



Boundary Umpires

The practical side of Boundary Umpiring

The role of the boundary umpire is to:

- Be the sole judge of when the ball is out of bounds.
- Apply the Laws of the Game relating to boundary umpiring.
- Adjudicate when the ball has fully crossed the boundary line and is either out of bounds or out of bounds on the full.
- Throw the ball back into play when it is out of bounds.
- Monitor the centre square and the 50m arc for players entering or leaving during a centre bounce.

Boundary Umpire Signals

As a boundary umpire, there are 2 simple signals to use to indicate that a ball has either gone out of bounds or out of bounds on the full. The signals are as follows:

- Out of Bounds (Ball bounces before crossing the line)
- Out of Bounds on the full (Ball lands over the line from a kick)



Positioning

Boundary umpires will have to position themselves correctly to make the right decision.

- This means that the boundary umpire will follow the play from goal to goal.
- They will need to position themselves so they can have a good view of the boundary line, but making sure you don't get too close to interfere with play (15-25m from play)
- The boundary umpire can cut angles when the play is on the other side of the ground, but must not go any further than the centre square.

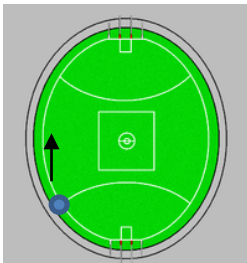
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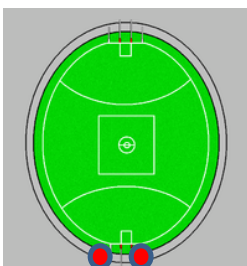


Some key positions are as follows:

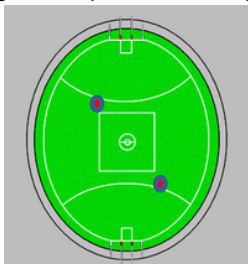
- After a throw in, back to the fat side (side with more ground) – unless in a 3 ump, where if on double side, back to side closet to goals)



- At a set shot for goal (Stand behind the behind post)



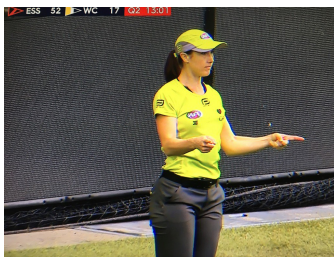
- At the start of the quarter or after a goal (Standing opposite to the other boundary umpire, you are in line you with the top of the 50m arc and in line with the centre square line that run up and down the ground (new to 2019))



Running the ball back to the field umpire after a goal

Once a goal has been scored, the objective by the boundary umpires is to work together to return the ball to the field umpire. This means that both boundary umpires will need to communicate with each other (either verbal and non-verbal communication) to decide who will take the short run and the long run. This will then alternate if in a 2 umpire system. More information below

- Once deciding who is going to take the short and long runs, boundary umpires **must not** leave the post until the goal umpire has signalled a goal.



- Once the goal umpire has signalled a goal, the umpire who is doing the short run will get the footy (**DO NOT JUMP OVER THE FENCE!!!**) – if the ball is over the fence, please ask the players to get it for you) and the umpire doing the long run will run out 15m (to side of the short run) and stick their arm out to the side of the centre square they will be running to. This is to let the field umpire know what side you will be running past.
- You then run together for about 15-20m and then the short run umpire will hand the ball off to the long run umpire.
- Once handed off to the long run umpire, the short run umpire will then run to the closest corner on their side of the ground
- The long run umpire will run to the field umpire (handing the ball off), then finishing his/her run to his corner

The throw in

The throw in is the major part of our job. We are required to throw the ball in 10-12m high, by 15-18m in length.

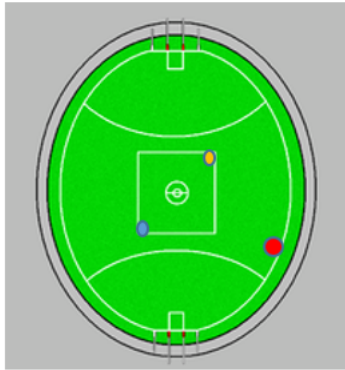
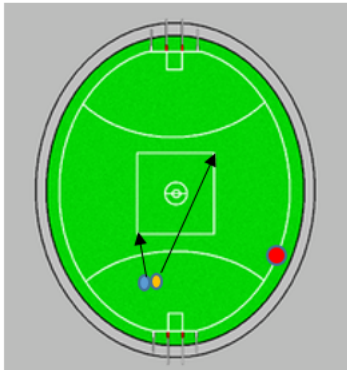
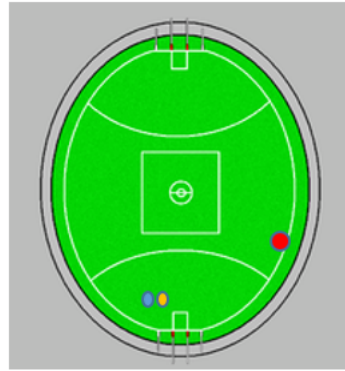
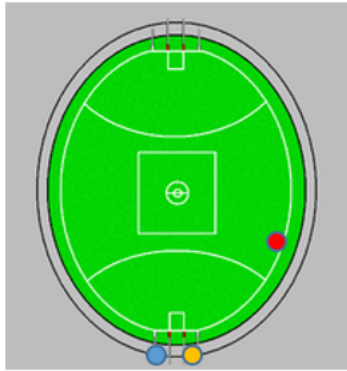
2019 Adaptions

This year in 2019, the AFL has made some rule changes, which has made us as boundary umpire coaches to think about how to best counteract those changes.

This year, we will be running the ball back to the field umpires after a goal is slightly differently compared to 2018 and seasons before.

This year, the following will occur (diagrams below):

- The run back to the field umpire is to be completed on the side that the umpire is doing the short run. E.g. if the umpire doing the short run, is on the left behind post, this is the side you will start the run on together before handing off the ball and vice versa..
- Also, when we leave the post will be different to previous years, just so it looks neat and tidy. (See below – after first diagrams)



- The reason why we are doing this is because too often last year;
 - There were players standing in the corridor inside the arc, which means umpires were dodging players to get the ball back to the middle.
 - Also, the umpire doing the short run at times was running parallel with the centre square to get to the corner and not running diagonally (Which meant the handoff was too late or umpires didn't have time to hand off due to players being in the corridor inside the arc).
- By doing this:
 - The umpire doing the short run will have more direct line to running to the short corner.
 - The umpire doing the long run, will do everything the same as previous years, expect for the starting position.

When to leave post after a goal has been scored



When the goal umpire signals a goal (see left), the umpire doing the long run will signal and run out to the opposite side to where they are positioned on the post, the short run side (around 12-15m out from goal) and the short run will go and receive the ball.

What to do when a behind has been scored

- Once a behind has been scored, the goal umpire will yell out "Mine" and tap their chest three times. This is an indication to a boundary umpire that a point has been scored and they can start to run backwards to the 50m arc.
- So as stated above, this year, when the goal umpire has tapped their chest three times to indicate a behind, the boundary umpire will either leave the post or if still running to the post, will then run backwards to the arc.