



Saturday Umpires Coaching Session

1. RULES KNOWLEDGE

What are the rules around?

Using Two Footballs

43. Use of Two Footballs

In the event of extreme weather conditions, two footballs may be used in a match with the change of footballs occurring at each quarter time break to ensure no advantage is gained by either club. Both clubs must agree to the use of two footballs. If no agreement is met, only one football may be used.

Using Lights

44. Ground Lighting

If natural light is deteriorating during a game, Clubs or Umpires shall have the authority to turn on ground lighting to improve conditions to allow a fixture to continue. The Umpire shall however have the authority to call a game off if he/she considers the conditions unsafe.

Players Pre Match Warm Up

51. Pre-Match Warm Ups

The Riddell District FNL has an expectation that clubs will avoid the opposing side during their entry onto the ground both at the start of the game and at half time, and during any on-ground "warm up". The Riddell District FNL requires that each club will warm up at opposing ends of the ground, with the clubs using the easternmost Coach's Box to warm up at the eastern end of the ground, and the remaining club (who shall be using the most western of the Coach's boxes) to warm up at the westernmost end of the ground.

It is understood and accepted that when clubs enter the ground they shall do a lap of the centre square, and when doing so they need to ensure they avoid the other side and their warm up area if the opposing side is already at one end of the ground.

This By Law shall apply to the Senior, Reserve and Under 18.5 grades. It may also be applied to junior grades of football if an incident arises.

Clubs who breach this policy shall be determined to have acted in a provocative manner, and may be fined up to an amount of \$500. In instances where this By Law is breached and the breach results to a more serious incident (e.g a melee) the offending Club may face more serious charges as determined by the Board.

Can Club Umpires Report?

71. Club Umpire Reporting Powers

Under AFL Victoria Country Rules and RDFNL By-Laws any person who takes the field and acts as an Umpire (whether a RUA official or a Club Volunteer) does have the full powers of an "officially accredited" Umpire, and therefore can report or send off players at their discretion. Volunteer Club Umpires who lodge a report are also represented by the RUA advocate at any subsequent tribunal hearings.

It is further worth noting the following rules from the AFL Victoria Country Rules Handbook to clear up any confusion – In the AFL Victoria Country Rule Book the definition of an umpire includes all field, boundary and goal umpires officiating or at a match.

Volunteer Club Umpires shall register with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager and Players can be umpires if there are insufficient numbers of umpires available.

Therefore once we establish that any Volunteer Club Umpires are “official umpires” they have an obligation to report as part of their duties as an umpire.

To ensure that your Volunteer Club Umpires are registered as Volunteer Club Umpires and that they have the full power as outlined above, all Clubs must ensure that these Volunteers do complete the official AFL Victoria Country Clearance/Registration Form – circling the Registration field, and then write at the top of this form “CLUB UMPIRE”. The League shall then register these Umpires with the AFL Victoria Country Football Development Manager as a Club Umpire. Clubs must also carry out this step to ensure that your Club Umpire is covered by the AFL Victoria Country Insurance Policy.

Can Umpire Coaches Report?

72. RDFNL Board Members/Umpires Observer Power to Report

Where a RDFNL Board Member or Umpires Observer is in attendance at an RDFNL fixtured match they shall have the same powers of reporting offences as the appointed umpire.

Note: In addition to the above, any official RUA Umpires Observer/coach at any League game also has the power to report players/officials and due process will be followed under AFL Victoria Country Rules.

How many ‘officials’ can a Senior Club have in the Interchange Box?

99. Officials in Bench Area

Only persons authorised may enter the playing arena during the playing of a match and Match Day Officials must remain within the marked area around the interchange box. Clubs competing in the RDFNL senior competition are permitted to have up to 4 officials (including Coach, Asst Coach, Chairman of Selectors, etc) within the marked confines of the Interchange box.

Furthermore, Clubs (Junior & Senior) are permitted to have up to two (2) runners, six (6) trainers and/or water carriers, and four (4) interchange players. Junior clubs can refer to By-Law 116 for requirements on interchange players. Clubs will be allowed to use an additional two (2) water carriers in extreme weather conditions, however, this must be approved by the Umpire. All, apart from Trainers and Water Carriers, are to remain seated in the coaches box at all times during play, or within the confines of the perimeter lines surrounding the Coach’s Box. If no lines are marked, all must remain within the confines of the Coach’s Box.

If there is insufficient space within the coach’s box, or no box is provided, then remaining officials are to be situated outside the boundary line. Trainers and Water carriers may be spread around the ground but must be positioned against the fence and not on the boundary line when at rest. All other personnel not mentioned above are considered unauthorized, and umpires have been instructed to remove them from the ground.

How many ‘officials’ can a Junior Club have in the Interchange Box?

Junior clubs shall be permitted to have a maximum of one (1) coach and one (1) assistant coach.

Can players wear gloves?

122. Wearing Gloves During Competition

Gloves are permitted to be worn in RDFNL Senior, Reserve and Under 18.5 competitions. Junior players must seek approval from the League Operations Manager before wearing a glove/s.

Saturday Umpires Coaching Session

2. RULES SCENARIOS



A club comes to you and claims that the opposition has too many player 'points' (ie. They have gone over the salary cap). What is your response?

Write the complaint on the back of the team sheet. If the club is over, the league will deal with it on Monday.

A club comes to you and asks if 1/2 time can be extended by 5mins for an Auskick game. The league didn't inform the umpiring panel before the day. What do you say?

Speak to the opposition and check that is ok. If it is, extend the break and write details on the back of the team sheet. If the opposition does not want to extend, let the home club know. They can still run Auskick, however the break needs to be the 'normal' time.

The team manager approaches you about the fact one of his players has a broken arm and its in a cast. They have covered it up with a soft tape. Do you allow the player to take part in the game?

NO. Unless you have been informed by your coach, no player can play with hard plaster.

The ground manager wants a club sponsor to toss the coin. Is this allowed?

No worries at all here, however an umpire need to oversea the process.

The runner comes to you during the third quarter informing you that an opposition player that you sent off has not served his 15mins. What do you do?

Inform the runner that the captain needs to come and speak to you, and that he/she can call a count if he/she wishes. If a count is called, you need to get the Interchange steward involved to check the timings.