



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

PO Box 359, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

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ABN 81 004 811 054

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| TO | ALL UMPIRES |
| FROM | Brian Goodman |
| SUBJECT | Umpire Operations Bulletin |
| DATE | 31 st August, 2011 |

Reminders

All umpires please note: This is a reminder that all Umpires are to be punctual in getting to your games at least 1 hour before the schedule starting time. If you know you are going to be late due to unavoidable circumstances then you must contact;

- Tony Hales - 0408 500 935
- Brian Goodman - 0408 338 098
- Harry Stamos or - 0434 445 556
- Robert Sebbens - 0413 913 528

All umpires are to wear the VAFAUA polo shirt and trousers to your matches. Please do not wear jeans, tracksuit pants or T-shirts to your match.

Goal Umpires

All Goal Umpires please check that you have sufficient amount of score cards. Please ask Harry on Thursday night at training if you don't have any! Turning up to games without score cards is not acceptable.

Field Umpires

Tackling

Player's when tackling should not sling or drive their opponents into the ground.

- **Players should expect to be tackled strongly but fairly. I.e. Below the shoulders, above the knees, not pushed in the back or ridden into the ground or slung or thrown with force into the ground.**
- **Players when tackling should tackle in the one motion/action. Any secondary action that slings or drives their opponents into the ground with unreasonable or unnecessary force in the circumstances needs to be penalized and where deemed excessive should be reported.**
- **If you report a player under these circumstances the box to tick is "Unreasonable Rough Conduct"**
- **Players when tackling must not lift opponents above the horizontal and force them head first towards the ground. This is dangerous and has the potential to cause serious injury.**

The advantage law: You cannot recall an advantage under any circumstances. Once the advantage is taken, call it and that's it.

Advantage should NOT be called if:

- Play is not continuous
- Players elect not to take it
- After a centre square or circle infringement



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- A non-controlling umpire pays a free kick

Field umpires should not throw or bounce the ball up at centre bounces until the Boundary umpires are on their corners of the centre square.

Field umpires should not start a match until they ask both captains if they are ready to start.

Players reported for RED card offences cannot be replaced.

Please remember; any umpire that makes a report MUST contact me by no later than Sunday night following your match to inform me of the report or match day incident.

Good Work

It was terrific to see some really good CONSULTATIONS in the first week of finals. If there is a doubt about a score or whether the ball is out of bounds, the field umpire must blow time on, clear the players away and ask questions that will provide a direct response, such as:

- What did you see?
- Was the ball touched?
- Did the ball completely cross the scoring line?

By asking these types of direct questions, the responding umpire is forced to explain exactly what occurred.

The field umpire should not ask leading questions which will call into doubt the views of the responding umpire, such as:

I think it was touched, what do you think?

The ball might have crossed the line, but was the entire ball over the line?

These types of questions have the potential to cloud the responses and influence the respondent. It is best to start with straight forward and direct questions which will provide the field umpire with the required information.

Once the questioning process is completed, the field umpire should ask the respondent(s).

Are you 100% sure? If the respondent is 100% sure the decision should stand. If there is uncertainty then the lesser decision should apply.

Best wishes to every umpire during this season's finals campaign.

Regards,
Benny

Brian Goodman
General Manager Umpire Operations