



## AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter

2009 – Week 23

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.

### Deboy dreams of AFL stage

Curtis Deboy is a promising umpire within the South Australian ranks. Having shown umpiring potential from an early age Curtis was elevated to the SANFL umpiring panel. In 2008, his desire to learn and improve as an umpire saw him selected to umpire in the NAB AFL Under-16 Championships on the Gold Coast. Following this, in 2009 Curtis joined umpires from across the country for a week of development activities during Rounds 4 & 5 of the NAB AFL Under-18 Championships in Melbourne.

Curtis has taken the opportunities available through the talented umpire pathway to continue to develop as an umpire. Chelsea Roffey (AFL Goal Umpire and Media Giants Journalist) spoke with Curtis about his experience during his week in Melbourne and his ultimate umpiring ambitions.

By Chelsea Roffey

FIFTEEN-year-olds generally don't tell a bunch of grown-ups what to do.

But up-and-coming South Australian umpire Curtis Deboy was 15 when he got his first taste of senior football in the amateur league during his second year of umpiring.

At 19, he was selected to umpire in this year's NAB AFL Under-18 Championships after showing promise at local level. He joined officials from around Australia for a week in Melbourne undertaking development activities with the AFL during the championships.

Deboy, who also umpired in last year's NAB AFL Under-16 carnival, says being in the heartland of football was an exciting experience that reinforced his aspirations of reaching the top level.

A highlight of the trip was training with the AFL umpires and gaining insight into their peer review process.

"My favourite [umpire] is Brett Rosebury. Just the way he's gone about everything that he's done. He got very close last year [to doing the AFL grand final], but he always picks himself up and is probably one of the most consistent out there," Deboy says.

"And being one of the younger guys, he seemed like a real leader with the way he conducted himself and spoke to the group."

Having self-belief and the courage of his convictions has helped Deboy to progress from umpiring junior football with Adelaide's Central Districts in 2004, to his first senior state league appointment between West Adelaide and Sturt this year. He has an impressive record of officiating in grand finals while climbing the ranks in his second, third and fourth years of umpiring.

"I looked really young, so I got a few strange looks when I went up to the ground every week," Deboy recalls of his first matches umpiring adults.

"For my first few rounds as a 15-year-old I was quite daunted but eventually you get used to that kind of pressure and adapt to it quite well. It was more of an enjoyable challenge than anything else."

Umpiring at Casey Fields and Docklands as part of the NAB Under-18 Championships put Deboy and his

fellow umpires under an even brighter spotlight than usual, with AFL umpiring assistant coaches Peter Howe and 363-game umpire Bryan Sheehan observing and providing feedback. Current umpire Scott McLaren was also on hand to offer advice.

Other highlights of Deboy's week included a leadership talk from AIS/AFL high performance coach and former Kangaroos footballer Jason McCartney and a live viewing of the E.J. Whitten Legends Game.

Deboy says, more than anything, the week reaffirmed his goals and gave him a clearer understanding of how to achieve them. His ultimate ambition is to do an AFL grand final.

"I've always got short-term and long-term goals in mind," Deboy says. "Obviously there's still a lot of work to do in the SANFL first, just establishing myself in league and getting to league finals as soon as I can.

"And then, once the opportunity arises, to capitalise on it and make the most of my trial – if I get one."



---

### **INCLUSIVE COACHING – is best practice coaching!!**

Inclusive coaching is not about disability, female, multicultural or indigenous it is about the coach offering a program and experiences that meet the individual needs of every umpire. This principle is the same regardless of whether the umpire has a specific impairment, has a medical condition that might impact on their training program, or if they are simply developing their skills and fitness at a different rate to others in the group.

What qualities and skills are required to be an inclusive umpire coach? They are the same as required to be a competent umpire coach.

- **Patience** – recognising that some umpires will take longer than others to develop skills
- **Respect** – acknowledge difference and treat all umpires as individuals
- **Adaptability** – have a flexible approach to coaching and communication
- **Organisation** – develop a season plan and be prepared for each session
- **Safe practices** – the safety of your umpires should be foremost in your session
- **Knowledge** – ability to use your knowledge and modify practices to maximise individual potential

The challenge for umpire coaches and umpiring groups is to be open and welcoming to all – it's the group, committee, the umpires and importantly the umpire coach who determines the retention of umpires in Australian Football.

If you have any stories about how inclusive attitudes have created a welcoming environment within your group and the benefits this has had on the group. Please send any stories through to [Umpire.Development@af.com.au](mailto:Umpire.Development@af.com.au).



