



AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter

2009 – Week 4

*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 (Friday 17th – Sunday 19th April)

Round 4 of the 2009 Toyota AFL Premiership Season the AFL will be Umpire Recognition Round and is a follow up to the successful 'Green Shirt' round in 2006.

The four strategic objectives behind 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

There are a couple of exciting opportunities that will give umpiring groups the opportunity to get involved in the activities planned during this weekend:

FREE TICKETS – Green shirt umpires Hawthorn v Port Adelaide – MCG, Saturday April 18 (Victoria only)

2009 AFL Green Shirt Umpires across Victoria have the opportunity to receive 2 free tickets to see Hawthorn v Port Adelaide at the MCG on Saturday April 18.

To receive tickets each group will need to coordinate the number of tickets required for their group and email either Neville Nash or Gerard Ryan with the list of Green Shirt Umpires who will be using the tickets. We will only accept



one request per group so please ensure you liaise with all key group representatives prior to placing your request. Please forward your request to -

- Neville.Nash@aflvic.com.au (VIC metro groups); or
- Gerard.Ryan@aflvic.com.au (VIC country groups).

NOTE: Terms and Conditions

- These tickets are for 2009 AFL 'Green Shirt' umpires only and all 'Green Shirt' umpires must be approved by the State Umpiring Manager (either Neville or Gerard)
- Green Shirt umpires are entitled to receive 2 tickets each. Further tickets are unable to be provided
- Tickets must be used by the registered 'Green Shirt' umpire, but they can be accompanied by one parent or friend etc
- Ticket allocation is subject to availability as tickets are limited
- All tickets are general admission
- All ticket requests must be submitted to the State Umpiring Manager by no later than Tuesday 7th April
- Tickets will be distributed via the State Umpiring Manager to each group for distribution amongst 'Green Shirt' Umpires by Tuesday 14th April

PRIZES – Send us your stories

Groups are encouraged to send interesting umpiring stories that may receive coverage through media including Television, Radio, Newspapers (national and local). Outstanding stories will receive a prize.

Ideas for stories may include but are not limited to:

- An umpire who has had a significant impact on a group
- Player turned umpire stories
- Family associations
 - 3 generations of one family all umpiring
 - Twins umpiring together
- Distances covered to umpire matches

All stories are welcome. Please send your stories to Andrew.Hughes@afl.com.au prior to **COB Thursday April 2**.

Coaching Topic – Control 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 3rd umpiring skill to be examined in this 16 part series is maintaining good control in general play.

[Control: General Play](#)
[Learning Outcomes –](#)

- The manner you go about your business as an umpire will determine whether you have good control of general play.
- You need to demonstrate the following attributes:
 - Be Decisive
 - Show confidence
 - Stay calm
 - Know where to look

Activities –

- Decisiveness: each umpire controls a simulated match play incident with more than one infringement or a scrum
- Confidence: each umpire demonstrates whistle, voice and signal technique
- Composure: each umpire controls a role play incident involving a heated exchange
- Observation: simulated match play concentrating on looking after disposal
- Ideally the umpire should be videotaped for a short time in their early matches so they can get a sense of what they look like from the sidelines. A parent with a handy-cam can assist with this.
- Also you can view the AFL DVD examples of late contact, ruck contests and rough conduct outside boundary line or scoreline
- Ball. Whistles, DVD, DVD player and monitor, video camera at match

Method –

- Coaching activities should highlight the following:
- **Be decisive:**
 - Pay the first free kick (ie the first infringement you see in the contest) INSTANTLY without hesitation
 - Don't allow scrums to go too long (whistle as soon as the ball is trapped)
- **Show confidence:**
 - Strong sharp whistle without delay
 - Strong and clear voice to advise decision
 - Pronounced hand signal for free kick: don't rush it
 - Direction signal with straight (not bent arm) and hold until players respond
- **Stay calm**
 - Respect the players in your language
 - Don't get excited, angry or fearful
- **Know where to look:**
 - **(The basic rule is to look at contacting players and not at the ball)**
 - After disposal: look at the disposer momentarily to check for late contact
 - Contest: look at the contesting players
 - Running possessor: when one player is clear with the ball, look for contacting shepherders or leading players upfield
 - Ruck contests:
 - Scan for contacting players as ruckmen approach
 - Watch ruckmen as come together
 - Watch for late contact on ruckmen after the ball is knocked
 - Out of bounds: watch contacting players after ball has gone out of bounds
 - After a score: watch the area of last contest

Key Points –

- Be decisive and stay calm



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