



Holding the Ball

Respect

Integrity

Teamwork

Excellence

Session Intentions

- To refresh our understanding of **holding the ball**, to improve consistency from umpire to umpire and also throughout a game.

What's your decision

- ◉ A point has been scored
- ◉ The player kicking out has taken too long to bring the ball back into play
- ◉ You call play on
- ◉ The player handballs to a team mate

What's your decision?

Spirit of the Laws No. 4 – Holding the Ball

- **TACKLING – HOLDING THE BALL**

“For a holding the ball free kick to be awarded, the tackle must be legal.”

DIVING ON THE BALL

“The ball shall be kept in motion.”

- Where a player elects to dive on the ball or elects to drag the ball underneath their body and is correctly tackled, the player is to be penalised for holding the ball if they fail to knock the ball clear or correctly dispose of it immediately

NO PRIOR OPPORTUNITY — GENUINE ATTEMPT

- “The player who has possession of the ball and has not had prior opportunity, and is tackled correctly by an opponent, shall be given a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate a genuine attempt to kick or handball the ball.”
- If the tackle pins the ball and a genuine attempt is made to dispose of the ball, a field bounce will result.
- If a correct tackle or bump causes the player with the ball to lose possession, play on will result.

PRIOR OPPORTUNITY — MUST LEGALLY DISPOSE IMMEDIATELY

“Where a player has had possession of the ball and has had a prior opportunity to dispose and is then correctly tackled by an opponent they must immediately and successfully kick or handball the ball.”

- If a correct tackle pins the ball or causes the player with the ball to lose possession, a free kick will result.
- If a bump or knock to the arm causes the player with the ball to lose possession, play on will result.

ILLEGAL DISPOSAL

- **“The player who has possession of the ball and drops, throws or places the ball on the ground without making a genuine attempt to handball or kick will be penalized”.**

AFL Rule Book

15.2.3 – Holding the Football – Prior Opportunity/No Prior Opportunity

- a) Where the field Umpire is satisfied that a Player in possession of the football:
- i. has had a prior opportunity to dispose of the football, the field Umpire shall award a Free Kick against that Player if the Player does not Correctly Dispose of the football immediately when they are Correctly Tackled;
 - ii. has not had a prior opportunity to dispose of the football, the field Umpire shall award a Free Kick against that Player if, upon being Correctly Tackled, the Player does not Correctly Dispose or genuinely attempt to Correctly Dispose of the football after being given a reasonable opportunity to do so; or
 - iii. has driven their head into a stationary or near stationary opponent, the Player shall be regarded as having had prior opportunity.

- b) Except in the instance of a poor bounce or throw up by the field Umpire or a throw in by the boundary Umpire, a Player who takes possession of the football while contesting a bounce or throw up by a field Umpire or a boundary throw in by a boundary Umpire, shall be regarded as having had prior opportunity.

15.2.4 – Application

- Specific Instances where Play shall Continue For the avoidance of doubt, the field Umpire shall allow play to continue when:
 - a) a Player is bumped and the football falls from the Player's hands;
 - b) a Player's arm is knocked which causes the Player to lose possession of the football;
 - c) a Player's arms are pinned to their side by an opponent which causes the Player to drop the football, unless the Player has had a prior opportunity to genuinely attempt to Correctly Dispose of the football, in which case Law 15.2.3 (a) shall apply;

- d) a Player, whilst in the act of Correctly Disposing of the football, is swung off-balance and does not make contact with the football by either foot or hand, unless the Player has had a prior opportunity to Correctly Dispose of the football, in which case Law 15.2.3 (a) shall apply; or
- e) a Player is pulled or swung by one arm which causes the football to fall from the Player's hands, unless the Player has had a prior opportunity to genuinely attempt to Correctly Dispose of the football, in which case Law 15.2.3 (a) shall apply.

15.2.5 – Diving on Top of the Football

- Where a Player is in possession of the football by reason of diving on top of or dragging the football underneath their body, the field Umpire shall award a Free Kick against that Player if they do not immediately knock the football clear or Correctly Dispose of the football when Correctly Tackled.

15.2.6 – Football Held to the Body of a Player

- a) The field Umpire shall throw up the football when a Player, in the act of applying a Correct Tackle, holds the football to the body of the Player being Tackled or the football is otherwise pinned to the ground, unless the Player being Tackled has had a prior opportunity to Correctly Dispose of the football, in which case Law 15.2.3 (a) shall apply.
- b) If the player being tackled is not making a genuine attempt to Correctly Dispose of the football Law 15.2.3(b) shall apply.

Log into Socrative

- Room Number – AWAYROOMS
- You will need to decide for each example
 - A. Free Kick to player in possession
 - B. Play on / Ball Up
 - C. Holding the Ball

Areas of Inconsistency

- ◉ Looking for a free kick to the player in possession
- ◉ Our definition of prior

Summary

- We need to make sure the tackle is legal
- We must make sure the player has had prior opportunity to dispose of the ball
- If the ball has been spilt and the player has had no prior it is play on
- Look at every possession individually.