



AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY LTD.

Location: TIO Stadium, Abala Road Murrara NT 0812 Postal Address: PO Box 43196 Casuarina NT 0811
Telephone: (08) 8980 4888 Facsimile: (08) 8945 0069 Email: afnt@afnt.com.au
Website: www.afnt.com.au ABN 81 097 620525

CENTRE CIRCLE - UMPIRES COMMENT



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Edition 14

Holding The Ball has and always being the toughest law to apply correctly and it is still the most conversational law over the 150 years of our great game. The below article is from Brett Rosebury a current 2009 AFL Grand Final Field Umpire and former NTFL Field umpire back in 1998/99 talking about "Holding The Ball" on www.afl.com.au.

Holding The Ball

Holding the ball is a critical component of the game. Umpires must reward the tackler but at the same time protect the ball player. AFL field umpire Brett Rosebury takes us through the five crucial components of holding the ball...

The critical thing to remember before you pay a free kick for holding the ball is that we must protect the ball player. In other words, **the tackle must be legal!**

This is the obvious starting point before discussing the five components of holding the ball.

Part 1 - Reasonable Time/No Prior Opportunity

Players that have had no prior opportunity need to be given a reasonable time to dispose of the football. In this situation, an attempt to kick or handball is acceptable and play on will result.

Part 2 - Prior opportunity

A player must immediately dispose of the football by way of kick or handball once legally tackled. If, when the player is legally tackled, there is no immediate legal kick or handball a free kick results. An attempt to kick or handball in this instance is not good enough.

Part 3 - Diving on the ball

In this situation the onus is on the player who dives on the ball. Once he is legally tackled, the player must immediately and successfully knock the ball on otherwise he will be penalised for holding the ball.



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Part 4 - Taking on the tackler

Umpires need to be really strong in this area. When a player attempts to take on a tackler and is legally tackled, we must be strong and pay holding the ball. We must also be strong and award a free kick against any player who is legally tackled and then bounces the football.

Part 5 - Taking the ball from the ruck

When ruckman take the ball from a ruck contest they are deemed to have had prior opportunity and must legally kick or handball immediately. In this situation an attempt to kick or handball is not good enough. However, the tackle must still be legal.

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 14:

- **Adrian Wellington – 800th Combine Umpiring Game**
- **Michael Simpson – 450th Boundary Umpiring Game**
- **Phil Brown – 250th Boundary Umpiring Game**
- **Grant Butler – 150th Combine Umpiring Game**
- **Hayden Kelly - 50th League Boundary Game**
- **Jarrold Chipperfield – 50th Field Match**

Mark Noonan
Umpiring Development Manager
AFL Northern Territory

