



## Victorian Amateur Football Association

### Policies and Code of Conduct

## **NEGATIVE TACTICS**

As previously advised and discussed, over a period of time, negating tactics on individual players have been becoming more evident in Amateur games.

It is of particular concern when these tactics are employed well behind the play or when a player is well outside the 5 metre range of the player. **These negative tactics are classified as harassment.**

**With the above in mind, the following shall be immediately implemented by an umpire.**

- (a) All umpires shall understand no player is to **impede the path, touch or harass** an opposition player when the ball is outside five (5) meters'.

It is often asked – What does harass mean? In football terms it means eyes being not on the ball and being focused on the movements of an opponent; it means holding back an opponent by the jumper, his hair or by his body; it means pushing him, making contact with him in sensitive areas to slow him down or invading his personal space in a threatening manner.

- (b) When any such act of harassment occurs one of the field umpires must immediately (without warning) give a free kick.
- (c) This free kick is to be given, **even if it is by the second umpire who is not in control.**
- (d) The free kick shall not disadvantage the team offended against.
- (e) If the player repeats an act of harassment, that player is to be immediately reported and ordered-off.
- (f) The report shall be for misconduct in that that player committed a breach of the laws against an opponent in a deliberate and violent manner.
- (g) Goal/Boundary umpires are instructed that they are to immediately inform field umpires at the next appropriate break in play (after a score, quarter, half & 3/4 Time), when these tactics are noticed by them.
- (h) This type of play which has appeared to creep into Amateur football shall not be condoned. **All umpires shall endeavour to take appropriate action when and where necessary to eliminate such tactics.**

### **When to expect negative tactics**

At most set plays – Centre Bounce  
Field Bounce  
Boundary Throw-in  
Set kick (expected contest)  
OR  
In a behind the play situation

In the majority of these situations the No. 2 umpire (the one not in control of play at that instant) has a better chance of observing harassment than the other umpire (No1.).

Players who are normally targeted for negative tactics are key forwards / high possession earners playing in the centre or on the ball.

These players are prone to harassing tactics to put them off their game when the ball is far away from the action.



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Two players harassing / pushing each other where the umpire is unable to identify the perpetrator is to observe the action quickly, address both players and inform them that the next player to offend will be penalised.

The warning must be clear, precise and direct to both players.

If an offence occurs umpires must be seen to take the appropriate action by paying a free kick immediately.