

Notes on Goal Umpiring

Ainslie Football Club

A GOAL UMPIRE'S ROLE

It is the responsibility of the Goal Umpire to:

- be the judge of a score;
- be the judge of the final score by keeping a record of all goals and behinds scored in a match.

EQUIPMENT

- the Goal Umpire is equipped with 2 flags, a scorecard and pen/pencil.
- upon completion of the game the Goal Umpires will be given the official "Result of Match" card for completion and signing.

SCORING

In order for a score to be registered, **BOTH** these conditions must be met:

- the ball must be completely over the *goal* or *behind* lines (score lines) or have hit one of the *goal* posts; **and**
- the Goal Umpire must have received a verbal "all clear" from the Central Umpire (no "all clear" - no score).

A **GOAL** is scored when the ball:

- completely crosses the *goal* line after being kicked (a kick occurs where contact is made with any part of the leg below the knee) by a player on the attacking team without touching another player or *goal* post.

A **BEHIND** is scored when the ball:

- hits the *goal* post (any part) or travels over the *goal* post;
- is touched by any player before crossing the *goal* line;
- is kicked by the non-attacking team through the goals; or
- crosses the *behind* line.

EXAMPLES OF GOALS & BEHINDS

- if a player's boot contacts the ball before the ball completely crosses the line, the ball is deemed to have been kicked before the line, and a goal is scored.
- if a player marks the ball with a single grab close to the line it can only be a goal or a mark. The decision can never be a behind. It is the position of the ball that determines the decision, not the player's position. (On the line is a mark).
- in the case of a player attempting to mark the ball on or before it crosses the *goal* line and the ball rebounds off the player's hands or chest and is caught again behind the line, a behind is scored.
- if the ball is kicked off the ground while a player has his hand on it or the ball is kicked from another player's hands and the ball crosses the score line, it has been touched and scored as a behind.
- if the football touches an Umpire or any Official and then passes over the scoreline, a goal or behind, as the case may be, shall still be recorded;
- if the football touches an Umpire or any Official and does not pass over the score line, the football shall remain in play.

GOAL UMPIRE UNSIGHTED

- if the Goal Umpire is unable to see whether the ball has passed over the score line and is unable to make a decision, the field umpire can make a decision.
- if the Central umpire thinks the Goal Umpire has made a mistake the Goal Umpire's decision can be over ridden.

NO SCORE / OUT OF BOUNDS

- if the ball touches or passes over the behind post, then the ball is considered out of bounds and no score shall be recorded. The Goal Umpire will signal to the Boundary Umpire whether the ball has gone
 - out of bounds on the full; or
 - out of bounds, not on the full.
- the Boundary Umpire will arrange for play to restart with a free kick or a throw in

SCORING A GOAL OR BEHIND AFTER PLAY HAS ENDED

Even though play has come to an end, a goal or behind shall be recorded if:

- the goal or behind is scored by a Player from a Free Kick or Mark which was awarded to the Player before play came to an end.
- the goal or behind was scored by a Player who disposed of the football before play came to an end.
- a behind shall still be recorded if the football is touched in transit by another Player, **provided** the field Umpire is satisfied that the scoring of the Behind was not assisted by a Player from the same Team.
- a field Umpire shall be the sole judge in deciding whether a free kick or mark should be awarded or whether the football was disposed of before play came to an end.

POSITIONING

Under the flight of the ball:

- to correctly determine whether the football in flight has gone through the goals, over a *goal* post, or through the *behinds*, the Goal Umpire needs to position himself under the flight of the ball. When the ball is within scoring distance, the goal umpire's initial position should be in line with the ball and the centre of the line.
- while the ball is in flight, the Goal Umpire should run to get underneath the line of the ball as it crosses the score line.

Astride the score line:

There are some occasions that require the Goal Umpire to straddle (or stand astride) the score line and out of the way of the players. They are:

- ball dropping in flight.
- ball bouncing along the ground towards goal.
- player running for close kick.
- contest on *goal/behind* line.

INDICATION OF SCORES

Scores are indicated to the central umpire by the use of the hands and index fingers. The hands should not be raised above the head during the signal procedure and should finish level with hips and parallel with the ground with index fingers extended. Flags are waved following the hand signal.

GOAL

Hands –two fingers pointed horizontally in front of the hips.

Flags - are raised at a 45° and held still until the other Goal Umpire is at same point (waving together ensures both Goal Umpires record the same score). Each flag is waved once to the other side and once back again - only! On the return wave, the wrists twist and in a swirling movement the plane of the wave is changed from horizontal to vertical in anticipation of the lowering to the end phase. The flags are lowered from above the head vertically with a firm, snapping motion.



BEHIND

Hand – as for a goal but with only one index finger.

Flag - like for goal above. Hold the tip of the flag in place whilst waiting (for other Goal Umpire) to commence the flag waving action. The flag will be brought across once, back once and down to the side.



OTHER SIGNALS

Touched off the Boot

After indicating a behind with hand, hands raised above head tapped the one on top of the other three times only.

Used to signal to the field umpire and other umpires that a kick has been touched and becomes a behind instead of a goal - given only when the ball crosses the goal line (not behind line).



Hit the Post

After indicating a behind with hand, tap (three times) on the nearest goal post with up stretched arm.

Signals to the field umpire and other goal umpire that the kick has hit the post.



Non-Kick - Behind

After indicating a behind with hand, taps knee three times, indicating that a kick has come from the knee or above, such that it doesn't qualify as a "kick" and, therefore, cannot score as a goal.



Out of Bounds (Throw in Anticipated)

Signals that the ball has gone out of bounds, but not on the full (includes ball hitting the Behind Post, where not kicked into it on the full).

Used particularly when boundary umpires are not in the vicinity.

Outstretched arm, the one on the outside (nearer the fence).



Out of Bounds on the Full

Umpire signals to field and boundary umpires that in the area immediately adjacent to the goal area, a kick has gone out on the full. Used particularly when boundary umpires are not present.

Outstretched arm on the side nearest the boundary line.



RECORDING THE SCORE

- using the scorecard provided the Goal Umpire will record every score immediately after finishing flagging the score.
- record the scores progressively, that is, 1, 2, 3, rather than 1 1 1.
- at the end of each quarter, the Goal Umpires will meet in the middle of the ground to check the scores (for quarter & cumulative) with each other and the Team Managers.
- scorecards will be given to the team Manager.

If the scores do not agree, the goal umpires should discuss the situation to resolve the matter. As a guide, there are three general rules for resolving different scores:

- i. it is often the goal umpire at the non-scoring end who has the accurate score as they have not been under pressure to make decisions.
- ii. it is easier to 'forget' to record a score than it is to add a score in error. Therefore, the umpire with the extra score is usually correct.
- iii. if there is a scoreboard, check the scoreboard. The goal umpire with the same score as the scoreboard is usually correct as the other umpire may have made a mistake.

A Goal Umpire appointed by a manager cannot report any players. If they think an event is serious enough to warrant an investigation they can submit a report to the Junior League through the Club Secretary.

[Manager's Note]

The minimum age of umpires shall be 13 years as of the 1st January in the year of the competition.