

# QRL - Referees' Coaching & Development Updates

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Issue 2**

## Publication of the QRL Referees' Development Officers

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Seminar  
essentials

Water bottle	✓
Hat & Sunscreen	✓
International Rule Book	✓
Modified Games Rule Book	✓
National Safe Play Code	✓
Enthusiasm	✓
Notepad & Pen	✓
Joggers	✓



## From the RDO's Desk

I hope you enjoyed the first edition of the QRL Referees' Coaching & Development Updates..

As well being available on the QRL website the newsletter is e-mailed to:

- ♦ QRL Referees' Board Members
- ♦ Association Secretaries for distribution to members
- ♦ Registered CMOs

If you are an accredited CMO and have not received the updates at your e-mail address, please forward your current e-mail address to [p.oliver@qrl.com.au](mailto:p.oliver@qrl.com.au)

Associations and accredited ARLRA CMOs are encouraged to contribute an article for the newsletter. These should be forwarded via e-mail to John Topp for inclusion in the next issue.

e-mail: [j.topp@qrl.com.au](mailto:j.topp@qrl.com.au)

Ed.

## BITS & PIECES

*Never Referee to be well liked, only respected.*

## 2008 DATES TO REMEMBER

QRL Referees' Academy - Fitness Evaluations, Brisbane	2 March
Level 2 Coach of Match Officials Course Brisbane	7 - 9 March
ARL Masters Carnival Runaway Bay, Gold Coast	13 - 15 March
Qld Wizard Cup commences	15 March



## FITNESS UPDATE

The Fitness Tests are a useful tool for all Associations to use as a measure of a referees commitment to one of the essentials in Match Officiating. We are constantly reminded of the importance of being in POSITION to make QUALITY DECISIONS.

Standards are required for those nominating for Carnivals and being involved in these tests on a MONTHLY basis can only enhance ones refereeing potential.

It is recommended there be a 5 minute rest period after each drill and the sequence to be:

- ♦ Warm up
- ♦ Agility
- ♦ Sprint
- ♦ Modified Beep Test

The Testing Protocols and drills can be found on the QRL Web Site, Downloads and scroll down to the Referees' section.

Associations are requested to establish their own data base to ensure accurate and current records are maintained for its members.



**QRL Referees' Board:** Strategic planning is on the agenda of the QRL Referees' Board. Associations have been sent a questionnaire to complete and return to John Topp by 13/2/2008. This will give Associations the opportunity to give direct input into the Boards strategic plan. The next meeting of the QRL Referees' Board is Saturday 23/2/2008. Venue for the meeting is the Wynnum Manly Leagues Club.



## Coaches Corner



### RULE CHANGE - 2008

The QRL Board of Directors has accepted the recommendation of the QRL Juniors' Board that from commencement of the 2008 season **Shoulder Charges** are banned in all Matches (Under 7 – Under 18) played in Queensland.

The Queensland Secondary Schools Rugby League has also *banned* **Shoulder Charges** from all schoolboy matches.

The ARL Board has also banned **Shoulder Charges** in the Interstate Under 16s & 18s.

### KEY INDICATORS - 2008 Explanatory Guide

The KIs have been updated and the Explanatory Guide Booklet (same size as the International Law book) is being printed and is available to all 2008 registered match officials through their association

### NRAS PROVIDERS - Update/Workshop

Information about the NRAS Providers update/workshop has been sent to Associations from QRL Education & Development Manger, Rob Moore.

The update/workshop will be held in Brisbane on the weekend of the 5th & 6th April at the Northgate Comfort Inn Motel. Attendance forms need to be returned to John Topp prior to 8/2/2008.

Attendance at the update/workshop accredits Providers to conduct NRAS Courses for the next 4 (four) years.

### COACH OF MATCH OFFICIAL COURSES

Level 1 - Course date is set for 12 & 13 of April in Brisbane. If you wish to register for the Course download a form from [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au) click on Downloads and scroll down to the Referees' section.

Level 2 - The Course is in the final stages of planning. It is imperative that Letters of Intent forms to attend are forwarded to John Topp prior to **11/2/2008**. Venue is the Northgate Comfort Inn, Brisbane on the weekend of 7, 8 & 9 March.

## The Benefits of Professional Development.

This year's series of Seminars has highlighted the importance of the basics in Match Officiating at all levels. The much touted need to master Knowledge and Fitness has become more vital to ensure the CREDIBILITY of Match Officials is beyond reproach. A seminar is not the PANACEA for all Officiating issues but it certainly highlights the areas an individual needs to address to ensure this pursuit is enjoyable and has a POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION to the game of Rugby League. After the initial Seminar, it is essential that all Associations provide follow up sessions re- enforcing the many facets of successful match officiating from the Modified arena to the highly competitive International level.

