

Coaches Note #2 2016

A lot of you have heard this before, but please take the time to read as there are a few new points that we all need to be aware of.

Firstly – what you should have with you (depending on your discipline)

- Green Emergency Contact Card – you need to have this with you when on-field
- Law Book 2016 – Electronic or hard copy (Law 19 has not altered from the 2015 book)
- Red / Yellow Cards (field umpires)
- Pay Sheets
- Ground Reports
- Report Forms
- Flags (goal umpires)

Can everyone make sure they are at their venue at least **45-60 minutes before your game** is due to start (30 minutes for the first game of the day should be enough time to get yourself sorted and meet the coaches etc.)

Sign the pay sheet when you arrive.

Dress Standards

To the game / after game –

- Black Dress Pants, Shorts, Jeans or Chino's
- Dress or Casual shoes in good condition
- Blue Panel Polo Top
- Blue Panel Jacket or Life Member Jacket
- Any Polo or Jacket featuring the 'Umpire AFL Logo' or promoting umpiring in general

NO THONGS / BOARD SHORTS or RIPPED CLOTHING.

On Field -

- Panel Uniform (green top / socks and grey shorts)
- White hat / wrist bands
- Footwear appropriate for the job you are doing

SHIRTS must be TUCKED IN and SOCKS UP when you are on field.

Please help us maintain our professional approach to umpiring by looking the part, especially when on field.

Match Day Reports

All reports made in the SFL WILL be heard by the SFL Tribunal. Any reports made in the SFL tick the 'Tribunal Required Box'

There is no change to the reporting procedure for the GSFL – you have the option to tick 'Tribunal Required Box' if the incident is serious and worthy of being referred straight to the tribunal, you can still tick 'Prescribed Penalty' if you think the incident is worthy of a prescribed penalty being offered.

If you make a match day report ensure your paperwork is completed correctly as soon as possible after the game.

Dave Uthenwoldt MUST be informed of any match day reports as soon as possible, but no later than Sunday Night, he will then guide you through the tribunal process if required.

Boundary Umpires

It is a very hard job physically, as I recently found out. As your coach has told you many times we really want to see you put in as much effort as you can, all the time when running the boundary.

From what I have seen this happens so keep up the good work.

Just a couple of points that we need to be aware of as these are the two things I get phone calls from clubs and the leagues on Mondays –

1. Can we make our throw in's as high and as consistent as possible. Not everyone can throw the ball 5 metres high and 15 metres into the field of play from the boundary line. 15 metres in is the distance we would like the throw in's to get to, come into the ground as much as you need, height is more important than distance. Come in and throw the ball high, this should stop multiple throw in's in a short space of time.
2. Can we make sure that the side that has the most play has the most boundary umpires, the leagues in particular have asked a lot why we have two boundary umpires on the clubroom side, and 1 on the other, the wind is blowing to the side with 1 boundary umpire while the other two stand around. Be mindful of the conditions and adapt, work as a team and make it as easy as possible for all of you.

Keep up the good work guys and girls, I know you are working very hard to improve your skills and improve. We have a lot of boundary umpires at the SANFL so there is a career path there with some hard work.

The below information relates mainly to Field Umpires but is useful for all umpires to have knowledge of –

There are no rule changes for 2016 but our interpretation of a couple of rules will be slightly differently.

Dangerous tackles and holding the ball will be a focus this year, be aware of the instructions already provided and adhere to them. Coaching sessions will take place early in the season to reinforce these changes.

Reinforce the **1 metre between ruckmen at throw ups / throw-ins**. Education and communication will be the key regarding this rule, paying a free kick should be the last resort.

If you speak to the coaches prior to a game you do not need to go into specifics about how the game is to be umpired, the game will be dictated by how the players play, however, we will always attempt to look after the ball player and penalise any head high contact the a player has ducked and initiated the high contact.

The following is important in all games and in particular - Junior Games. I expect all umpires in all Games to be mindful of these points and my expectations -

Sling or Dangerous Tackles are not to be tolerated, if a player is slung to the ground and does not have control of their body / landing there is a greater likelihood that they will hit their head, potentially causing injury. This action should be penalised on all occasions with a free kick, 15 (u14 and JC) / 50 metre penalty or by issuing a red or yellow card if that is the most appropriate course of action.

Communicate with the players as to why a free kick etc. was paid and help educate them as the why it is dangerous.

In junior games players are growing at a different rate, some are already adults whilst others are still children. The larger player should not be allowed to intimidate, use their size or unnecessary force against a smaller opponent. Penalise any unnecessary roughness either at the contest or especially off the ball. Make sure you communicate with the players as to why you have paid a free kick etc.

