



## 2017 – AFL Laws of the Game

### AFL Victoria Country Law Interpretations for 2017

The AFL has introduced three new Law interpretations for season 2017 – two of which concern and relate to football being played within AFL Victoria Country regions.

The Deliberate Rushed Behind (DRB) Law will still not be implemented at community level across country Victoria but the two new interpretations that will be implemented relate to:

- (i) the stricter interpretation of the **High Contact** Law &
- (ii) the Law now preventing a ***non-designated ruckman*** to contest any ruck contest.

These Law interpretations are explained below for you to coach your members.

#### **(i) Stricter interpretation of the High Contact Law**

- in the opinion of the umpire where a tackle is reasonably applied and the ball carrier is responsible for the high contact via a ***shrug, duck, drop of the body*** or ***arm-lift*** or a similar action “play-on” will be called.
- the following considerations should apply when assessing the fairness of the initial tackle
  - the starting point of the tackle
  - the degree of force
  - the nature of the tackle
- The adjudication of players who ***drive*** into a tackle is unchanged from 2016 and is still deemed as a prior opportunity

#### **(ii) Non-designated ruckman**

- A **non-designated ruckman** will be prohibited at stoppages and Boundary Throw Ins (BTI’s) throughout 2017
- Law 15.5 has been created to clarify who can contest each ruck contest and the awarding of a free-kick if a **non-designated ruckman** contests
- Stoppages will be contested only by the two nominated ruckmen – either in the centre circle and around the ground
- BTI’s will only be contested by the two nominated ruckmen. Other players must wait until either of the nominated ruckmen have contested (touched) the ball or, should the throw be too shallow or too deep, wait for the ball to hit the ground – see Appendix 1
- Nominated ruckmen are still required to commence the ruck contest being separated by one metre.
- *This may result in a change of recommended starting position for the controlling field umpire (closer to the anticipated ruck contest at 45° forward of the contest – not 5m in from the boundary line as has been coached in the past) to allow the field umpire to establish verbal control of the BTI to determine who the two nominated ruckmen are - see Appendix 2.*

## Appendix 1 – Shallow BTI



## Appendix 2 – Recommended new starting position for the controlling field umpire

