



UMPIRE COMMUNICATION FRAMEWORK

Quarter-time and half-time breaks provide umpires with an opportunity to rest and confer with each other or their designated coach. Accordingly, Team Managers are asked to refrain from approaching umpires during these breaks to offer feedback on performance and decision making.

It is acknowledged, however, that there are three appropriate reasons for a Team Manager to approach a field umpire during the break – Match Conditions, Player Safety, Clarification of cards.

Please note that if an Umpire Coach is present on match day, Team Managers are requested to direct any permissible queries to the Umpire Coach. This will allow appropriate coaching and communication processes to occur without interruption during the break.

The following are the only valid reasons a Team Manager may approach an Umpire.

Match Conditions

- **Fair Play Policy**
Where the margin exceeds 60 points, and the Fair Play Policy has not been applied. Please note that this policy is mandatory and cannot be declined or waived by either team.
- **Equalisation Policy**
Where equalisation measures need to be enforced. Any equalisation arrangements (mandatory) should be set-up by Team Managers, with umpires subsequently notified for starting position awareness.
- **Ground Set-Up**
Where the ground dimensions or set-up have not been correctly applied for the relevant age group.
- **Non-Premiership Competition Conditions**
Clarification of applicable competition-specific rules, such as kicking off the ground, tackling, and smothering.

Player Safety

- **Lightning**
When lightning is present, in accordance with the 30/30 Safety Guidelines as per the [National Community Football Policy Handbook](#)
- **Extreme Heat**
As per the [SANFL Heat Policy](#).

Clarification of Cards

- **Confirmation of Card Awarded**
Where the Team Manager clarifies if the card was Yellow or Red. Please note this does not include questioning the decision.
- **Blue Card**
After a Blue Card has been awarded to identify the person/area where the poor behaviour has occurred, as well as following up to ensure that behaviour has stopped.

Breaches of this Framework

Failure to adhere to the Umpire Communication Framework will be treated as a serious infraction and will result in the following penalties applied to clubs.

- 1st Offence - \$250 fine
- 2nd Offence - \$500 fine and potential loss of premiership points
- Further offences – To be determined by SANFL Juniors Competition Management

Statement Examples

To assist with the communication framework process, please see below applicable statements to communicate to an umpire.

- **Match Conditions**

Hi, my name is _____, I am Team Manager of _____, and I am seeking Clarification of _____ as per our Match Conditions for Under _____.

- **Player Safety**

Hi, my name is _____, I am the Team Manager of _____, and I would like to discuss the safety of our players in relation to the following policy _____

- **Clarification of Cards**

Hi, my name is _____, I am the Team Manager of _____, and I would like to clarify the colour of the card awarded to _____ Football Club.