourage umpire coaches to submit their activities.

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





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