
Match Official Development

Distribution List:

Referee Society Secretaries
Federation Secretaries
Area Training Teams
Match Official Panel Managers

Introduction:

Welcome to the 9th Match Official Update for the 2014-15 season.

As the **RWC 2015** “100 Days to go” marker is reached I just wanted to ensure you have the material and information for your plans, to maximise activation opportunities around the tournament.

The range of work around RWC 2015 is extensive and it’s crucial that we stay focused on delivering our part of what is a much bigger jigsaw. The action for most people will kick off after June 10th as **Festival of Rugby** activities get underway and the Trophy begins its 100 day journey around the UK and Ireland.

Over recent weeks, I have been with the RFRU delivering the **Match Official Challenge** consultation events, which have generated some really good discussion points. At nearly all of the ones so far, I have been asked for details for match official training courses and specifically those for referee coaches and assessors. The details for these are again attached for circulation and inclusion on your society websites.

There are some exciting updates together with timely law clarifications advice. We aim to provide you with useful information, which can be actioned, distributed or for information.

We want to ensure timely communication and welcome any feedback you have on this process together with any ways in which we could improve further.

Contact us at: matchofficials@rfu.com

Should you have any questions in relation to law clarifications or changes please contact our dedicated service: Laws@RFU.com

Michael

Michael D Patz – RFU Match Official Development Manager

Update 9 – Monday 8th June 2015	
1	For Action
1.1	<p>Getting Ready for Rugby’s Biggest Year</p> <p>Following some really good feedback and further work, lead by Alan Moses (ATM Area 6), I have included the original workshop PDF together with an outline PowerPoint (also attached as a PDF for ease of distribution) which provides activities and guides you through the workshop.</p> <p>This workshop is designed for the Society Officers to complete. It is intended to challenge Referee Societies to examine their readiness for an influx of people looking to take up the whistle around RWC 2015 – will you “Seize the Opportunity” or will you go into 2016 saying you missed a chance?</p>

Further support can be obtained by e mailing: matchofficials@rfu.com or for specific training development please speak with your ATM or RDO.



Referee Societies -
Getting Ready for Ru



PPT - Getting Ready
for Rugby' Biggest Ye

For action and circulation to all Society Officers

Online concussion education courses for the community game

The RFU has launched new online concussion education courses aimed at players, coaches and match officials across the community game. Backed by World Rugby and leading brain injury charity Headway, the courses are available at: www.EnglandRugby.com/Headcase.

The 30 minute courses cover why it's important to manage concussion properly, and how everyone has a role in protecting and helping players through their recovery and return to play.



Dr Mike England, RFU Community Rugby Medical, reinforcing the 4Rs of concussion

Based on the "4Rs" - **Recognise, Remove, Recover and Return** – the courses reinforce the messages that have been delivered through the Headcase website (the RFU's concussion awareness campaign), Rugby Ready courses and promotional materials over the last 18 months.

"We are committed to reinforcing the message that concussion is an injury to the brain and needs to be taken seriously. Players need time to recover fully before returning to play and young players in particular need to be managed more conservatively than adults." **Mike England**

The aim of the online courses is to improve the understanding of concussion and the behaviours needed to manage it effectively in a more accessible way. Explaining what concussion is, what it feels like and how to recognise the injury, it includes videos, real-life examples and questions to check learning – all in an interactive way. The courses also highlight the potential and serious consequences of the injury.

For action and circulation to ALL Society members to complete the online course

1.2



World Rugby Law Amended Memorandum – Law 10.4(e)

**Subject: (i) DANGEROUS TACKLES (HIGH TACKLES) and
(ii) DANGEROUS GRASPING OF NECK AND/OR HEAD AREA OF
PLAYER NOT IN POSSESSION OF THE BALL and
(II) DANGEROUS GRASPING / HOLDING OF BALL CARRIER
ABOVE THE LINE OF THE SHOULDERS**

This replaces the memorandum of 4th August 2011, in relation to Dangerous Tackles and the illegal taking out of players who are not in possession of the ball.