Another area that is likely to cause injury is when a player is tackled, arms pinned and driven into the ground. If the tackled player is driven into the ground with unnecessary force or causing their head to hit their ground this action must be penalised. Award a free kick, 50 metre penalty or issue a red / yellow card, whichever you see fit.

DO NOT LET THESE ACTIONS GO UNPENALISED...

Umpires need to be aware of what is happening after the ball leaves their area, be vigilant, pay attention to the last act of play.

WE MUST HAVE A PRESENCE at all volatile or potentially volatile situations, use your whistle, voice, communicate with the players. The umpire in control **MUST** stay at the contest and 'tap' the other umpire through.

DO NOT LET ACTS OF UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS GO UNPENALISED...

Take positive action, make a decision.....

Communicate with the players, give them warnings and / or directions if appropriate.

Speak to the players how you want to be spoken to.

Communication is the key, explain to the players / coaches why free kicks were paid. We need the coaches to help educate the players with us, not against us.

Please – No Dictators on the ground, years of experience has taught me that by communicating with players a situation can be managed before it gets out of hand.

GSFL – JUNIOR COLTS RULE CHANGE – Players are now allowed to **bounce the ball TWICE** before they need to kick or handball.

***** In ALL grades this year I would expect the Field umpires to be rotating around as much as possible. In A Grade it is an expectation that 'bum taps' WILL be used at set plays in and around the 50m arc, potentially volatile situations where an umpires presence is needed and any other opportunity to 'swap' ends during a quarter. This will keep the umpires involved and also take away the perception from clubs that one umpire may be giving a team a raw deal.**

In the lower grades I don't expect as many 'bum taps', but if the game is one sided I would like to see the umpires swap ends after 3-4 goals have been scored. For the same reasons as above, keep the umpires involved and take away the perception from clubs that one umpire may be giving a team a raw deal. ***

Before you start the game / each quarter

- Must have a team sheet from both sides, no game will start without two team sheets, make sure they are signed by both umpires
- Make sure **YOUR TEAM** is ready to go, Boundary / Goal Umpires in position and correctly attired (White top or jacket for the club goal umpires)
- Clear the ground of all spectators and officials

Reserve Umpires, we have not appointed any reserve umpires. Can everyone help each other out, if you umpire an early game try and stick around until at least half time of the next game.

If you are umpiring a later game you should be at the oval at least 45-60 minutes before your game so keep an eye on your mates out in the middle and give them a hand if needed. Most of us should be fit enough to run an extra quarter or so if need be. **It's all about helping out your mates, looking after OUR team.**

Lastly – A few administration matters

Can one of the A Grade umpires make sure that the pay sheet is complete and the details sent (emailed / take a photo and send) to Ian Curran (cslfupselection@gmail.com 0412 729 396) AND Dave Whiley (cslfuptreasurer@gmail.com 0419 461 824) as soon as possible.

All GSFL teams electronically pay the umpires so you do not need to get cheques. Some SFL teams still pay by cheque, if they do, receive the cheque (they need to sign the pay sheet). Return the cheque to Dave Whiley as soon as possible.

Ground Reports – If you have cause to fill out a ground report, email, send, bring it to training with you and give to Dave Whiley. These will be assessed by the Panel prior to going to the leagues.

Appointments – All appointments will be through Schedula this season. **You will receive your appointment via email and MUST confirm or decline your appointment through Schedula before Thursday 4pm of that week.**

Your coaches and / or selection secretary must be made aware of any unavailability either through Schedula or text / email no later than Monday - 12 midday of the week you will be unavailable.

Game Times / Starting etc.

This is not something we need to get involved in during the day. The clubs are all aware of the starting (and finishing) times for each game.

If you think that the clubs haven't kept the day moving - Use a Ground Report. The Leagues are the most appropriate authority to deal with these matters.

What we can help out with is making sure the breaks don't drag on longer than they should. Try and keep the day flowing during a game and if you have a problem with a particular team - Use a Ground Report. The League can then deal with the matter.

We are trying to build constructive relationships with clubs, which we have over the years, but they can be undone very quickly and easily.

REMEMBER – we are there to deal with the 'On Field' issues, generally anything that occurs 'Off Field' should be referred to the respective League.

Most importantly – help each other out, support each other and HAVE FUN.....

Enjoy your game/s this season, the panel, and especially the coaches and management committee, value the time and effort everyone puts into their umpiring. We hope you get something in return.

Jason Edwards
Senior Coach CSLFUP