---

### **Umpire Coach Advice – Coaching Briefs**

Roger Crowhurst, Umpires Coach for the Black Diamond AFL Umpires Group provides his umpires with coaching briefs that are designed to re-enforce the key points from coaching sessions as well as provide something his umpires can print off and refer to as required. This week we have provided the 5<sup>th</sup> of the coaching briefs; **field umpire positioning at a boundary throw in.**

AFL Umpiring Development would like to thank Roger for this contribution. Umpiring groups may like to consider producing similar coaching briefs to reflect the key points from their coaching sessions.

#### **Field umpire positioning at a boundary throw in**

In this coaching brief we are looking at the key elements of the field umpires positioning at the boundary throw in. This skill, when executed well will give the umpire great confidence and project a strong professional image.

The objective of the umpire's positioning at a boundary throw in is to enable

- an early view of the contest area
- a side view of the ruck contest, and
- a good position for the next act of play

Initial Positioning:

- When you run to your initial position you should reverse for the final few metres to keep observing the players preparing themselves for the ruck contest.
- The initial position is:
  - 5m in from the boundary
  - 10-15m to the side of the expected throw in, and on the long side, ie the same side as the furthest goal

Movement to Contest:

- When the ball leaves the boundary umpire's hands, jog infield so you are side on to the ruckmen as they contact the ball

Movement after Contest:

- Once the ruckmen have contacted the ball, sprint 10m infield and turn onto your back foot so that you will be inside the next act of play

*Key Points –*

- Stay long side when reaching your initial position
- Stay 10-15m side on to the contest



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.

### **Interstate field umpires wanted for Northern Territory FL**

#### **INTERSTATE FIELD UMPIRES WANTED**

Join the TIO NTFL Umpiring panel for the 2009/10 Season

**Are you looking for a unique experience?**



AFL Northern Territory is looking for Level 2 Accredited Field Umpires for the upcoming 2009/10 TIO NTFL season. If you are looking for an opportunity to **fast track your umpiring career** then this may be for you.

AFL Northern Territory will be offering full and semi seasonal contracts for this season, for those interested in the full 2009/10 TIO NTFL season or just a 3 month stint. AFLNT will pay the bond for rental accommodation, return travel costs from your current address and (return flights home for Christmas for full season applicants only). You will also be paid in-accordance of the AFLNT/NTFLUA's 3 year CBA agreement. If you are successful AFLNT will endeavour to assist you to find employment whilst in Darwin.

To become a successful applicant in this program you will need to consider following points:

- Must have Level 2 NUAS in Australian Rules Football Field Umpiring
- Must be available to Field Umpire during the 2008/09 TIO NTFL season which runs from 2nd of October 2009 to 14th of March 2010 which includes a 2 week break during the festive season
- Field Umpire to the best of your ability
- Prepare fully and professionally
- Learn as much as you possibly can during games and at training sessions
- Behave well on and off field
- **Enjoy the whole experience** of what the Northern Territory has to offer



Past participants in the NTFL competition include current AFL Umpires Hayden Kennedy and Brett Rosebury. Brett umpired the 1998/99 NTFL season and the NTFL grand final before heading back to his WAFL umpiring panel. Since 2000, he has been a member of the AFL panel.

Brett (pictured right) when asked to reflect on his experience umpiring in the NTFL said *"it was a great experience in the Top End for the 6 months I was there and it was a great stepping stone in my career by umpiring good quality footy in a 3 umpire system"*.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE 5.00pm (CST) WEDNESDAY 26th OF AUGUST 2009.**

For further details about this once in a life time opportunity please contact:

Mark Noonan  
Umpiring Development Manager  
AFL Northern Territory  
Work: (08) 8980 4811  
Email: mark.noonan@afnt.com.au

Information is also available through the AFLNT website by clicking [here](#).



---

### **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.

We would like to thank Jeff, Rowan and Peter for taking the time to answer these questions.

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

---

### **Heading Overseas?**

If you have an umpire that is heading overseas and may be interested in umpiring or helping some of the locals out, we would like to hear from you. Please email [Umpire.Development@afl.com.au](mailto:Umpire.Development@afl.com.au) with the umpires name, email address, phone number and overseas destination and we will aim to put them in touch with the local group to get things started.



AFL UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT  
[Umpire.Development@afl.com.au](mailto:Umpire.Development@afl.com.au)

---

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)