



# AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY LTD.

Location: TIO Stadium, Abala Road Marrara NT 0812      Postal Address: PO Box 43196 Casuarina NT 0811  
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## CENTRE CIRCLE - UMPIRES COMMENT

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Edition 1

Welcome to the start of the 2009-10 TIO NTFL Season and the 2009 Defence Jobs Carnival. This week I would like to explain to the public about the two (2) most notable law changes for 2009. AFLNT will be paying these new law changes for this current NTFL season, so we stay in line with majority of the other states and for the betterment of our NT representative players in the NT Thunder, National u18, and u16 and schoolboys teams in 2010. These Law Changes were introduced by the AFL in early 2009.

### 1. DELIBERATE RUSHED BEHINDS (rule change)

Law book to read:

#### 15.12 FREE KICK – DELIBERATE RUSHED BEHINDS

A Free Kick shall be awarded against a Player from the defending Team who intentionally Kicks, Handballs or forces the football over the attacking Team's Goal Line or Behind Line or onto one of the attacking Team's Goal Posts. In assessing whether a Free Kick should be awarded under this Law, the field Umpire shall give the benefit of the doubt to the Defender. A Free Kick awarded under this Law shall be taken at the point where the football crossed the Goal Line or Behind Line or from the relevant Goal Post.

Interpretation:

When an Umpire is determining whether to award a free kick for a deliberate rushed behind the considerations are:

- What is the player's intention?
- Is the player contesting the ball?
- What is the degree of pressure the player is under?
- Was there a team mate in the vicinity of where the ball crossed the scoring line?



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For clarification:

- Players who are contesting the ball in a marking contest or in general play may punch or knock the ball away from their opponents to prevent them from gaining possession of the ball or from scoring. This will not be deemed to be deliberately rushed.
- Where a player is in possession of the football and is tackled near the scoring line, he must dispose of or attempt to dispose of the ball in complying with the laws of the game. A player will receive the benefit of the doubt in this situation.

## 2. FREE AFTER DISPOSAL (rule change)

Law Book reads:

### 15.10 FREE KICK AFTER DISPOSAL

(a) Subject to Law 15.10(b), where Prohibited Contact is made against a player who has disposed of the football or against a Player who is Shepherding a Player who has disposed of the football, a Free Kick shall be awarded to that Player's Team and shall be taken by a Player of that Team who is nearest to the location where the football touches the ground, or crosses the boundary line as the case may be. If taking the Free Kick at this location where Prohibited Contact was made.

Addition to Law 15.10 to read:

(b) If a field Umpire is satisfied that a Player tackles, holds or makes high contact against a Player who has disposed of the football for the **purpose of preventing that Player from being able to run to the next contest then**, if it is a greater penalty than would otherwise be provided by Law 15.10(a), the field umpire shall award a free kick and **a 50 meter penalty to that Player's team.**

## AFLNT Umpires Recruitment

AFL Northern Territory is recruiting people of all ages to give umpiring a go, especially ex- footballers to give something back into the game. So if you're interested in giving umpiring a crack either in Field, Boundary or Goal, then call the AFLNT on 8980 4811 during business hours or come down to TIO Stadium No. 1 on Monday or Wednesday Nights from 5.40pm.

A FREE Basic Umpires Course will be conducted on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of October from 5.30pm to 7.00pm at TIO Stadium for all new NTFL, TEAFA and U13 Club Umpires, to register please contact Mark at AFLNT.





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## Milestone Avenue- Round 1:

- Roland Ostler – League Field Debut – Nightcliff V Palmerston
- Jade Farey - League Boundary Debut- Sthn Districts V Waratahs
- Tracy Clark – 50<sup>th</sup> League Boundary Games
- Kane Vellar – 50<sup>th</sup> Field Umpiring Game

Mark Noonan  
Umpiring Development Manager  
AFL Northern Territory

