

How to handle difficult on or off field situations during the game, at breaks, as you are leaving the ground or in the Umpires Change Rooms

- Abuse from a coach or other official (including Runner or Water Carrier) on the bench – Pay Free kicks – Communicate with the players why you paid a free kick. If the abuse etc. is over the top from any of these people – complete a detailed Ground Report and forward to the secretary. The leagues will then make an assessment on what action to take.
- Abuse from the crowd – generally try to ignore, if over the top with swearing etc. – mention to the home team manager at a break so they are aware – in any event – fill out a Ground Report
- If you are approached by a coach or official during a break regarding your umpiring or decisions, respectfully remind them that this is not the time and follow the instructions issued by the league. You will find a copy of an email that has been sent to all clubs – they know the procedure. If this happens – fill out a Ground Report
- It is fine for the Captain to approach and seek clarification / advice in a respectable manner . If it isn't respectful – take the appropriate action (free kick etc.)
- If spectators are having a go at you during a break when they are walking on / off the oval, the best thing to do is not give them anything back, walk away. If it escalates inform the home Team Manager and make sure you fill out a ground report. We (the Panel) can, and will, only defend your actions if you are doing everything correctly.
- If anyone wants to question you whilst walking you are walking off the oval – Get off the ground as quickly as possible, don't engage in conversation with coaches, other officials or the crowd. If a coach or player approaches to shake hands that is fine, shake hands, congratulate them on a good game and move on, we don't want to stand around and engage in conversation with coaches or players at this time – complete a ground report if approached by a coach or official that questions / complains about how the game was officiated.
- People in the way of where you are going – be the bigger person, keep moving, go the 'long way' around if you have to, don't instigate any confrontation – again – submit a ground report if this happens.
- Did you have an escort – **ALL** games are required to provide escorts off of the ground – if no Escort – Complete a Ground Report
- Leave the field as quickly as you can (as a team) – **NO** shaking hands with the other umpires or patting each other on the backs on the field, it's not a great look and can only inflame and incite players / coaches and spectators to react. Congratulate each other when you are back in the change rooms.
- The Umpires Change Rooms are our area, if a coach, player, spectator approaches or comes into the change room, ask politely in the first instance to leave, if they have any complaint etc. the clubs know where this should be directed, now is not the time to discuss. A detailed Ground Report **MUST** be submitted if this happens.
- All clubs have received an email outlining what they can / can't do (See below)
- If we do the right thing the leagues and Panel will support you. Do the wrong thing and you will lose that protection
- Remember that a lot of games are now being videoed, your actions could be seen by anyone – do the right thing ALL the time.

Ground Reports :

As you can see – Ground Reports need to be submitted. We have stopped short of requiring a Ground Report for every game, however, if the points raised aren't reported back to the Panel, we may have to reconsider this. In a nut shell, Ground Reports -

- Need to be completed for all the above mentioned points and any other situation that arises during / before or after a game. They must be completed ASAP and emailed or SMS'd to the Secretary (david.curran2@anz.com) by 7pm on the day of your game.
- Ground Reports can be found [HERE](#)
- If you are able to supply photos of any issues that would be helpful. i.e. – Ground Marking / Exposed Sprinklers / Issues with Change Rooms.
- The more detail you put in the Ground Report the better.

Communicating with players on field:

- Firstly – never swear at a player or criticise their performance – it will never end well.
- Be clear, concise and loud in decisions as well as clear signals , i.e. '**Push in the back - Noarlunga 27 (name) free**' or '**Push in the back - Noarlunga Free**' if you don't know the number/name
- Clearly tell the player in **METRES** (not Steps) when you need them to come back on the mark or move around o angle. Always state how many METRES, not just come around or steps.
- If a player asks you a question and you have time to answer, if they haven't sworn just answer it then move on. Don't be drawn into a lengthy conversation about a decision or non-decision. Keep it short and succinct i.e. '**I saw it high that is why I paid it**', '**I was unsighted with players in the way**' or '**That's just how I saw it**' etc.
- Constant questioning, disputing of decisions and just general annoying behaviour. This is probably more noticeable than the outright abuse. Tell them you have answered the question, move on, or you'll be forced to pay a free kick, if free kick is paid make it clear as to why. Do not swear or answer in a derogatory manner. Don't let the constant whining and whinging to continue. It doesn't make the game enjoyable and umpires will lose their enjoyment and leave the game. Take action this week so the umpires next week don't have to. Having a consistent approach to these situations will hopefully stamp it out.
- Abuse from a player, you have options depending on severity. Don't let the abuse fester, pay a free kick immediately if it is loud / demonstrative or directed at you or the other umpire. Remember that you can use your cards if necessary to send off / report the player.
- Abuse from bench can also be penalised with free kicks and by submitting Ground Reports if excessive.

Match Day Paperwork APP

Everyone (Field / Boundary / Goals) has access to the app. You have ALL registered to umpire which is your log in details. Search **Match Day Paperwork** on the App Store or Google Play and get it installed.

If anyone has issues email Ian or Jason so they can try and sort it out.

