



# AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY LTD.

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## CENTRE CIRCLE - UMPIRES COMMENT

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Edition 6

This week I would like to remind all players about their duty of care when an opponent has their head down over the ball as we have had 2 Reports for “Front On Contact” in the last 2 weekends.

A player is not allowed bump or make forceful contact to an opponent from front on or forward of side on (**as per the diagrams below**) when that player has his/her head down over the ball.

If the umpire is in an opinion that the bump or forceful contact was made from front on or forward of side on then they will pay a free kick, irrelevant of the level of the force that was made. If the umpire is opinion that the force of Front On Contact is in the following NTFL guidelines below then a Report will be laid:

\*\*\*The only exception is that when the player with the ball keeps his down and runs into a stationary opposition player.

**Grade 1 Offence= (2 Matches)** - Low impact, intentional, reckless, or negligent contact  
**Grade 2 Offence= (4 Matches)** - Medium impact, Minimal eye contact on the football  
**Grade 3 Offence= (Straight to Tribunal)** - High impact, dangerous, minimal eye contact for the football.

## “FRONT ON CONTACT” - 19.2 Reportable Offences

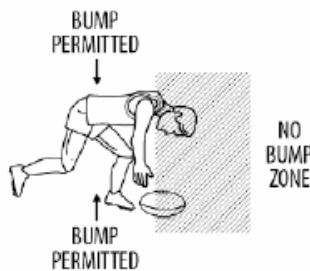
### 19.2.2 Specific Offences

Any of the following types of conduct is a Reportable Offence:

- (g) Intentionally, recklessly or negligently: ...
- (xi) *Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front on when that player has his head down over the ball.*

Note:-

- a player can bump an opponent's body from side on but any contact forward of side on will be deemed to be front on;
- a player with his head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have his head down over the ball for the purposes of this law.



### Rationale

To reduce likelihood of serious spinal cord injury by discouraging players from bumping opponents front on when over the ball.

### 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 please 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 6:

- David Armstrong – 150<sup>th</sup> Combined Umpiring Game
- John Colwill – 50<sup>th</sup> Combined Reserves Umpiring Game

Mark Noonan  
 Umpiring Development Manager  
 AFL Northern Territory