Law 10.4(e) in relation to Dangerous Tackles provides as follows:

A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously.

A player must not tackle (or try to tackle) an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders. A tackle around the opponent's neck or head is dangerous play.

A 'stiff-arm tackle' is dangerous play. A player makes a stiff-arm tackle when using a stiff-arm to strike an opponent.

Playing a player without the ball is dangerous play.

A player must not tackle an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

2.1

High Tackles:

At an IRB Medical Seminar held in November 2010 at The Lensbury the results of studies by the Rugby Football Union and New Zealand Rugby Football Union concluded that most injuries in Rugby in the elite Game were occurring as a result of high tackles. The participants generally recognised that tackles above the line of the shoulders had the potential to cause serious injury and noted that a trend had emerged whereby players responsible for such tackles were not being adequately sanctioned.

Dangerous Grasping:

A further pattern of offending was identified in the Game (Memoranda 4 August 2011) whereby players not in possession of the ball were being grasped and/or grabbed by an opponent in and around the neck and/or head area, principally in an effort to clear out players from the breakdown. While such behaviour does not come under the definition of a tackle, as no ball carrier is involved, nevertheless it is dangerous play and Foul Play under Law 10.4(e) and/or Law 10.4(f) (playing an opponent without the ball) which must be sanctioned.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to emphasise that as with tip tackles, (see Memorandum of 8 June 2009) this type of dangerous play which is Foul Play must be dealt with severely by Match Officials and all those involved in the off-field disciplinary process. As with other types of Foul Play, depending on the circumstances of the high tackle or the illegal and dangerous taking out of players not in possession of the ball, the range of sanctions can extend from a penalty kick to the player receiving a red card.

A high tackle to the head and/or neck area of an opponent (in particular involving a 'stiff arm' or swinging arm), bears all the hallmarks of an action which should result in a yellow card or a red card being seriously considered.

The grasping and twisting of the neck and/or head area of a player to effect either a tackle or to clear out a player not in possession of the ball should also be regarded as constituting serious Foul Play and Match Officials and all those involved in the off-field disciplinary process have a responsibility to ensure that the appropriate action is taken by them.

Tackling Ball Carriers around the neck / head areas

A trend has recently emerged whereby player(s) tackle (or try to tackle) the ball carrier around and/or above the line of the shoulders in an effort to (i) keep the opponent up off the ground and force a turnover or (ii) to encourage the opponent to release the ball by “strangling” him around the neck. In these types of tackle there may be more than one tackler and a maul may rapidly form around the ball carrier.

A further purpose of this revised Memorandum is to emphasise that as with other types of dangerous tackle and dangerous grasping of the neck and/or head area, where a player tackles (or tries to tackle) the ball carrier above the line of the shoulders, this is Foul Play under Law 10.4(e) and must be dealt with severely by Match Officials and all those involved in the off-field disciplinary process in order to protect Player welfare. As with other types of Foul Play described in this Memorandum, depending on the circumstances of the high tackle, the range of on-field sanctions can extend from a penalty kick to the player receiving a red card.

Basis of Decisions

Referees and Citing Commissioners should not make their decisions based on what they consider was the intention of the offending player nor should they have regard to whether the "first" contact was below the line of the ball carrier's shoulders. Their decisions should be based on an objective assessment (as per Law 10.4(e) and Law 10.4(f)) of the overall circumstances of the tackle or the clear out in each case.

Each of the types of Foul Play referred to above:

- High Tackles
- Dangerous Grasping
- Tackling Ball Carrier around the Neck/Head Area

constitute patterns of offending in the Game for which there exists a need for a deterrent in sanctioning.

Joël Jutge, World Rugby High Performance Match Officials Manager
Tim Gresson, World Rugby Judicial Panel Chairman

For distribution and publishing on appropriate forums

Match Officials' Challenge; Better Officials – Better Games

We have now completed 6 of the consultation events, which have produced some great debate and good discussion points.

Copies of the report are being distributed during the evenings and a survey created so that we can get as many views as possible during this consultation phase. The link is:

[The Match Officials' Challenge Survey](#)

2.2

Please encourage your members to make every effort to attend, as every voice counts.



