



## FIELD UMPIRE COACHING NOTES - POSITIONING

While a thorough knowledge of the rules and interpretations is essential, umpires need to achieve the best positioning on-field in order to properly adjudicate play.

The ability to find the best position is, without doubt, one of the most important aspects in umpiring. Field umpires adjust their position continuously, always looking for the best view of the contest, and by:

**Anticipation** – being able to think ahead and accurately determine where the play will head next

**Identifying the intent of players** – being able to correctly predict what players will do with the football once they gain possession (i.e. kick or handball)

### **General Play**

“Play is in motion”

Control Distance – Approx 20 from general play

Side on to the contest

Deviation (find the angle): trigger to side of contest when caught front on or behind play.

### **Set Play**

“Play has stopped”

#### **Centre Bounce**

After the throw up move back to approx 20m from play

#### **Boundary Throw In**

Start 15m from Boundary Umpire

Side on to the contest

Trigger around to major axis (keep play between you and the boundary line)

#### **Field Bounce**

Always back into the centre of the ground

Move to a position approx 20m from play

#### **Kick in after behind**

Approx 5m from the mark

Good verbal/visual control of the set protected area

After kick move to side on position at the next contest

#### **Set Kick for goal**

Always have vision on the player with the ball – they may play on

Back of on a 45 degree angle to about 15 metres away

Clear the protected area (10 metres each side and behind the ball carrier)

Maintain verbal/visual control of the goal square as well

