



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 2

With another season fully up and going this weekend with all grades joining the League teams, I will continue to inform everyone about more of the new Law changes that will be enforced during the 2009-10 TIO NTFL Season. These Law Changes were introduced by the AFL in early 2009.

1. RECALL BADLY "OFF LINE" BOUNCES (rule change)

CHANGE: An Umpire will recall a "badly off line" field or centre bounce when in the opinion of an Umpire the bounce has resulted in it going directly to a player which gives that player a clear and distinct advantage, or has prevented players from either side from being able to contest that bounce.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- At a centre bounce where the ball is bounced and lands outside the larger centre circle but is still able to be contested by players from either side, the umpire will call "play on".
- Where the ball is bounced and lands near the perimeter of the larger circle and is contested by only one ruckman due to his opponent electing not to contest the ball, the umpire will call "play on".

RATIONALE: Previously only "extremely" bad bounces were recalled; play on was called for a badly "off-line" bounce such as the bounce going to Adam Simpson in the North Melbourne v Collingwood match in 2008. This change has been made as a matter of fairness to both competing teams.

2. FREE KICK FOR MISCONDUCT (rule change)

CHANGE: Introduce a 'misconduct' free kick for incidents such as squirting the contents of drink bottles in the face of opponents, throwing objects during play (e.g. mud, mouth



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guards, other players boots) and/or for unnecessary interfering with an opponent (e.g. bumping an injured player, pulling opposition player's shorts down).

RATIONALE: At present a player can be reported for misconduct but a free kick cannot be awarded. The introduction of this law brings the rules regarding misconduct into line with free kicks that are awarded for other reportable offences.

AFLNT Umpires Recruitment

We are currently in desperate need of more Boundary & Junior Field umpires at the moment, so if you're interested in giving umpiring a go 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.

Milestone Avenue- Round 2:

- Mark Mounsey – League Field Debut – Sthn Districts V Nightcliff
- Kathryn Flynn – 50th U/18 Boundary Umpiring Game

Mark Noonan
Umpiring Development Manager
AFL Northern Territory

