



White Card System

Context

The Bendigo Junior Football League (BJFL) is committed to undertaking proactive measures to ensure the match day environment for all players, coaches, volunteers, umpires and spectators is a positive experience.

Unacceptable Behaviours

The behaviour of the Coaching Box and or spectators will be deemed unacceptable when any Umpire observes or clearly hears someone:

- Continually questioning / disputing umpiring decisions
- Abusing umpires or making inappropriate comments to or about them
- Using inappropriate language or gestures towards or about anyone
- Speaking inappropriately or aggressively towards opposition players or coaches
- Behaving in any manner that is socially unacceptable / contrary to the league Code of Conducts as listed in the BJFL Coaches and Team Managers Handbook.

In recognising the emotions of being involved in a game, Umpires must understand that the White Card System is in place to manage repeated instances of Unacceptable Behaviours, not isolated instances unless they are excessive/aggressive in nature.

Application

A two-phase system will be undertaken by the Field Umpire/s via the use of White card to stop such behaviours in real time.

The two phases are:

- 1st Phase – Warning
 - Field umpire to stop the game
 - Clearly show the white card to the coaches box
- 2nd Phase – Penalty
 - Field umpire to stop the game
 - Clearly show the white card to the coaches box
 - Award a free kick to the opposing team & issue a 25/50m penalty (the length of the penalty is relevant to the age and division – eg: U12 Mixed is 25m)

If abuse is continued repeat phase 2 or use the Laws of the Game / Victoria Country rules as appropriate (report – yellow/red card). Please note the White Card System DOES NOT replace official reports of players, coaches and/or club officials but assists in reducing poor behaviour.

Notice to League

If the White Card System is used in a game, please record it with the league through the Most Disciplined Club Award Process or contact the BJFL/BUA if appropriate.

