

# POSITIVE UMPIRING

## FIELD, BOUNDARY, GOAL UMPIRE MANUAL

Standards / Policies / Procedures / Expectations

- SEASON 2013 -

Issued by the Southern Football League  
**Umpiring Department**

*To be read in conjunction with:*

- a. information provided by the Umpiring Department*
- b. information provided by the Southern Football League*
- c. information provided by the Umpires Association*
- d. 2013 Southern Football League Umpires Association Umpires Handbook*
- e. 2013 Laws of the Game*

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## Umpiring Department

The Director of Umpiring is appointed by the Southern Football League CEO, and reports directly to the Southern Football League General Manager Football Operations. The Director of Umpiring then appoints Coaching staff and Observers to form the Umpiring Department.

The Umpiring Department is not part of the Umpires Association and doesn't report to the Association. However, the Umpiring Department and Umpires Association work closely together to ensure that the overall environment for all umpires is fun, inclusive and safe.

Director of Umpiring:	Peter Mair
Administration Coordinator:	Toby Jedwab
Physical Performance Coach:	Ian Webb
Fitness Assistant:	Brandon Bitting
Fitness Assistant:	Aron Hutchison
Field Umpires Coach:	Brad Lowe
Field Umpires Development Coach:	Garry Embleton
Field Umpires Observer(s):	David Smith
Boundary Umpires Coach:	Michael Ellison Jones [E-J]
Boundary Umpires Assistant Coach:	Brandon Bitting
Goal Umpires Coach:	Jeff Mark
Goal Umpires Assistant Coach:	Craig Davenport
Goal Umpires Observer:	Robin Epstein

## Umpires Association

The Umpires Association Committee is duly elected by its members and is independent of the Southern Football League and the Southern Football League Umpiring Department.

The Umpires Association acts to protect the rights of all running umpires and coordinates all of the social events for all running members and Life members. The Umpires Association also coordinates the sale of all match day uniforms.

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## **Umpiring Department Coaching Philosophy**

“To work together in a partnership to optimise your talent and to optimise yourself as a person”.

We aim to have a fun, inclusive and safe environment for all Umpires. Parents, partners, family and friends are welcomed and encouraged to attend coaching sessions and social functions.

## **Code**

When you sign up an Umpire you agree to abide by the Southern Football League, the Southern Football League Umpiring Department and the Southern Football Umpires Association governing rules and any agreements that are in place. You also accept that you are required to umpire in any standard or grade of football that you are rostered to umpire by the Umpiring Department.

## **Leadership**

As an Umpire there is a level of expectation that you are a leader within the Southern Football League community and therefore are required to display such leadership in any activity involving the Southern Football League.

## **Communication**

We believe in an open level of communication. Standards are in place to ensure a fair environment for all. From time to time differences of opinion may occur. It is expected that the “way” you communicate and “how” you communicate is at a professional level. In the first instance, deal directly with your Coach. If required please ask for a referral to the Director. You may ask for the assistance of the Umpires Association to assist you with your communication with the Umpiring Department, if required.

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## **Physical Performance**

Regular participation in physical performance training forms part of your overall performance for the season. It is expected that you attend and actively participate in fitness training.

### *Pre Season*

Training is held on a Tuesday and Thursday from 6.00pm until approx 7.00pm.  
Training during the pre season mainly consists of running and core physical fitness.

### *In Season*

Training is held on a Tuesday and Thursday from 6.00pm until approx 7.00pm.  
Training during the in season mainly consists of running and core physical fitness on a Tuesday evening. The same applies for Thursday, in conjunction with skills and match day scenario training.

### *Finals*

Training is held on a Tuesday and Thursday from 6.00pm until approx 7.00pm.

## **Sign In Register – Physical Performance**

Please complete the training register each time you participate in physical performance fitness training. The attendance register is the proof that you have completed training.  
Only sign the register if you actually take part in the training.

Please note that there is not a requirement to contact the Umpiring Department if for some reason you are unable to attend training on a given night.

## **Injury Register – Physical Performance**

Please ensure that you advise both the Physical Performance Coach and your own Coach if you are unable to train due to injury, either sustained through umpiring or otherwise. It is important that injuries of any nature are managed appropriately.

## **Communication – Physical Performance**

As a matter of courtesy, please ensure that you advise both the Physical Performance Coach and your own Coach if you are required to depart the training track for any reason during a scheduled training session.

