

COACHES NOTES # 3

Hi All,

A few points from the Panel Meeting on Wednesday night.

Firstly – great start to the year, solid effort by everyone. We have laid a very good foundation to have a successful year. However, this can come undone very quickly and easily. We need to maintain our high standards on and off the field and continue to work hard and improve.

Keep up the good work everyone.

Everyone

SCHEDULA

This is our appointment and payment system (Even Rooster is gun on Schedula now...who would have thought, good work Rooster)

We need a bit of help from everyone to make it work as well as it can.

Firstly – your coach and selection secretary (csfupselection@gmail.com) needs to know your availability early in the week.

We try and do the appointments on a Sunday night, we need to know by then (either by adding availability to Schedula, calling, texting or emailing your coach or selection secretary) if you have any special requests or unavailable for part or all of the weekend.

Secondly – we need you to check Schedula when you get an appointment notification ASAP and confirm or decline your appointment. It is really important that you confirm or decline your appointment so we can make changes if needed.

TRAINING

As you can see from your training Schedula, training is now Wednesday night only. Make use of your spare time for family, work, school commitments and try your best to be at training on Wednesday nights.

REPORTS

Question has been asked about reporting players if you are a spectator at a ground.

This can be broken down into two categories –

1. If you are appointed to a game at that ground, you would be expected to make a report if you deem that the incident was reportable and not seen by any of the officiating umpires. You are still able to make a report as well as an officiating umpire and then the tribunal will use you as a witness to the incident.

It is a league and panel expectation that you will make a report if necessary.

2. You are not appointed to a game at that ground and see a reportable incident.

If an officiating umpire lays a report you are able to be a witness but cannot lay a report yourself. Make it known to the umpire that you saw the incident and they can record those details in their report.

If no umpire makes a report and you see a reportable incident you can advise the panel – through Dave Uthenwoldt, and he can contact the relevant league and advise them. They may then commence an investigation which you could be called as a witness to the matter.

Hope this makes sense....

FACEBOOK

If you haven't already, join our [Facebook](#) group, it is the most efficient way for everyone to communicate with each other.

[CSLFUP Facebook](#)

PANEL WEBSITE

Don't forget about our website, it has all the appointments, umpire resources, training and social updates.

[CSLFUP Website](#)

UNIFORM

Hoody's and long sleeve on field shirts have now arrived – If you ordered either of these items contact or see Dave Whiley for collection. Payment will be deducted from your pay at some stage...

ACCREDITATION

It is an AFL expectation that all umpires are accredited. Last season the AFL introduced a new online accreditation process. Shortly Rooster, with Phil Camac helping out, will be providing information about the accreditation process.

For those that are interested and want to get a head start follow the link below

[Umpire Accreditation](#)

There is a small cost involved which will be reimbursed to the Umpire upon successful completion of the accreditation process.

FIELD UMPIRES

1. Some trends that I have noticed that are easy to rectify and will make your umpiring easier and more enjoyable

- **Walking** when in control, **should not happen**, you need to be on the move, adjusting position, rest as number 2 when you have made position.

- When working around a pack, **be aware of where your partner is**, move around the **opposition side of the pack** so that you and your partner have a differing view. You will also then be on the right side of the pack for a quick kick that you need to keep control of.

- **Boundary throw ins** – don't get behind the contest, start 15-20m away from the contest and be slightly in front of the contest when the ball arrives. Then work hard to get back to the centre axis.

- **Free Kicks as number 2** – these should only be paid when the free kick is obvious, not able to be seen by the umpire in control AND the free kick is not an INTERPRETATIONAL free kick. By this I mean number 2 should not be paying holding the ball, only awarding free kicks for high contact and holding on where the player cannot get to the contest as a general rule.

- **Whistles** – need to be loud, strong and crisp. Everyone notices a whistle when it is blown poorly; make a statement, if you are going to blow your whistle, blow it loud...

- **Signals** – also need to be clear and delivered with confidence, even if you have made a mistake, sell your decision with conviction.

- **Communicate, communicate, communicate** and explain your decision to players if asked in an appropriate manner.

2. In the lower grades some of the boundary umpires have a bit of trouble throwing the ball in, give them a couple of goes and if they don't succeed bring the ball in and throw it up. Try not to embarrass the kids that are trying their best, give them another go and plenty of encouragement the next time the ball goes out of bounds.

Remember that a field umpire can call the ball out of bounds in the lower grades with non-panel boundary umpires if they are sure the ball is out of play.

3. Before you start the game make sure the ground is clear of all spectators, boundary and goal umpires are in position and in A Grade (SFL mainly), check with both goal umpires by raising your hand and get them to acknowledge that they are ready.

Continuing from that point, and mainly relating to A Grade games, field umpires can you wait for the goal umpire to come to the goal line and look for you BEFORE you give the ALL CLEAR, work as team with the goalies...

4. Can the field umpires be aware of any abuse etc. that is directed towards the Goal or Boundary umpires. Take action if this happens, have a chat to the player, award a free kick, issue a yellow or red card if appropriate.

5. When umpiring with Junior or inexperienced umpires can the senior umpire get them to complete the paperwork, mainly the best player votes. Make sure you both sign the team sheets and the pay sheet.

6. In A grade – **MEETING THE COACHES**. The SFL coaches have had a meeting recently and would like to build a rapport with the umpires. They have asked if the A Grade umpires could, if possible, make an effort to say hello at half time, or before of the B Grade game. After this time the coaches are pretty busy and I, and they, don't expect you to interrupt them when they are preparing. The coaches have hung out the olive branch and we should grab it and build a good / solid working relationship with them.

Going on from this, when going back out after half time, can you let both teams know that you are going back out.

7. We will be using three umpires again in the finals for all grades except junior colts / u14.

This week we have three A grade games utilising three umpires, we will endeavour to have everyone operate in a three umpire system before the finals kick off.

I have attached a 3 umpire system 'manual', it is lengthy but have a read and be aware of the general principles. The 3 umpire system gives you the flexibility to make adjustments on the fly and work as a team, communication is the key to making it work.

8. Technology, the panel has been able to purchase some more radio's for use on field. The leagues are very supportive and have spent a lot of money on this technology for us. Having used it, I can safely say it makes communicating with your other umpires a 100 times easier, without taking away the ability to speak to and hear players. If you have the opportunity can you please have a go with them, make an assessment for yourself before dismissing the idea, I think you will be surprised.

The radios are there to complement your umpiring, we still need to be bum tapping etc. so we also have the visual cues.

Have fun and enjoy your umpiring

Jason Edwards
Senior Coach