

Coach Box System - Snapshot

NSW/ACT Umpire Group Meeting - 21 February 2023



- Part of broader umpire abuse management strategy (10.14 of 2023 Rules)
 - Provides for Controlling body to introduce any reasonable measures to protect umpire welfare and reduce abuse
 - References referral to disciplinary processes, including referral to Integrity Dept, attendance at umpire training etc
 - Provides for Clubs to be fined for conduct of members and subject of Tribunal for repeat occurrences
- Coaching Box System
 - Based on ALFQ model, with simplified Rules
 - “Real time” mechanism for field umpires to address unacceptable behaviour coming from those in the Coach Box Area
 - Will apply to all Leagues in 2023

Rule 10.14 – Umpire Abuse Rule



Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 388 Reportable Offences in 2023<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 118 Striking (30%)○ 77 Offences toward umpires (20%)▪ Loss of umpires▪ Inadequate welfare protection
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Why are you shaking his hand? He doesn't deserve it!▪ That was the worst display of umpiring I have ever seen. You need to be embarrassed by that. You are an absolute joke to the sport.▪ He then went on to say to me that I am going to cost them the game and he wanted to see me in the carpark after the game▪ You are a fucking idiot▪ You're a pedophile▪ Didn't go out. It's a good guess. Seems you're guessing like the blokes in the infield as well mate. Lot of guess work out there you blokes. I GUESS it's out. I GUESS it's a free kick. Is that downfield too you idiot?

NSW/ACT v QLD



Item	NSW/ACT	QLD	Why the Difference
Unacceptable Behaviour	Limited to behaviour toward umpires	Includes behaviour towards others	Simplifies. The overarching intent is to reduce abuse toward umpires.
Application	Immediate whistle	Next stoppage in play	Simplifies. May give offending team an advantage (e.g. next stoppage is a score). May promote onfield and sideline confusion (e.g. next stoppage might be a mark in the goal square with the attacking team expecting to take a shot at goal...and having this overturned for something that may have occurred three for four plays earlier).
Who	Field Umpires	Any Umpire	Simplifies Significantly delayed process for reports by non-field umpires. Must be capable of being heard by the field umpire. Alternative process to be used where heard by non-field umpire.
1st Phase Penalty	Warning (Card) & Free Kick	Warning (Card)	Sends stronger immediate message
Reportable Offence	No report on 3 rd strike unless clear reportable offence by Coach To be included in UMR for review by MRP / CMC	Automatic report of coach	Coach may not be the offending person
Timekeeper	Timekeeper to record time of each card	Nil	Tracking purposes for any subsequent disciplinary process

Focus on Head Coach



- Head Coach takes responsibility
- Sets the tone for team and coaching box behaviour
- Coaches Code of Conduct
- Afforded two warnings (white cards) to correct behaviour
- Ejected from Match on 3rd occasion (red card)

Unacceptable Behaviour



- **Dissent** - continually questioning/disputing umpiring decisions
- **Abuse** - any language, terminology or behaviour, including gestures, intended to insult, offend, intimidate, threaten or harm an Umpire
- Occurring during on-field play only
- Must be discernible (heard / seen) to **field umpire**
- Offending person does not need to be identifiable

Application



- **Field umpire** only (includes Club field umpires)
- **Phase 1** – White card, free kick
- **Phase 2** – White card, free kick, 50m penalty
- **Phase 3** – Free kick, 50m penalty, Coach issued red card

- Any identified person may also be reported
- Any dissent about decision is further 50m penalty
- Behaviour identified by a non-field umpire
 - does not form part of Phases 1 to 3
 - to be dealt with by communications at quarter interval

Ejected Coach



- Any Coach who receives a red card must either:
 - sit beside Ground Manager's desk until Match is completed; or
 - leave the venue and not return until the Match is completed
- Coach cannot nominate someone else to leave the Coaching Box Area
- Any Coach receiving a red card shall be referred directly to the MRP
- Any Coach who receives a red card may also be issued with a Coaching Citation
- If Coach refuses to vacate the area, Field Umpire shall stop the Match and report the Coach on serious misconduct, will be referred directly to the Tribunal

Recording of cards



- **Timekeeper:** responsible for noting the time and quarter of any white card or red card issued
 - must be listed on the official timesheet
- **Field Umpire:** check with the Timekeeper at next quarter break to ensure the white card or red card has been recorded
- **Field Umpire:** records the details of any card issued in the Umpire Match Report

Challenges



- Playing Coach
- Reportable offences
- Club field umpires
- Junior umpires dealing with adults
- Spectators in close proximity – does not negate issuing of card