



## Busselton District Junior Football Association

### Line marking – The basics

Line marking is one of two things:

- A good, healthy and enjoyable walk in the park; or
- One of the most frustrating activities you'll ever undertake (unless you're the type of person who likes to spend countless hours fixing niggly little problems).

The difference, and the key to line marking is:

- (a) Having a line to follow.
- (b) A clean line marking machine, charged and ready to use.
- (c) The right line marking mix.

#### (A) Having a line to follow

Line marking is easiest when there is line on the ground to follow.

But if the line on the ground is faded or broken, you should mark out the line with marker cones or domes. Please avoid using marker spray cans to spot the line as this will kill the grass.

If the line on the ground is too far gone, the ground layout should be set out again. The grounds keeper is the best person to contact regarding how the ground should be set out.

#### (B) A clean and charged line marking machine

A clear line and spray nozzle is crucial. The following *cannot* be over emphasised...

- NEVER leave paint in the machine to dry – It will choke the machine and can be frustratingly difficult to remove.
- NEVER leave paint in the container to dry, including on the walls of the container – It will flake and block the filter.
- NEVER pour paint directly into the container – It will sit on the bottom of the container and there's a good chance it will clog the machine.
- ALWAYS clean up after use by: (a) removing any spare paint mix from the container; (b) jetting the line, (c) running the machine with clear water in the container; and (d) leaving clear water in the container.

Also, think of the next person who will need to use the machine and give it a charge if needed.

#### (C) The right mix

Getting the paint mix right is a balancing act. Too much paint and you'll clog the machine or the paint won't spray as good as it should. Too little paint and there won't be enough paint on the ground.

It is better to err on the side of caution. If there isn't enough paint on the ground, go over it a second time (but this time in the reverse direction to coat both sides of the grass blade).

#### When to mark...

The ideal time to mark is during a sunny autumn afternoon. This will give the paint the best chance to dry and bond to the grass.

But conditions are not always perfect. Line making can be done on a dewy or slightly damp ground; and in misty conditions. There isn't much point in line marking in wet or rainy conditions as the paint will just wash out.

If the grass is looking long, it is a good idea to check with the grounds crew as they may have scheduled to mow the turf soon after you've scheduled to mark it, taking your good work to the mulch pit.

### What to mark...

- Boundary – the arcs from the behind post to behind post
- The goal line – the straight line between the goal and behind posts. NOTE: The posts should be set at 6.4m between posts but on the smaller grounds, the posts have been set 6m apart
- The goal square – Extends 9m from each goal posts towards the opposite goal post at the other end of the ground. Another line runs parallel with the goal line.
- The centre square – The length of each side should be 50m but on the smaller grounds the sides may have been set at 40m.
- The centre circle – This consists of a 10m circle, a 3m circle and a straight line through the centre of the circles.
- A 50m arc – This is set at 50m from the centre of the goal line.
- The interchange area – Located on the wing nearest to the coaches boxes
- The spectator line – This is to be marked on grounds that do not have a perimeter fence. The spectator line is a broken line that is offset at least 2m from the boundary and at least 3m from the goal line.

The spectator line does seem like a lot of extra paint but is necessary for the safety of players, spectators and match officials (especially boundary and goal umpires). Apart from those permitted on the field, every person (including team officials and interchange players) and thing (including team kit, game boards and drink bottles) must be placed behind the spectator line when the game is in play.

As a minimum, a spectator line should be marked behind the goals (3m offset), along the coaching areas (2m offset) and where most spectators tend to stand (2m offset).

### Line marking frequency...

To avoid the painted line getting to the state that it can't be seen to be remarked, it is a good idea to mark the ground regularly (every few weeks), even when no matches are scheduled for an extended period.

The ground will most likely need remarking after it is mowed.

The ground should be checked after rain periods.

### More information...

This is a guide of the line marking basics. Please also refer to 'Line marking – Marking the ground' and the manufacturer's instructions for the line marking machine.