



Saturday Umpires Coaching Session

1. TRIBUNAL

Tips for going to the Tribunal

1. Use all the available information you can in relation to timing - it will all be listed on the interchange cards, or confirm times with the goal umpires or timekeeper.

Also with timing - write up the statement sooner rather than later, while the scenario is still fresh in your mind!

2. Take a photo of the original report sheet and make sure the names and numbers match the team sheets.

3. Ensure you provide FACTUAL information. Avoid using the words "approximately", "around/about" - stick to what you know and saw. Make the information as clear and as concise as possible, in point form (dot point per paragraph).

4. DO NOT use words like "intentional", "reckless/careless", etc. in the statement - although they may appear in the Laws of Australian Football, it's not up to you to determine what you think the severity of the offense is - that's the Tribunal's job.

5. If you can, draw a diagram to outline the location of the offense, where it was relative to play, etc. You'll also have access to a whiteboard diagram at the Tribunal office which you can use to further demonstrate your evidence. Use it.

6. Make plenty of copies of your statement. If your nervous you may like to hand out a copy to everyone (you will need around 7).

7. Make sure your attire is professional (Riddell Polo) and be there on time. Do not discuss anything with anyone except your advocate.

8. Present your statement (be sure to read it out clearly). Once you've answered any questions the advocates and Tribunal have, you are to leave. Umpires are not to hang around afterwards to see the verdict.