



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 12

This week I would like to explain to the public about the Advantage Rule as there has been a bit of confusions with players, coaches and spectators as what constitute an actual Advantage Call. Also I would like to wish every one a safe Christmas and a Happy New Year and if you're staying in Darwin for the festive season bring the family down to TIO Stadium for some great local footy on the 19th December.

All Advantage calls or recalls can be made as per the Laws of Australian Football: **17.3 The Advantage Rule.**

17.3.1 - Paying Advantage

Where the field umpire intends to or has signalled that he or she intends to award a Free Kick to a player, the field umpire may, instead of awarding the Free Kick, allow play to continue if the field umpire is of the opinion that doing so will provide an advantage to that player's Team.

17.3.2 – Recalling the Football

- (a) Where the field umpire has allowed play to continue instead of awarding a Free Kick to a player, but having done so, it becomes apparent to the field Umpire that allowing play to continue did not provide an advantage to the Player's Team, the field umpire shall stop play and award the Free Kick to the Player where the infringement occurred.
- (b) This Provision shall apply should the siren sound after an Umpire has called advantage, but prior to the Player disposing of the football.



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Advantage Plays - Spirit of the Laws Brochure

“The ball shall be kept in motion by permitting the team offended against to take advantage, provided play is continuous”.

Advantage can apply only to a free kick. It cannot apply to a mark.

A guide as to whether play is continuous is the outcome of the play would off been the same had the whistle not been blown.

To implement this well, umpires need to be alert for the following circumstances:

- When the ball is loose
- When the team offended against has possession of the ball.

When it's "Play On" and not an Advantage

An example of this would be when a “player gets hit high as he is running towards his scoring end and he continues to run with the football, instead of stopping for his free kick.” This will be deemed as “play on” and NOT as an Advantage as it is the same player who was infringed against and he has elected to “play on”.

AFLNT Umpires Recruitment

We are currently in desperate need of **more Boundary** umpires at the moment, so if you're interested in giving umpiring a go then please call the AFLNT on 8980 4811 during business hours or come down to TIO Stadium on Monday or Wednesday Nights from 5.40pm.

Milestone Avenue Round 12:

- **Cameron Johnson- Pfeiffer – League Field Debut -Nightcliff v Tiwi Bombers**
- **Graeme Flesfader – 50th Reserve Boundary Match**

Mark Noonan
Umpiring Development Manager
AFL Northern Territory