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## **Learning and Development Coaching Sessions**

Regular attendance at coaching sessions forms part of your overall performance for the season.

If you have attended a Learning and Development coaching session it is accepted that you understand the contents of the module. If you are unsure please ask your Coach, Observer, Mentor or Peer.

If you are absent from a Learning and Development session it is your responsibility to follow-up on the session outcomes, including obtaining any handouts.

For Boundary and Goal Umpires limited sessions are held throughout the season. Your Coach will advise you of the specific details.

For Field Umpires, see below:

### *Pre Season*

Limited Learning and Development sessions are conducted.

Thursday from 7.00pm until approx 8.00pm.

### *In Season*

Learning and Development sessions on a Thursday from 7.00pm until approx 8.00pm – 8.30pm.

### *Finals*

Learning and Development sessions on a Thursday from 7.00pm until approx 8.00pm, where required.

## **Sign In Register – Learning and Development Coaching Session**

Please complete the Learning and Development register each time you participate in coaching sessions held by your Coach. The attendance register is the proof that you have completed the Learning and Development coaching module.

## **Communication – Learning and Development Coaching Session**

As a matter of courtesy, please ensure that you advise your Coach if you are required to depart a scheduled coaching session.

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## **Appointments / Rosters / Selections / Appointment Collection**

Football Umpires are rostered / selected to matches by the Umpiring Department. In the world of umpiring this is known as an "Appointment". It is not dissimilar to the workplace where you may be advised of a work roster, such as your start and finish time.

Appointments for Umpires in the Southern Football League are distributed via an automated on-line application known as "Schedula". During the Home and Away season Appointments are sent to your personal email address during the week leading up to a game. It is vital that you "Accept" your Appointment on-line, which will automatically advise the Umpiring Department that you have successfully received your Appointment and that you will umpire in the game that has been allocated to you.

During finals appointments are read out by the Umpiring Department on a Thursday night. Appropriate documentation is handed to all umpires.

Failure to follow the Umpiring Department process may result in disciplinary action.

## **Managing Your "Availability" To Umpire Matches**

To enable the Umpiring Department to effectively roster to all games, it is requirement that you accept any game that you are appointed to by the Umpiring Department. Matches may be at any location and on any day of the week. Most matches are played on a Saturday; however, some matches are played on a Friday afternoon, Friday night or anytime Sunday.

It is your accountability to ensure that you manage your "availability" effectively by using the on-line Schedula system.

Your availability must be current by **5.00pm Sunday**, as the Umpiring Department commence arranging Appointments from this time onwards each week.

Please Note: Schedula defaults to "unavailable" for the entire season, until you change it yourself.

If for some reason you become unavailable after 5.00pm Sunday, due to illness etc..., please ensure that you contact your Coach by text or mobile.

Failure to follow the Umpiring Department process may result in disciplinary action.

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## Your Contact Details

It's part of your accountability to complete an Annual Registration Application Form, detailing your personal contact details.

Please advise the SFL Head Office and the Umpiring Department of any changes to your contact details immediately.

Please note that your Match Appointment and Pay cannot be processed without correct information.

## Practice Matches

Prior to the beginning of a football season practice matches are usually held leading up to the opening Round.

The Southern Football League provides the list of practice matches to the Umpiring Department. Where possible please endeavour to umpire at least two practice matches.

## What to Wear to the Ground on Match Day

Your overall presentation forms part of your performance.

In the Home and Away season smart casual attire is appropriate for community football at metropolitan level.

In the Finals Series an upgrade to clothing is required, with a preference of trousers and collared shirts. Shoe wear should exclude runners.

## Match Day Uniforms

There are set standards for the way uniforms are to be worn. This forms part of your performance criteria. Please wear your uniform with pride.

The most up to date uniform is to be worn. Your uniform must be clean, including your footwear.

Field and Boundary Umpires are expected to wear **white** runners or white football boots. Not black. Goal Umpires are expected to wear **black** football boots.

The SFL Umpires Association coordinates the sale of all match day uniforms. The SFL Umpires Association will communicate instruction on how to order your uniform.

As part of the AFL Green Shirt Program, Umpires who have not previously umpired will wear a green uniform. The cost of the Green Shirt Pack will be reimbursed the following season when the Umpire returns to umpiring in the Southern Football League.

