



# AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY LTD.

Location: TIO Stadium, Abala Road Marrara NT 0812      Postal Address: PO Box 43196 Casuarina NT 0811  
Telephone: (08) 8980 4888      Facsimile: (08) 8945 0069      Email: afnt@afnt.com.au  
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## CENTRE CIRCLE - UMPIRES COMMENT

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Edition 13

This week I would like to explain to the public about the Stretcher Procedure as there has been a bit of confusions with players, trainers and team runners prior to the Christmas break and it is unfortunate when it is required for an injured player.

The stretcher should be situated near the interchange area and in clear view prior to the commencement of the first game of the day at the particular venue.

### Laws of Australian Football: 7.3.2 Procedure – (Use of Stretcher)

**7.3.2** Where a stretcher is required, the following procedure shall apply:

- (a) upon being advised or noticing that a Player requires a stretcher, the field Umpire shall stop play at the earliest opportunity and unless a doctor considers or it is apparent that it is unsafe to do so, the Player must be removed from the Arena (**behind the fence**) on the stretcher **by the shortest possible route** and taken direct to his/her Team's change rooms;
- (b) a Team may replace the injured Player with a Player listed on its Team Sheet, who must enter the Playing Surface via the Interchange Area;
- (c) the Interchange Stewart may allow the player who is replacing the injured Player to enter the Playing Surface before the injured Player is removed from the Arena;
- (d) once the injured Player has been removed from the Arena, the field Umpire shall recommence play as follows depending on the circumstances;
  - i. Where the ball was in dispute at the time play was stopped, by bouncing the football;
  - ii. Where the ball was out of bounds at the time play was stopped, by directing the boundary umpire to throw the ball in;



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- iii. Where a player had possession of the football at the time play was stopped, by awarding a free kick to the player;
- iv. Where a player had been awarded a free kick or mark at the time play was stopped, by allowing the player to dispose of the football.

(e) A Player for whom a stretcher was called shall not resume playing for a period of 20 minutes (excluding intervals between quarters) from the time when the Player left the Arena. After the 20-minute period has expired, the Player may be interchange in accordance with the procedure set out under Rule 7.2 provided the Player is able, having due regard to his or her health and safety, to resume playing in the match; and

(f) Where a stretcher enters the Arena but the Player elects to walk off, all provisions of law 7.3.2 apply but the player may go to the Interchange Bench.

\*\*\*So otherwise once the stretcher is on the ground for the injured Player, that player who then decides to walk off the playing surface is still required to wait the 20-minute period. \*\*\*

I hope this gives everyone a clearer understanding of the Use of the Stretcher Procedure.

## 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 13:

- **Jeff Grey – League Boundary Debut - Nightcliff v St Marys**
- **David Armstrong – 50<sup>th</sup> League Field Match**
- **Dave Perry – 100<sup>th</sup> Field Match**

Mark Noonan  
Umpiring Development Manager  
AFL Northern Territory

