



AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter 2009 – Week 30

*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.

2010 AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program National Conference

AFL Umpiring Development is pleased to announce that the 2010 AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program - National Conference will be held in Adelaide from Friday 29th – Sunday 31st of January 2010. The conference will begin at 7pm on Friday evening and conclude at 4pm on Sunday afternoon.

The conference will be held in conjunction with the 2010 AFL National Coaching Conference which attracts over 400 coaches from across Australia. Umpire coaches will attend relevant sessions being offered through the AFL National Coaching Conference and will attend alternative 'umpire coach' specific sessions.

The conference will take place at AAMI Stadium in the new Adelaide Crows Training and Entertainment facility.

In order to assist Umpire Coaches currently participating in or about to join the AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program in attending the conference, the AFL Umpiring Development department has subsidised costs associated with registration and accommodation. The usual cost for a coach to attend this conference is \$320.00, which doesn't include their flights and accommodation.

The 2010 AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program – National Conference costs will be as follows –

- Registration costs - \$100.00 per coach
(Enjoy full access to the conference for the Friday night, Saturday and Sunday sessions. Price also includes the Saturday night conference dinner. Finger food and drinks are provided on the Friday night. Morning Tea, Lunch and Afternoon Tea with drinks provided on Saturday and Sunday.)
- Accommodation arrangements and costs for interstate or country SA coaches will be covered by the AFL
- All umpire coaches will be required to purchase their own flights to Adelaide and any transfers to and from the airport

Please note that this conference is only available to those umpire coaches registered in or about to join the AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program.

We are currently working on a proposed program and brochure to provide further information about the conference and our online registration system. We should have further information by early October.

We hope this early notification of the date and venue will allow umpire coaches to start planning their availability to attend.

If you have any questions please contact your State Umpiring Manager.



Impression from outside of the new Adelaide Crows Training and Entertainment facility at AAMI Stadium

Have your say – AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter Survey

New Survey

Following the successful AFL Umpire Development 2009 Umpires Survey we have decided to ask for your assistance in providing feedback on the 2009 AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter. Your feedback is invaluable in improving the quality of information provided in the umpiring e-newsletter. Please take 5 minutes to visit to complete this survey by clicking [here](#).

AFL Umpire Promotional Appearances Program

Through the AFL Umpire Promotional Appearances Program this year 59 AFL umpires including all field umpires have been involved in 136 appearances including visits to schools, umpiring groups and coaching within the umpire talent pathway program. These appearances are being used in line with the AFL's Umpire Development objectives. AFL Field Umpire, Troy Pannell recently visited Alice Springs as part of the AFL Umpire Promotional Appearances Program. Mark Noonan, AFLNT Umpiring Development Manager, provides the following article outlining the experience and the benefits these appearances can have on umpiring in the local community.

AFL UMPIRE PANSELL'S RED CENTRE ADVENTURE

By Mark Noonan, AFLNT Umpiring Development Manager

AFL Field Umpire Troy Pannell has recently wrapped a 3 day umpiring development visit to the Red Centre of Australia to spread the good word on Umpiring to the locals.

Troy's Red Centre Adventure started last Thursday when he landed at the hot surroundings of Alice Springs Airport around lunchtime and then he was straight into spreading the good word with an interview for the local newspaper. Troy then joined myself and AFLCA Football Operations Manager Rob Honan in the work Ute as we all headed down the road to a local Indigenous Community of Ltyentye Apurte (which is situated around 110km south of Alice Springs on a corrugated dirt road) to run some basic umpiring drills with the local school students .



Ltyentye Apurte was a buzz upon our arrival as the town was busy painting their cars and houses in the team's colours of Red, White and Black in anticipation for the AFL Central Australian Grand finals on the Saturday as they had two teams (u/17 & Reserves) make it to the big day. The school kids were put through their umpiring paces with a Field Bouncing game and a Boundary umpiring challenge of trying to hit the top of the behind post. Then a couple of the older students field umpired the younger kids in an Auskick game on the dry red ground, this was followed up by Umpiring Development Program prizes to those who showed the most potential.

We headed back to Alice Springs and straight to the AFLCA Umpires Grand Final Appointments and Awards evening where Troy presented many awards to the local umpires and was also interviewed intensively by MC Max Bennett about what it takes to be an AFL Field Umpire.

Friday morning we were up early as we had a big road trip ahead of us to the Indigenous Community of Areyonga (which is situated around 200km west of Alice Springs on a sealed road for the first 120km before going to a corrugated dirt road) as we joined AFLNT Game Development staff, Richmond players and officials as a part of the AFL Club Fostership Program. We joined in with Richmond's important message of going to school, eating the right foods and a no bullying policy. Then we got into it with some football and umpiring skills with the older guys before finishing up with a mini game on the school oval with some of the older students umpiring the game alongside Troy.



