

QRL - Referees' Coaching & Development Updates

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Publication of the QRL Referees' Development Officers

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From the RDO's Desk

Thanks to Eddie Gale (Gold Coast RLRA Secretary) and Bill Logan (Wide Bay Referees' Coordinator) for their contributions to this month's publication.

Eddie provides a report from the ARL Masters Carnival held on the Gold Coast last month and I am sure Bill's article will give all some assistance with regards to handling difficult situations on and off the field.

Nominations have now closed for the Queensland Schoolboy Under 15 and Opens Championships. It is anticipated that finalization of match officials attending the Under 15 and Opens Championships will be completed by Friday 4/4/2008. Referee Board members, Referee Associations and match officials will then be advised in due course.

This weekend (5 & 6 April) brings together all Referee Association Providers for reaccreditation for the next 4 years. The NRAS program has been updated and Association Providers will be made aware of the changes.

The weekend also provides an opportunity for Association Providers to network with each other and exchange ideas on presentation of NRAS Courses.

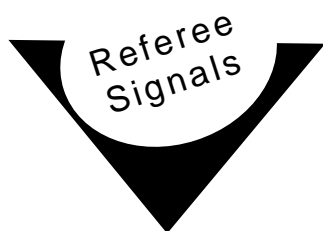
David, Richard and I will be attending along with Luke Ellis, the Australian Rugby League Development Manager.



Ed.

PRINCIPLES OF TRAINING

- ◆ Suit the needs of the individual.
- ◆ Be referee / touch judge specific.
- ◆ For improvement, energy systems must be stressed or overloaded.
- ◆ Regularity and frequency - depending on level you are officiating at.
- ◆ Must include recovery period.



2008 DATES TO REMEMBER

Practice & review	✓		
Non - verbal communication	✓	Carnival Nominations close -	
Controlled	✓	◆ Under 12 Schoolboys (Chinchilla 26/6 - 2/7)	2 May
Reflect decision	✓	◆ Confraternity Shield (Rockhampton 30/6 - 4/7)	
	✓	◆ Under 11 Schoolboys (Maroochydoore 30/6 - 4/7)	
	✓	◆ QRL u/13 & u/14 (Cairns 7/7 - 11/7)	
Non threatening	✓	QRL Divisional u/16 & u/18 Carnival - Proserpine	3 - 5 May
Clear	✓	Queensland Under 15 Schoolboy Championships - Redcliffe	8 - 11 May
Unhurried	✓		
Enthusiastic/positive	✓	Queensland Open Schoolboy Championships - Ipswich	15 - 18 May

BITS & PIECES

- ♦ The perception of value increases with time and involvement.
- ♦ There is a point where those who govern are no longer in sync with the majority.
- ♦ It is vital for those who govern to listen to the voices of those who are less engaged.

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Coaches Corner

COACH OF MATCH OFFICIAL COURSES

Level 1 - As advised by John Topp on 11/03/2008 due to lack of nominations the Level 1 Coach of Match Officials course has been postponed. If further nominations are received a new date will be set.

Level 2 - The Level 2 course was completed on the weekend of 7, 8 and 9 March. Once all attendees have completed post course assignments, confirmation of Level 2 status will be confirmed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE GAME

The Queensland Rugby Leagues' Board of Directors, at its meeting on 14 March 2008, approved the adoption of changes to the Rules of the Game for the 2008 season. These changes are detailed below.

1. Interchange

The League has adopted a 10 interchange/4 players replacement system as an experimental rule for 2008 Qld Wizard Cup and FOGS Competitions.

It should be noted that there is no compulsion for other competitions to introduce the 10/4 replacement system.

2. Stripping

The stripping rule has been amended as follows:

“Where two or more player are effecting the same tackle - irrespective of whether all but one “drops off” the tackle, and the ball is subsequently taken from the tackled player, a penalty will be awarded against the player or players effecting the tackle unless the tackled player is attempting to ground the ball for a try.”

This rule is to be adopted nationally and the rule book is being amended accordingly.

3. Shoulder Charges

At the request of the Queensland Rugby League and the New South Wales Rugby League, the Australian Rugby League has approved the banning of shoulder charges in all rugby league competitions Under 18 years and below.

This rule is to be adopted nationally.

WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?

In an u/15 game an offence under the safe play code is committed on the red ball carrier. However the red ball carrier is able to pass the ball to another onside red player who advances the ball further downfield. (Advantage has been played by the referee.) The red ball carrier then uses a vicious palm on a blue defender.

Which team is awarded the penalty for a breach of the Safe Play Code?

ANSWER: Penalty to Red for first infringement of Safe Play Code at the point of the vicious palm, however the referee should deal with the red player for use of a vicious palm.



The Playing Environment.

Referees in general are “sticklers” for correctness in Law which is to be commended. The amount of resources available in today’s environment ensures Match Officials will not suffer from starvation but the APPLICATION could be found wanting!

We all are aware of the effect of incorrect DECISIONS and their IMPACT on the GAME. It is one thing to be a student of Law but in the FORMATIVE years of officiating there must be a BALANCE of Law and Safety.

The SAFE PLAY CODE reflects COMMON SENSE and indicates the Referee has a handle on the game.

