



AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter 2009 – Week 25

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.

Have your say – AFL Umpire Development's 2009 Umpires Survey

The AFL in consultation with State Umpiring bodies has produced a survey designed to determine the influential factors that motivate an umpire to commence and then continue umpiring. This is your opportunity to let your umpires have their say and help guide the AFL's approach to recruitment and retention of umpires. Ultimately, we would like to identify words that umpires associate with umpiring that we can use consistently to assist branding nationally.



This survey is quite simple and was created using survey monkey. It has only 10 questions and should only take several minutes to complete. **To complete this survey please click [here](#).**

Could you please forward this survey link onto your umpires requesting that they take the time to complete the survey?

Thank you in advance for your support in forwarding the link to your umpires.

Umpire Coach Advice – Match day TEAMWORK

As an umpire it is often worth considering your role throughout match day and consider how you can help contribute to the umpiring team on any given match day. Ken Ray AFL NSW and AFL Sydney Goal Umpires Coach has provided the following step-by-step look at the role of the goal umpire and how they can contribute to match day teamwork. The AFL would like to thank Ken for taking the time to provide this article.



Match day TEAMWORK - from a Goal Umpire's perspective.

BEFORE THE MATCH

- Arrive on time (as per your local requirements). If you are going to be late, inform someone at the ground as soon as possible.
- Greet all of your team mates upon arrival - introduce yourself if you don't know someone in the team.
- Synchronize your watch with the time keepers well in advance of start of game time if necessary.
- Ask the Field Umpires when they want to "walk" as this could change due to various conditions.
- 30-60min before game time check the condition of the ground behind the goals at both ends of the ground with your partner also put flag holders on the posts if necessary at this time.
- Call the time left to "walk" starting from at least 30min to all in the team. Extra focus on the last 5 minutes.
- Make sure you are ready in time to "walk" (stretched, dressed, card filled out, flags ready etc).
- Be aware that people prepare differently e.g. some quietly, some want to chat - respect their choice.
- Before the team walks make sure everyone has all their gear e.g. GU have hats on, FU has whistles etc.

MATCH TIME

- Walk onto the ground in step with the rest of your team – look like a team.
- While you are in the middle of the ground, before the coin toss, while teams are having pre-game shots at goal, watch the kicks at goal at both ends and discuss the influence of the wind on the ball with your partner.
- Have a coin for the toss with you.
- Wish all your team well when you leave to take up your position.
- Make clear confident indications at all times using loud clear voice when necessary.
- Initiate or participate in consultations concisely - put yourself on the line if you are 100% sure of what occurred.
- Encourage your Boundary Umpires during the game e.g. "good running" when they get to the post if they put an effort in, "good throw" if they threw one in well, "get the next one" if they had a dud throw in.
- Encourage your Field Umpires e.g. call "good decision" if there is a hard decision close by and "good bounce" if there is one close by.
- Keep an eye on the scoreboard during the game and be aware of any mistakes on the scoreboard.
- If you need to correct the scoreboard at the end of any quarter, walk with your partner towards the scoreboard to make any necessary changes as per local requirements.
- If you run into the centre at the end of the 2nd and 4th quarter, time it so you both arrive at the same time.
- If you run off the ground after confirming score's at the end of the 2nd and 4th quarters do it together at a comfortable pace – it's not a race.
- At breaks participate in discussion about the game with all umpires encouraging good work – by all means chat with you partner about conditions etc first, then join in with the rest of the team.
- During the game keep your Boundary Umpires informed of time elapsed in the latter half of the quarter when possible (when they are on the post etc) e.g. "15min gone" - but don't take your focus off your job to do so.

POST MATCH

- Hand your score cards and any other paperwork in at the end of the game ASAP (depending on local requirements).
- Thank all your team mates at end of game.
- Be prepared to give and receive feed back with your partner in the correct manner.
- Most importantly No BS - keep it real and relevant.

Umpire Coach Advice – Lost in the desert "training" exercise

Enjoyment is a major factor in the retention of umpires. With this in mind Glen Shilling from the Riddell Umpires aimed to ensure the training environment motivated people to want to be there. Glen has provided an insight into an activity he ran with his umpiring group called 'lost in the desert'. The AFL would like to thank Glen for taking the time to provide this article.

Lost in the desert – "training" exercise

The Riddell Umpires focused their attention for the 2009 season on the "training environment". We wanted training to be a bit different from the day-to-day stuff. Our aim was for the umpires to go home and say "guess what we did tonight". This exercise had nothing to do with umpiring.

After training, and after our meal, all members were lined up, and numbered one to eight...corresponding to the table number they were to sit at. The idea of numbering individuals was to break up perceived "cliques". The task for all participants at each table was as follows....

The group was lost in the desert. Their vehicle rolled over, and was about to catch fire. From a list of items the group could rescue only 14 items, and they had to agree on the importance of each item, and rank those items in importance from one to fourteen.

The idea of the exercise was for each table to elect a leader, to make sure everybody's view was listened

to, and decisions were team based...for example, a rescue item of 5 litres of water could be ranked #1, but an external mirror from the vehicle is more highly prized because of its reflective imagery.

We also included a component where each table member had to know each other table member's name, and something about them that nobody else knew. Our facilitator roamed the room, asking table members the name of another member – and something nobody else knew. Points were deducted for poor answers.

At the end of the exercise, answer sheets were exchanged with neighbouring tables for correction. Points were scored for correct answers. The exercise took around 40 minutes.

As mentioned previously, this had nothing to do with footy, but it highlights team work, listening to others, leadership, drawing out opinions, and...getting it right on the day.

Inspiration for this came from David Levens and the AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program. The aim was to create an enjoyable environment which would encourage people to want to be involved in umpiring.

What are you doing to ensure umpires enjoy attending training? Could you consider running an activity such as the 'lost in the desert' exercise to create a cohesive group?

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.

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](#).

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 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.



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