



## AFL Umpire Coach Professional Development Program E-Newsletter

2009 – Week 9

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**



During Umpire Recognition Round we experienced some outstanding recognition of umpires and promotion of the green shirt program. Jay Clark's article in the Herald Sun, Harry O'Brien's section on Before the Game, Tim Lane's commentary of the round on Channel 10, and other informed media personalities description of the weekend will have a really positive impact on umpire development throughout the country.

The AFL believes the football community took the theme of the round on board and understood the key message of the green shirt program and the need to recognise umpires in a positive fashion.

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### **Outstanding Umpire Achievement at Community Level**

#### **"Queensland's Golden Girl"**

Article by Corey Wastle

It seems as though Nick Riewoldt is not Queensland's only blonde bombshell to burst onto the football scene. Brisbane's young Emily Wastle just 15, is quickly making a name for herself in Queensland's football circles, both with the ball and with the whistle.

Wastle, who began umpiring in 2007 aged 13, is an advocate of the AFL Umpire Green Shirt Program. Wastle, who wore a light green shirt as part of the mentor program for her initial year of field umpiring in the AFL Brisbane Juniors, was particularly glowing in her appraisal of the green shirt policy. "The green shirt lets coaches, players and supporters know you're just learning which means you get a great deal of support," said Wastle. Wastle's outstanding first year with the whistle was rewarded with her leagues coaches' award.

The ambitious Wastle has since umpired the 2008 Queensland school boys' state carnival and has been selected in the 2009 Next Gen Field Umpire Development Squad Program. The squad forms part of the AFL's structure pathway for umpires with identified potential. This year's squad members will be exposed to further high performance training and development.

In 2009, Wastle expects to umpire the AFL Brisbane Juniors under 16 boys, a task of which most young girls aged 15 would find far too daunting, but not Wastle. "The players know that I'm in control and I know that I'm in control, I'm not intimidated at all."

Apart from swiftly progressing along the AFL's umpiring pathway, Wastle has rapidly turned heads as a

player. The skillful midfielder began her career in 2006 with Yeronga JAFC, steering the team to the AFL Brisbane Juniors under 13's grand final. Despite the Yeronga Devils one goal loss to rival Kedron, Wastle was rewarded with both her league and club best and fairest awards.

In 2007, Wastle continued the stunning start to her playing career with a second club best and fairest. Her outstanding efforts were rewarded with selection in the under 16's Youth Girls South East Queensland Flames team. Wastle was the Flames youngest member, aged just 14.

In her third season, Wastle lead Yeronga to grand final glory against Kedron, avenging their heartbreaking 2006 loss. Wastle starred with 4 goals, receiving the club's 'Best Final Series Player Award'. For the second consecutive year Wastle was selected in the under 16's Youth Girls South East Queensland Flames team, this time as Flames Vice Captain. Wastle played a crucial role in the Flames memorable Grand Final win against competition entrant Papa New Guinea. If mixing her club commitments with state representation and umpiring wasn't enough, Wastle began her senior career with Western Magpies in 2008 at the ripe old age of 15.

Wastle's love for all facets of the game is undeniable, intending to continuing playing and umpiring for "as long as I possibly can."

When questioned on her umpiring ambitions, Wastle was emphatic. "I would love to be the AFL's first female field umpire." The concept of a female field umpire at the country's highest level was not so long ago inconceivable, yet today, with a rare blend of talent and determination, Wastle might just arrive on the biggest stage sooner rather than later.

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## Coaching Topic – Positioning at ball ups

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 8<sup>th</sup> umpiring skill to be examined in this 16 part series is positioning at ball ups.



### Positioning at ball ups

#### Learning Outcomes –

- The objective of positioning at ball ups is to ensure a fair ruck contest by being in a position
  - well clear of the competing players;
  - able to see any infringements by the ruckmen or other players in the immediate vicinity; and
  - to move unimpeded to a good position for the next act of play.
- This requires the umpire to approach from, and retreat to, neutral territory.
- The umpire needs to carry out an approach, a vertical ball up, a retreat and movement for next act of play

#### Activities –

- Set up a skill drill on the field with 2 ruckmen and 2 rovers who will contest the ball up
- Each person takes a turn as the umpire to demonstrate the approach, the ball-up, the retreat and next movement with the play.
- Get the group to comment constructively after each demonstration.
- Also, view the relevant parts of the AFL DVD and explore various positions on whiteboard
- Equipment required includes ball, AFL DVD and DVD player and monitor, whiteboard and markers.

#### Method –

##### Approach:

##### Centre bounces or throw ups

- Start 5m on the minor axis from the ball up spot on the side with the sun behind you
- Glance behind you and signal your intended path of retreat
- Walk in along minor axis while watching for contacting players

##### Field bounces or throw ups

- Start 5m inside the ball up spot with your back to the major axis
- Glance behind you and signal your intended path of retreat
- Walk in while watching for contacting players

**Retreat:**

After bouncing or throwing up the ball vertically:

- Run backwards to a position 20-25m from the ball up spot
- Before the ruckmen contest (throw/bounce the ball high)
- While keeping your eyes on the ruckmen and surrounding players
- Don't watch the ball

**Next Movement:**

After the ruck contest, move from your retreat position to get a side view of the next act of play

**Key Points –**

- Retreat WELL back
- Watch the players NOT the ball

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**Ask the Ump**

This week's question comes from Dave Golby from the Southern Umpires Association. Dave has sought clarification on centre square infringements at the commencement of play, either at the beginning of each quarter or after a goal has been scored.

The question refers to the Players outside the centre square who are waiting for the ball up or bounce and specifically wants clarification on what 'entering' the square means.

The law 11.3.4(b) explains that "no Player (other than the 4 initial Players) or team official shall enter the Centre Square from the time the field Umpire commences his or her approach to the centre circle to bounce the football until the football touches the ground, in the act of bouncing, or leaves the field Umpire's hand, in the act of being thrown up".

**Question:** I am aware of the law relating to centre square infringements and also that Players are also permitted to lean into the square so long as they do not step into the square. However, I am seeking clarification regarding players leaping into the square whilst the umpire is commencing their approach and remaining in the air (ie. feet do not touch the ground) until after the football touches the ground, in the act of bouncing, or leaves the field Umpire's hand, in the act of being thrown up. In this instance should this be deemed as an infringement?

**Answer:** Good question Dave. In this instance the Player has not infringed. The Player is considered to be 'outside' the square until their foot lands inside the square.

Another area for umpires to be wary of is rule 11.3.4(d) which refers to Players being pushed or otherwise forced into the Centre Square. The law states that "where a Player has been pushed or otherwise forced into the Centre Square in contravention of Law 11.3.4(b), the Free Kick shall be awarded against the Team which caused the transgression"

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.

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

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**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](#).



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