### Topp's Talk

- ♦ The Association Handbook for 2008 has been updated. All association secretaries are requested to download a copy, read and familiarize themselves with same. Available at [www.qrl.com.au](http://www.qrl.com.au) Downloads then scroll down to Referees' section
- ♦ 2008 Registration fees: \$35 for all active match officials and \$11 if not active. Please refer to page 8 of the 2008 Association Handbook.

### Academy Update

- ♦ The next fitness evaluation for the Academy is planned for Sunday March 2 to be held at O'Grady Park, Brisbane starting at 8am. Numbers for the academy will then be finalized.
- ♦ Trials commence on February 8 and it is planned to use as many referees as possible.
- ♦ The SEQ under 16 & under 18's competitions will commence on 29/2/2008. It is my intention to use the younger referees' who have been training with the squad, to referee in these competitions.



## **The Play-the-Ball – A Two-Way Street: by David Isaacs**

Match officials have always been encouraged to apply the laws of the game to the best of their ability and in a common sense manner to ensure that the team who deserves to win the game does so without the influence of the match official.

One key area that match officials are able to do this is by focusing on the tactics in the play the ball to ensure that the team in possession is afforded every opportunity to gain territory and/or ascendancy without being disadvantaged by the tacklers.

However, you should remember that the play the ball is a two-way street which has two separate combatants and match officials have a responsibility to ensure BOTH teams have equal opportunity and that they are rewarded for their efforts.

This is why it is imperative that match officials MUST enforce the Key Indicators - Ruck Attack so that the team in possession does not employ tactics that stifle or eliminate the defensive options of the opposition and gain an unfair advantage by their actions.

Yes. There is a perception that action taken against the team in possession for ruck attack infringements are “soft” and not in the best interests of an entertaining and attacking game. However, if players from the team in possession are allowed to gain an unfair advantage they may be negatively influencing the outcome of the game, as well as contributing to the frustration (and possible aggressiveness) of players by their inaction.

To effectively control this aspect of the game match officials need to have a heightened level of awareness in areas of the field where it is likely that the team in possession may use illegal tactics. These areas include attacking situations in the urgency zone (second tackler), when under pressure in the yardage zone, particularly late in the tackle count (sleepers), or when seeking a quick play the ball (not using the foot).

Of course the most effective and efficient tool match officials have at their disposal is communication and this should always be exhausted prior to seeking alternative options, but either way action MUST be taken to ensure fair and equal opportunity to both sides so that the team who wins the game does so in a fair and uninfluenced manner.

### **QRL Referees’ Board Professional Development Seminar - Northern Division**

The first QRL Referees Board Professional Development Seminar for 2008 was held in Townsville on the weekend of 19/20 January at the James Cook University Campus. This was a 2-day ‘live in’ event for senior participants, with the junior component of the seminar being a one-day event.



Initially 83 participants had registered to attend, however due to inclement weather conditions and road flooding a total of 41 participants were able to attend. This included 21 junior match officials which was very encouraging and an excellent result.

Also in attendance were Eddie Ward (QRL Referees’ Manager), Tony Maksoud (QRL Referees’ Board Chairman), John Topp (QRLRB & Juniors Executive Officer) and Joseph Spelta (QRL Referee Academy Trainer).

A new concept for the seminar was the inclusion of on-field training and skill sessions conducted by Academy Trainer, Joseph Spelta. Joseph also presented a topic on nutritional and dietary best practices and all participants agreed that they gained a better understanding of the requirements needed to maintain a lifestyle that would allow them to achieve maximum performance on the field.

Participant were also impressed with the quality of the DVD clips as this gave them the opportunity to “see, discuss and understand” the issues being presented. This allowed a greater understanding of each topic so that they can be better applied during on-field situations.

Newly appointed Cowboys Football Operations Manager and ex NRL player/coach, Dean Lance, was an invited guest speaker for Saturday night and his talk was humorous, inspiring and very well received. This was a great way to kick-off the social activities and everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Overall the seminar was a tremendous success as it allowed participants not only to enhance their knowledge and skills, it also gave them the opportunity to meet old and to make new friends by networking with like minded people.

Special thanks go to QRL Northern Division Manager, Bob Newsome for his continued support of referees and to Northern Division Co-ordinator, Stuart Cantoni