The Friday night Troy's work continued as the special guest at the Alice Springs Junior Green Shirt Umpires Graduation evening. Before the Green Shirt's graduated, I interviewed Troy alongside Samuel Nipress the winner of the NT Green Shirt Umpires Prize, which entitles Samuel to umpire a NAB AFL Auskick half time grid game on AFL Grand Final Day on the MCG.

Troy answered many questions for the keen and enthusiastic junior umpires about how he made it onto the AFL Umpiring Panel and what is involved to reach the top level. Troy then assisted myself with the presentations to the Green Shirts in taking umpiring up and successfully graduating and the Mentors for the hard work and effort they all put in throughout the season to help the Green Shirts.



On the Saturday it was AFL Central Australia Grand Final day and it was hot around 34 degrees and dry. Troy gave a pre-match address to all the umpires involved in the day before their matches about the importance of work-rate, team-work and enjoying the experience of a Grand Final.

Troy wasn't disappointed with some good umpiring across all 3 cracking Grand Finals with the u/17's Hermannsburg Bulldogs taking the title from Ltyentye Apurte in the last quarter by 19pts and the Bulldog players celebrated with numerous running back-flips. West's upset Ltyentye Apurte by a solitary goal in the Reserves and then a 65m behind to Federals after the siren (after officials clear the oval of 1,000 spectators off the field) to force extra-time in the Senior Grand Final against Pioneers. Pioneers went onto win by 3pts after 10 minutes of extra time in one the best Grand Finals that Troy and I had ever witnessed.

Then Troy's Red Centre Adventure was over as he flew back to the Melbourne the following morning. I would like to thank Troy for great efforts in promoting umpiring in Central Australia over the 3 days and the AFL for their great support of these Umpiring Development Programs.

Later this year we will be attempting to finalise the majority of promotional appearance opportunities for the entire 2010 season to ensure we can manage the limited number of promotions evenly throughout the year. We encourage you to start considering occasions (eg. pre-season launch, presentation nights) where your umpiring group may wish to use an AFL umpire.

Umpire Coach Advice – Umpire Awards

AFL Umpiring Development received the following letter from the wife of an U12 junior coach. The letter shows the significant impact that coaches can have on the football environment in which an umpire operates. The coach has a strong influence over club culture and simple initiatives such as the one outlined in this letter are simply ways to ensure the club develops a strong culture of encouraging everyone involved in the game.

Dear AFL Umpire Development,

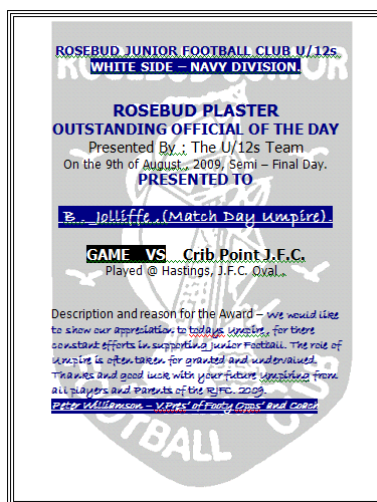
My husband is a fantastically dedicated junior coach and he is very passionate about junior development. He has endless files including ideas about how to improve skills.

This year not only has he continued to improve all his player's abilities he has educated parents on a weekly basis in respecting and supporting umpires. He constantly says "good coaches will help create good umpires"!

Before a game he always invites the umpires into the rooms to talk to the kids and parents. Then he reiterates the points that were raised to increase their importance to the players and parents.

After the game it is fantastic to watch all our players willingly shake the umpire's hands. The players seek them out and do it now off their own back.

Then after the game, my husband and the team manager and a different parent each week visit the umpire's rooms to present a certificate of thanks to the umpires along with a food voucher.



Certificate of thanks presented to umpires

He always writes positive umpires reports that offer encouragement and good hints on how they can continue improving their umpiring.

He also organised for 2 umpires to come to training and give a talk - highlighting their journey to get there, the enjoyment they get from the role, and the constant challenges they face when being abused by players on the field and people over the fence. It was really enlightening and all the boys and their parents asked great questions and received fantastic answers that have really opened up their eyes to the role of the umpire.

My husband is a wonderful, thoughtful, innovative coach who really wants to go further.

Can you encourage your league to circulate some of these ideas to local club officials? Would this have an impact in the environment in which your umpires operate?

If you have any coach advice you would like to submit to the network of umpire coaches please email them to Umpire.Development@afi.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

Player marks the ball inside 50. Time on has not been called. Player who marked the ball immediately throws the ball to a team mate whilst they walk back to their mark. Technically is this a throw? Is this a situation where match feel and common sense are important?

Answer

This does happen occasionally. I remember seeing an incident several weeks ago involving Jonathon Brown where this happened. In these situations the umpire must apply common sense. Is it the intention of the player with the ball to play on? We often see players in this circumstance bounce the ball, is this signalling the player's intention to play-on? Get the ball back to the right player and get the game moving.

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

Please send your questions to Umpire.Development@afi.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@afi.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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