I have noticed in the last few days the email address is case sensitive so you must enter your email address correctly

If you are having issues, uninstall and reinstall the App, try logging in several times, do something, don't just give up.

NOTES – Panel Meeting – 17 July 2019

Submitting vote via email or on paperwork is the last resort and only if accompanied by a valid reason.

It does become an integrity issue when the League Secretary is submitting some votes and not others. We will not accept that you do not have access to the App.

At least one of the umpires will, so get them to complete the votes. If you are umpiring by yourself, ask another umpire if their Match Day Paperwork App works – if yes – log in on their phone and complete your votes etc. If you're having trouble logging in, see above and tell someone.

There have been issues with the online team sheets not being correct at the end of the game. The clubs have an hour after a game finishes to complete or update the online team sheet. You don't need to complete your votes immediately after the game. They can be done later in the day when the team sheet is finished. If a team sheet is still not up to date later, submit a Ground Report Match Day Paperwork instructions can be found [HERE](#)

Reporting of players via the MDP app – detail detail detail! Do the basics right – all details need to be correct. If possible – get someone to check report before you submit it.. You need to fill all the applicable sections correctly – it isn't hard. Boundary and Goal umpires need to have the App downloaded as well. Don't rely on the field umpire, they will help you, but at the end of the day the report is yours.

EVERYONE needs to have a copy of the 2019 Law Book – get the law section, name, number club etc right. The 2019 Law Book can be downloaded [HERE](#)

Doing 2 games with one umpire getting next game started

We have asked leagues to have goal umpires come straight in at the end of matches to assist here. If one umpire could get the score cards whilst the other run off and gets the next match ball, checks the team sheet it would help to keep the day moving.

You don't need to waste time completing the votes between games, the team sheets probably need to be updated anyway so wait until you are finished for the day.

You don't need both umpires to have the coin toss for the next game. Keep everything moving and be as efficient as possible.

Schedula

Most are doing the right thing but a few still make it hard. When you receive your Schedula notification can you accept or decline ASAP. It stops Ian having to ring people to make sure they are ok to umpire. In future, if you haven't accepted or decline a Schedula notification by Thursday night and haven't notified Ian – you may be replaced.

Arriving at Games Late

You must let other umpire know, otherwise in finals you will be dropped the week after, no exceptions. Everyone should have their phone number showing on Schedula so you can contact each other if you have any issues.

Presentation Dinner and Grand Final Announcements

Will be at the Port Noarlunga SLSC on Wednesday 18 September 2019, the week of the SFL and GSFL Grand Finals – everyone will be deducted the cost of the dinner from the last minor round game fees unless you advise the Secretary beforehand. If you wish to bring someone else along, advise the Secretary so a further fee can be deducted. The cost of the dinner will be around \$30 per head.

Selections

As we get closer to the Finals selections will be along the lines of where you will possibly be in finals.

Observations

The Majority of people will have been observed multiple times by now and received feedback. If you have any issues or concerns, ask Ian or Jason. If you think you haven't been observed much, you are probably wrong, we have kept a close eye on most of you, including at training. You may not have received written feedback on all these occasions but if there was anything major that you needed to be told, you would have been.

Finals and Leading into Finals (And every week really)

Do not try and pay every little free or be technical – we only want the first **OBVIOUS** free kick to be paid. Don't be too technical when it comes to 50m penalties, only pay the ones that are obvious and / or have an effect on the player with the ball.

You don't need to show us that you know the rules better than the players – that's a given.

We don't need to, or want to, be the centre of attention. What will stand you apart is doing the basics really well (Whistle, Communication, Signals, Work Rate and Positioning), working as a team and being as unnoticed as possible.

I don't normally take too much notice of what is written on Forums but this did stick in my mind – **'If you have to think about whether it was a free kick, it probably wasn't'**.

The following has been forwarded to all clubs –

We would like to remind clubs that approaching umpires during breaks or as they are leaving the ground is NOT the time or place to raise issues with umpiring and would like you all to remind your officials that this is not appropriate. If coaches or clubs have any issues regarding the umpiring, they can go direct to the umpires coach, Jason Edwards via phone or preferably in writing to the Umpires Panel via David Curran -David.Curran2@anz.com with the SFL cc'd in to all correspondence - please do not include any bad language in correspondence even if quoting what was said, there are other ways of indicating what was said without setting off any language filters that may be in place.

The Umpire Panel have acknowledged that umpires need to act professional at all times and to further that ideal, will be holding a session at an upcoming umpires meeting to run through the expectations that they have from their umpires on the day - inclusive of speaking to players on the field and dealing with issues as they are exiting the field.

Can you also ensure all Team Managers (particularly in Junior Grades) advise any club goal umpires that their duty as a Goal Umpire comes first and to move promptly to the centre of the ground to have the field umpires sign off on their goal cards, so the umpires can then leave the field swiftly. Once done, the Goal Umpires can then move to their club huddle.

It is the responsibility of the clubs to ensure that All Umpires are safely escorted from the oval to the change rooms and to prevent supporters from approaching or questioning the umpires as they leave the ground.