



UMPIRE POLICY

1. PURPOSE

This policy outlines the responsibilities and administrative arrangements for umpires officiating matches hosted by, or on behalf of, the Northern Tasmanian Junior Football Association (NTJFA).

It applies to central, boundary, and goal umpires officiating across junior and youth age groups, and includes provisions for the appointment, conduct, and payment of umpires.

2. ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Appointment and Supply of Umpires

Field Umpires – Youth Matches

All Youth age groups and divisions are appointed by the Northern Tasmanian Football Umpires Association (NTFUA).

Field Umpires – Junior Matches

Clubs participating in junior competitions are required to provide one central umpire per team. (Refer section 5)

Goal Umpires

Under normal NTJFA matchday conditions, each competing club is required to provide an adequately trained and competent goal umpire.

Boundary Umpires

Recognising that clubs have varying access to suitable personnel, the appointment of boundary umpires during the home and away season is encouraged but not mandatory. (Refer section 3.7)

The NTJFA will provide clearly identifiable umpire vests for club-appointed umpires.

2.2 NTJFA Umpire Agreement

A formal service agreement exists between the NTJFA and the NTFUA.

- The agreement is reviewed and negotiated annually
- Negotiations occur between both associations on behalf of their members

2.3 Umpire Payments

- The Host Club is responsible for payment of NTFUA-appointed umpires for NTJFA matches
- Payments are calculated and circulated to Host Clubs fortnightly by the AFL Tasmania Umpire Coordinator
- Fees are based on the agreed Fees Schedule, circulated to clubs prior to each season



The NTJFA is responsible for payment of umpires appointed to Finals Series matches, and any other matches as negotiated with the NTFUA

3. UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Reporting Breaches of Discipline

An NTFUA-appointed umpire officiating a NTJFA Youth match is responsible for reporting breaches of discipline in accordance with the Laws of Australian Football, the Community Football Policy Handbook, and the By-Laws of the NTJFA. The NTJFA-appointed Central Umpire holds the same disciplinary powers as an NTFUA-appointed umpire and may remove any player or official from the playing arena for breaches of discipline using the card system.

Club-appointed Goal and Boundary Umpires must report any breaches to the Field Umpire.

3.2 Procedure for Umpires when reporting

NTFUA Umpires must be registered on OfficialsHQ each season to enable them to access the report and e-point forms for behaviour issues along with best and fairest voting for every youth game.

3.3 Central Umpire Procedures on Gameday

- 1) Be registered on OfficialsHQ.
- 2) Have Red/Yellow/Green cards for each game.
- 3) Ensure coaches/match managers are aware of anti-density guidelines and officiate accordingly.
- 4) Mandatory to vote on each officiated game's 3 x best players on OfficialsHQ
- 5) Report any game offences (if any) on OfficialsHQ
- 6) Report any e-point breaches (if any) on OfficialsHQ

3.4 Football Laws and Rules

Umpires are required to make themselves familiar with the offences and reporting procedures outlined in The Laws of Australian Football and the National Community Policy Handbook, and any NTJFA rules that differ from the The Laws of Australian Football.

Except as covered by this policy, an Umpire must not enter a conversation with Directors, Club Officials, Supporters, Parents/Guardians or Players relating to a match incident.

3.5 Umpires Failing to Attend a Match

If an Umpire appointed by the NTFUA fails to attend a Match to which they have been allocated, it will be the responsibility of the Match Manager to appoint an Umpire to adjudicate the Match. If this is not possible or deemed to potentially cause conflict, the Competition Manager or their representative should be contacted for advice on management of the Match.



3.6 Approaching an Umpire

The Match or Venue Manager are the only people who can approach or correspond with umpires at the Venue, or at any other time unless it is to show appreciation and display good sportsmanship.

No person other than an Umpire officiating on Gameday, an Umpire Trainer/Coach, or the Venue/Match Managers can enter the Umpire's room. Any breach should be reported to the Venue/Match Manager.

3.7 Boundary Umpire Requirements

Boundary umpires may be used in the U16 competition during the home and away season, with appointments provided by the home club.

Their use is encouraged, but not mandatory, as it provides valuable development opportunities for emerging umpires and helps build confidence and experience in match day environments.

Where appointed, boundary umpires should be able to safely and competently perform the key requirements of the role, including returning the ball to play effectively to a position that in the absence of boundary umpires, a field umpire would conduct a ball up (approx. 10m in from the boundary line)

For finals matches, boundary umpires will be appointed by the NTFUA.

4. UMPIRES FOR FINAL SERIES

The NTJFA will engage the NTFUA to appoint all umpires for Finals Series matches. If NTFUA umpires are unavailable, normal Game Day umpire arrangements will apply.

5. UMPIRING NTJFA JUNIOR GAMES

The NTJFA conducts Junior rosters for U9, U10 mixed teams. Goal and Central Umpires are drawn from Club teams to umpire matches under the NTJFA Junior AFL Modified Rules. Umpires adjudicating in these age groups need to be familiar with these rules to ensure safety and consistency across the competition. Umpires on gameday are not to, either individually or in consultation with opposing umpires, but the rules vary.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

AFL Laws of the Game
NTJFA Good Sportsmanship Policy
NTJFA/NTFUA Service Agreement and Fees Schedule
AFL National Community Football Policy Handbook
NTJFA Junior AFL Modified Rules