

# AFL Laws of Australian Football – Changes for 2007



The AFL Commission has approved one rule change for the 2007 season on the recommendation of the AFL Laws of the Game committee.

## 15.4 Free Kick – Permitted and Prohibited Physical Contact

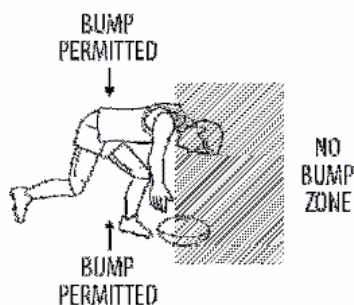
### 15.4.5 Prohibited Contact and Payment of Free Kick

A Player makes Prohibited Contact with an opposition player if he or she:

- (n) “Bumps or makes forceful contact to an opponent from front on when that player has his head down over the ball.”

Note:-

- a player can bump an opponent’s body from side on but any contact forward of side on will be deemed to be front on;
- a player with his head down in anticipation of winning possession of the ball or after contesting the ball will be deemed to have his head down over the ball for the purposes of this law.



## 19.2 Reportable Offences

### 19.2.2 Specific Offences

Any of the following types of conduct is a Reportable Offence:

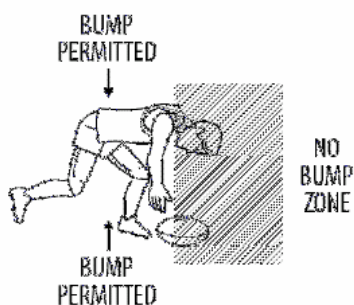
- (g) Intentionally, recklessly or negligently:
- (xi) Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front on when that player has his head down over the ball”

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## ***Rationale***

To reduce likelihood of serious spinal cord injury by discouraging players from bumping opponents front on when over the ball.

## ***Stricter Interpretations for 2007:***

15.4.5 "Prohibited Contact and Payment of Free Kick":

- hands in the back of an opponent in a marking contest;
- dangerous tackles such as by unnecessarily and dangerously driving an opponent into the ground with arms pinned.

Details concerning these interpretations together with video examples will be included on the 2007 AFL Laws of Australian Football DVD