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## MEDIA RELEASE

The NRL will modify a number of refereeing interpretations to further ensure that there is a disincentive for players feigning injury.

Except in the most serious of cases, if a player is unable to play the ball immediately after being tackled then a team mate will be appointed by the referee to play the ball 5m to the left or right of that position.

If the referee believes a team is wasting time in the 'hand over', then he will penalize the team in possession for 'time wasting'. These will be strict enforcements of existing rules.

The video referee will remain able to report issues of foul play to the referee if he is able to do so within the existing 'set' of tackles, as per the current interpretation.

However the video referee will only intervene on issues which would clearly require the player either being placed on report or dismissed from the field. The referee will not stop play for the purposes of having an incident reviewed.

Any contact that would result in a penalty being sufficient would be left entirely to the determination of the on-field officials.

The NRL remains concerned at the increasing trend of players feigning injury in matches to attract penalties but at the same time is determined to maintain the pressure on genuine acts of foul play.

"The changes reduce the incentive of someone to try to 'milk' a penalty through the video referee," NRL Chief Operating Officer Mr Graham Annesley said today.

"This is a difficult area and while we do modify interpretations during the course of a season, we do not believe that you can abandon the video referee's role in this area altogether half-way through the year.

"It will be on the agenda for further discussion at the end of the season but it's important to remember that the elimination of foul play and the safety of the players are primary responsibilities."

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