



AFL NORTHERN TERRITORY LTD.

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CENTRE CIRCLE - UMPIRES COMMENT

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Edition 9

This week I would like to explain to the public about the Blood Rule and its procedure as there has been a bit of confusions with players, trainers and team runners of the difference between Active Bleeding and Not Active Bleeding.

Laws of Australian Football: **22 INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

22.1 THE MEANING OF ACTIVE BLEEDING

In this Law 22, the term of “Active Bleeding” means the existence of an injury or wound, which continues to bleed. Active Bleeding does not include minor bleeding from a graze or scratch, which has abated and can be readily removed from a Player or any part of his uniform.

22.2 PARTICIPANT IN MATCHES WHEN ACTIVELY BLEEDING

(a) Unless Law 22.7 applies:

- (i) a Player must not remain on the Playing Surface for so long as he or she is Actively Bleeding; and
- (ii) a Club or Team must not allow any of its Players to remain on the Playing surface for so long as the Player is Actively Bleeding.

(b) Unless immediate treatment needs to be given, having due regard to a Player’s health and safety, a Club or Team must not allow any Player who is Actively Bleeding to be treated on the Playing Surface.

22.3 ACTIVE BLEEDING – ROLE OF UMPIRE

22.3.1 Role of Umpire

Where a field Umpire is of the opinion that a Player is Actively Bleeding, the field Umpire must stop play at the first available opportunity: (a Mark, a free kick, a score or a ball up)



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**** Signal for Active Bleeding is cross arms above the umpire's head****

- (a) direct the Player concerned to immediately leave the Playing Surface: and
- (b) subject to Law 22.3.3, wait a reasonable period to allow the replacement Player to take up position before recommencing play; and recommence play.

22.3.2 Player to follow Directions of Field Umpire

Where a Player is directed by a field Umpire to leave the playing surface because he or she is Actively Bleeding, the Player must the Leave the playing surface immediately through the Interchange Area. The Player must not re-enter the Playing surface or take part any further part in the match until and unless:

- (a) the cause of such bleeding has been abated;
- (b) the injury is securely bound to ensure that all blood is contained;
- (c) any blood-stained article of uniform has been removed and replaced; and
- (d) any blood on any part of the Players body has been thoroughly cleansed and removed.

22.3.4 Refusal to Leave Playing Surface

Where a Player refuses to or does not immediately leave the Playing surface when directed to do so by a Field Umpire, the following will apply:

- (a) warn that Free kicked will be paid and may be reported
- (b) pay a free kick
and still refuse to leave the playing surface
- (c) the field umpire shall report the Player for Misconduct in failing to follow a direction of an Umpire.
and he or she still refuse to leave the playing surface
- (d) the match will immediately end and be forfeited by the reported player's team;
and
- (e) Law 10.7 will apply to any match which is forfeited.

22.4 PROCEDURE WHEN PLAYER NOT ACTIVELY BLEEDING

Where a field Umpire is of the opinion that a Player is not Actively Bleeding, but the Player has blood on any part of his body or uniform, the following will apply:

- (a) at the first available opportunity, the field Umpire must signal and direct the Player to obtain treatment. After the signal is given, play will continue;
*** Signal for Non Actively Bleeding is cross arms below the umpire's shoulders***
- (b) the Player may on the Playing Surface after the signal is given by the field Umpire, but must at the earliest opportunity:





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- (i) in the case of blood being on any part of his uniform, have the piece of uniform removed and replaced; and/or
- (ii) in the case of blood being on any part of his body, have the blood removed and the cause of any bleeding (if any) treated and covered so that all blood is contained;

(c) if any receiving treatment, the field Umpire is of the opinion that blood is still appearing on any part of the player's body or uniform, the player is deemed to be Actively Bleeding and Law 22.3 will apply.

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 on Monday or Wednesday Nights from 5.40pm.

Milestone Avenue- Round 9:

- Craig Windebank – League Boundary Debut – Palmerston v Darwin
- Roy Baehnisch – 350th Boundary Umpiring Game

Mark Noonan
Umpiring Development Manager
AFL Northern Territory

