



AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter

2009 – Week 3

*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 Recognition Round – Round 4



Round 4 of the 2009 Toyota AFL Premiership Season the AFL will be a theme round celebrating umpiring.

The round has been called the Umpire Recognition Round and is a follow up to the successful 'Green Shirt' round in 2006.

The four aims of the round are to:

- Develop greater awareness and understanding of the AFL Green Shirt/Mentor Program throughout the football community.
- Develop further awareness of the umpiring pathway that currently exists for young umpires looking to umpire in the AFL
- Recognise outstanding umpiring achievements at community level
- Recognise AFL players who also umpired at junior level

Further information on activities will be provided in the coming weeks.

Coaching Topic – Contest for Ball in General Play

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 2nd umpiring skill to be examined in this 16 part series is the contest for the ball in general play.

Contest for the ball in general play

Learning Outcomes –

- Spirit: The player whose sole objective is to contest the ball, or bump or shepherd an opponent within 5 metres of the ball, shall be permitted to do so.
- The laws are designed to promote a fair contest and they specify what is permitted contact and what prohibited contact is.
- The basic premise is that all contact should be made below the shoulder and above the knee of an opponent who is within 5m of the ball. Holding an opponent is permitted only when he is possession of the ball.

Activities –

- In a coaching session, each umpire in the group can be asked to specify and demonstrate one kind of contact that is permissible until all kinds are listed on the whiteboard.
- Then each umpire can specify and demonstrate one kind of contact that is prohibited until all kinds of contact are listed.
- For each kind of prohibited contact the umpire can also be asked to show the signal he would give when penalising the infringement.
- The relevant part of the current AFL DVD can be shown.
- Equipment required - ball, DVD, DVD player and monitor required

Method –

Permitted contact: on an opponent within 5m of the ball

- Bumping with the hip to an opponent's side
- Using the shoulder to push against the opponent's chest
- Pushing with open hands against the opponent's side or chest
- Blocking an opponent with an arm across his chest
- Reversing with arms outstretched into an opponent's chest
- Blocking an opponent chest to chest
- Holding an opponent by the jumper or body when he has the ball

Prohibited contact:

- Forceful contact on an opponent when the ball is more than 5m away
- Holding an opponent who does not have the ball
- Contacting an opponent's head whether deliberate or accidental
- Grabbing or pulling an opponent on the top of his shoulder
- Grabbing an opponent below the knees
- Pushing an opponent in the back forcing him forward or downwards
- Charging an opponent: running at him with unreasonable force when he is not expecting such contact
- Tripping or attempting to trip a running opponent with the hand, arm, leg or foot
- Holding an opponent too long after he has disposed of the ball
- Throwing an opponent after he has disposed of the ball
- Kicking or attempting to kick the ball when such action is likely to injure an opponent (ie. when he has his head over the ball or his hand on the ball.)
- Bumping an opponent from front on when he has his head down over the ball. Front on means likely to contact on or above the shoulder and includes an approach from the side.

Key Points –

- All contact must be below the shoulder and above the knee when the ball is within 5 metres.
- Holding an opponent must occur only when he has possession of the ball



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