

NOTES – June 12-19

BIG Whistles / Voice / Signals - Blow your whistle loud, Big obvious signals for the benefit of the observers and spectators and strong / confident voice to get your message across to the players.

Something that has crept into football more and more, and I have had discussions with a few coaches about this, is the disputing of decisions and constant whinging. Not swearing or abusing the umpires directly - but the 'death by a thousand cuts' scenario. Don't put up with constant whinging and disputing of decisions from the players, runners, coaches or water carriers. If it is happening, be strong and give verbal warnings - if it continues after warnings and is unreasonable - pay a free or 50. This should be our last option so don't be too hasty, let players vent or ask questions about a decision in a reasonable manner. Any demonstrative actions or behaviour or swearing at an umpire - penalise immediately.

Run Your Angles

Run your angles, particularly going inside the 50, run wide, open up your view. DON'T run straight at the packs or 'chase' bums - run wide, use your angles.

Boundary throw-ins

Being behind the contest is not the correct position - slightly in front of the contest, 20-25 m away and then triggering back to the centre of the ground is where we want to see you.

Pay the First Obvious Free Kick

Keep paying the first obvious free kick, give the ball player a reasonable prior opportunity before paying holding the ball, don't be too hot with 50 m penalties unless the actions have a direct impact on the game - use common sense.

Following on from the above notes for Field Umpires -

BIG Whistles / Voice / Signals -

What we want to see and hear from you is -

1. - Blow your whistle loud, followed by
 2. - Clear, strong and loud message - which would be something like 'High Contact, Reynella' 'Holding the ball, Strathalbyn', followed by
 3. - Big obvious signals for the benefit of the, coaches, observers and spectators.
- If everyone could do this everytime we pay a free kick it would be ideal. Consistency is what we are after from everyone.

Moving the Ball on from marks / free kicks

Again, we are after consistency in our approach. What I want to see is what the AFL do. From a mark or free kick around the ground the player has about 6 seconds to move the ball on.

After 6 seconds we want to see and hear -

1. - DOUBLE BLOW your Whistle - gets everyone attention that something is about to happen. As I was told recently though, this is not a starting whistle, if the player on the mark runs over, pay a 50m and explain our procedure to them.
2. - COMMUNICATE - I say 'Move it now' but anything similar is fine as long as it is not 'Play On'
3. - Immediately after point 2 Call 'Play On' and raise both arms straight into the air so everyone can hear AND see what you are doing

Run Your Angles

Run your angles, particularly going inside the 50, run wide, open up your view. DON'T run straight at the packs or 'chase' bums - run wide, use your angles. Keep doing this every time, no matter how fatigued you are, it will make your job easier.

50 m Penalties

Keep paying the blatantly obvious ones. The ones we need to have a feel for and maybe dial back slightly are for entering or encroaching on the protected area.

Pay them if the action has a direct impact on the ball carrier, if there is no impact or the player is trying to move away or passive - don't pay a 50.

Have a feel for what is happening and don't be too militant. Use Common Sense, we don't need to be the centre of attention, do your job with a minimum of fuss.

Pay the First Obvious Free Kick

Keep moving around the packs, pay the first obvious free kick and give the ball player a reasonable prior opportunity before paying holding the ball, again - use common sense.