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## **Performance Assessment**

For each category of Umpiring there are set performance standards that must be achieved if you are going to progress in Umpiring.

Your Coach will clearly communicate to you the set performance requirements.

It is important that you understand what standards are required to be considered:

- for appointment to Home and Away matches
- for appointment to Finals matches
- for nomination in AFL pathway programs

## **National Umpiring Accreditation Scheme (NUAS)**

The AFL's National Umpiring Accreditation Scheme is a training package for Australian Football Umpires consisting of two tiers for Field, Boundary and Goal Umpires at community level.

It is now a compulsory requirement that all Umpires are accredited, with the exception of Umpires in their first season of football.

The course is designed to introduce Umpires to a range of modules and units to assist in gaining knowledge and skills required to perform the tasks associated with umpiring Australian Football.

The fee for Level 1 accreditation is a user pays system.

The fee for Level 2 accreditation will be debited to your pay at the commencement of the accreditation program, however, will be reimbursed after you successfully complete your course.

The Director of Umpiring approves your overall accreditation, based on the recommendation from your Coach, once you successfully complete the course requirements, which includes clear demonstration of umpiring capability on match day.

Accreditation is valid for four years, inclusive of the year that you complete your accreditation.

Re-accreditation is required to be completed on expiry of your current accreditation.

Level 2 accreditation is a minimum requirement if you desire to progress through AFL pathway programs.

Further information about the NUAS in the Southern Football League will be communicated throughout the season.



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## DIFFERENCES IN SFL VERSUS AFL LAWS OF THE GAME 2013

### Order Off and Reporting

Refer to Umpiring Department Hand Out, which details the instruction.

Please read in conjunction with the 2013 Laws of Australia of Football and the Southern Football League Umpires Association Handbook.

As Green card procedures are not detailed in the 2013 Laws of Australian Football, the SFL Green Card By-Law applies.

It is your responsibility to know when a Red, Yellow or Green card should be used.

If a player is sent from the ground, a Red, Yellow or Green card must be shown to the player. Please hold the card high enough so Players, Officials - including Time Keepers, can see the card.

When making a report please ensure that your paperwork is completed correctly.

If a Report takes place in a match, both Field Umpires are to ensure that the paperwork is handled correctly at the conclusion of the match.

Refer to separate Umpiring Department Hand Out on Reporting and Tribunal.

### **Red**

A player, who is reported and sent off under a **Red** card, is off for the remainder of the game. He cannot be replaced for 15 minutes. He cannot return to the ground at all.

### **Yellow Card**

A player, who is reported and sent off under a **Yellow** card, is off the ground for 15 minutes. He cannot be replaced for 15 minutes. He may return to the ground.

### **Green Card**

A player, who is sent off under a **Green** card, is off the ground for 15 minutes. The player is not reported. He can be replaced immediately. He may return to the ground.

### General Notes

When a Red or Yellow card is shown, a report **must** take place.

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## DIFFERENCES IN SFL VERSUS AFL LAWS OF THE GAME 2013

### **Team Exceeding Permitted Number of Players on Playing Surface**

From the SFL Incorporated By Laws. 9 March 2011.

Where a Team has more than the permitted number of players on the Playing Surface, the following shall apply:

(i) the score for the team that infringes will revert to their score at the last break, ie if the team infringes in the second quarter their score will revert to the quarter time score or if they infringe in the first quarter their score will revert to zero.

(ii) Play would then resume where it was suspended originally.

### **Team Numbers**

From the SFL Incorporated By Laws. 9 March 2011.

i) Thirds / Colts Competitions – There is no limit of players on the team sheet for any Home & Away match. In Finals, there is a limit of 26 players on the team sheet for any particular Finals match.

ii) Reserves – There is a limit of 22 players on the team sheet for any Reserves match.

iii) Seniors – There is a limit of 22 players on the team sheet for any Senior match.

### **Other Interpretations**

#### **Hands in the back**

There is no “Hands in the Back” law. It is simply an interpretation used in the AFL.

In the SFL we simply pay a Free Kick when there is a push in the back. Players can hold their ground in a marking contest. Refer Laws of Australian Football for details.

#### **Deliberate rushed behind**

The Deliberate Rushed Behind Law is not used in the SFL.