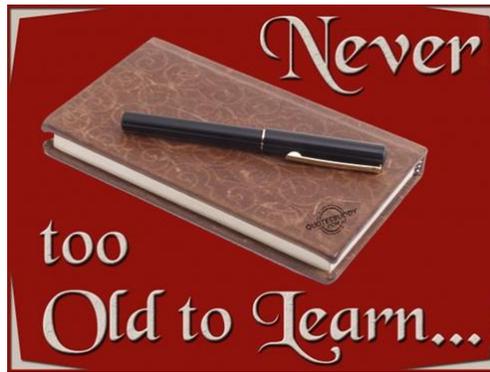
The Match Official
Challenge - 2015.05.



MO Blueprint
Consultation Events -

For distribution and publishing on appropriate forums

RFU Training Suite offer – 2014/15



As the saying goes, “You are never too old to learn new tricks.” Or something similar ☺

DCMO 1&2 - Training and development for referee coaches and assessors.

As mentioned during the introduction, this has been raised repeatedly as a training need for Society members. Whilst it is recognised that previous courses have been offered it is acknowledged that in the preceding time no formal refresher training has been offered, which is why this is recommended for those currently undertaking the roles.

Following consultation with the Panel Match Official Managers, criteria for those who are performing at or aspire to perform at Panel and Group will include the requirement to have completed this qualification.

2.3

Course Name	Description	How to Book
<p>Developing Coaches & Match Officials Level 1 (DCMO1)</p>	<p>This course allows learners to understand the support role of a coach or match official and be aware of the skills needed to become effective. The aims of the course are to help learners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be gain insight into the roles • Be clear about building relationships • Ensure they follow good practice • Be aware of the specific skills and understanding they will require in order to fulfil their role • Review their own learning and work performance 	<p>Book through your ATM / RDO</p>
<p>Developing Coaches & Match Officials Level 2 (DCMO2)</p>	<p>This course allows learners to further develop the support role of a coach or match official and be aware of the skills needed to become effective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify negative behaviours that limit rapport • Demonstrate positive behaviours that build rapport • Demonstrate chunking questioning technique • Recognise the different types of effective questions • Apply open questions, • Apply probing questions, • Demonstrate active listening • Recognise the three ego-states (TA) 	<p>Book through your ATM / RDO</p>

For distribution to STO's, and publication to members

Keep Your Boots On (KYBO!)

KYBO is now active and creating an online community at: www.twitter.com/kyboengland and going to the **RWC 2015 Fan zones** where we want you to be part of that experience!

**3.1**

The Host City KYBO events will support the campaign by providing the connection between social media generated awareness and enthusiasm, and practical steps into becoming a referee and a coach. Events will focus on the enjoyment of involvement in the game, be dynamic and active, predominantly based outdoors.

Provide the opportunity for:

- A hub for all KYBO activity in a Host City area giving a focus to online awareness generation, and an opportunity for converting those who have shown interest.
- Promotion of refereeing and coaching as “More ways to enjoy the game” using stories from those who already have moved into refereeing or coaching.
- Taster sessions for those looking to get involved.
- Guidance towards initial training and advice.
- Launch incentive for the most successful KYBO referee society, club or CB to ensure the project is lasting.
- Participants will be given identifying branded KYBO kit to create a sense of community among those supporting the game.

The events will be timed to take place in the build-up to matches in the Host City to capitalise on interest generated. Each event would be hosted in the immediate lead up to a Pool match in a Fan zone or an area close to the stadium.

A key benefit of the event will be the opportunity to convert interest generated in the wider campaign into action, through face to face engagement, consolidating and confirming positive messages received through other media.

Referee societies, clubs and CB's will be encouraged to use these as activation events to help build their volunteer workforce to create a positive playing experience.

Social media will be used in conjunction with clubs, referee societies and CB's to identify potential attendees, using their local knowledge of who would benefit.

Final preparations are being made to confirm the dates and locations for these events, so visit: www.twitter.com/kyboengland for real time updates.

For the information of all members