However, the lack of a sense of what is FAIR and REASONABLE by Referees is often the FACTOR which has the greatest bearing on how players see and reflect: Respect, Credibility and Rapport. Get the FUNDAMENTALS right (Game Sense) and the rest will fall into place. Referees who are lax in this important area bring attention to themselves for all the wrong reasons and create a valid reason for players to question their ABILITY and VISION.

PLAYER WELFARE must always be a PRIORITY by Match Officials at ALL LEVELS. Along with Knowledge and Fitness, the Safe Play Code application must be a GIVEN!

What Makes a Good Referee?

Often we are asked this most interesting question... "What is it that makes a good referee"?

To be honest, I have often searched my mind on numerous occasions to find an answer to this question. However upon reflection it's not a question that can be easily answered as there are many facets to a highly successful match official, and therefore it is difficult to capture this into words that can be easily understood.

However after watching the Melbourne v Cronulla game on 23rd March, 2008 controlled by Tony Archer, I finally formed a basis to answer this most intriguing question.

Becoming a successful referee is not just about taking action, it's about taking the APPROPRIATE action at the APPROPRIATE time to ensure you positively contribute to the game. Let me explain...

It's not always whether you technically come up with the right decision or not, it's all about summing up each situation and then taking the best course of action to control this situation.

This sometimes means that taking NO ACTION may be the best option, as this allows the game to flow to create an entertaining spectacle, while at other times the best option is to take strong affirmative action.

This is exactly what Tony Archer did during the Storm v Cronulla game. When he needed to be decisive, he was. When he needed to let the game flow, he did. In other words, he had a real "feel and understanding" for the game and as a result he was a CONTRIBUTING referee and his influence created an exciting and entertaining game of football.

In a nutshell Tony Archer displayed the qualities that make a good match official:

COMPOSURE, CONTROL, COMMON SENSE, CREDIBILITY & CLEAR COMMUNICATION

Yes he may have made some decisions that upon reflection may not have been correct, but in my opinion it's all about contributing to an entertaining game of football while maintaining control and ensuring the safety of players, and I think Tony Archer achieved this very well.

As a result of his actions this was one of the most entertaining games of football I have seen for a long time, and this was reflected in the comments by coaches, players, spectators and media. Yes they were all talking about the game, but not one person focused on the negative actions of the referee.

Isn't that what we all aim to achieve?

THE ARL MASTERS - Gold Coast 12 - 15 March 2008.

Referees from several associations had the pleasure of officiating in this years ARL MASTERS, held at the Runaway Bay Junior Rugby League ground from the 12th to the 15th of March. Members travelled from the ACT, Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane and the Gold Coast to officiate in the Carnival which started on the Wednesday night with a review of the match rules followed by a social event with the teams.

The event has grown from 16 teams in 2007 to 35 in 2008 and with teams like Coodabeen Bunnies, Jamberoo Olderoos, Toowoomba Bush Pigs and players such as Billy Moore, Kevin Champion, and Marty Bella there was plenty of good football to be seen regardless of the age of the players.



Back: Paul Oliver, Neil Williams, Chris Nightingale, Paul Beasant, Rod McLean.
Centre: Wayne Scott, Gavin Adams, Iuri Ulale, Gary McCallum, Eddie Gale.
Front: Trevor Patrick, Mark Langlands, John Norohna, Gunner Prasad, Paul Marek
Other officials not pictured Ian Irwin, Dave McColl, Peter Tozer and Eddie Ward.

Thursday saw the first games kicking off at 11am with our own celebrity Referee Eddie Ward doing the opener on the main field. (word has it that Eddie was a bit worried about the reviews he would be getting from us after the game). Saturday night was another social event at the Carnival Marque with some interesting stories being told, notably none involving rugby league. By the end of Friday and Saturday there was plenty of walking wounded but still plenty of smiles.

Overall the teams played in the spirit of event but there were still some big hits to be seen. The support staff for some of the teams was made up of a wide variety of interesting people as those in attendance will agree. (You would have thought some of our referees were dying of thirst with the amount of water they needed from the water runners.)

Paul Oliver was the mother hen for the event and kept us all on time and at the right field. (Ask Paul or Peter Tozer to tell you about their room sharing experience from the Wednesday night, what a laugh).

The venue was great and well supported, the people friendly and I can guarantee we'll all be putting our hands up again for next year. Lets hope the event grows even bigger for 2009. A special thanks to our touch judges from Coombabah High School for their efforts over the 3 days.

On behalf of all those who were there.
Eddie Gale

AVOIDING CONFRONTATIONS

Rugby League is a great game however there are occasionally times when incidents involving referees and touch judges both on and off the field can blemish the game and diminish an official's enthusiasm to be involved in the game.

Most referees and touch judges in their career experience some confrontation with players / officials / coaches / spectators over their on field performance. Our game involves physical contact which raises people's emotions. Some people cannot control their emotions at times and attempt to vent their anger on everyone else including the referee or touch judge.

It is therefore important that all referees and touch judges minimize the risk of such confrontations by taking actions to avoid them wherever possible. Below are some tips to use to help avoid confrontations:

- ♦ be fair in your decisions and don't be influenced by club supporters.
- ♦ don't get involved in matters which are not your area of responsibility - even if you have an opinion.
- ♦ avoid walking through the middle of a crowd at halftime and after the game, particularly if there has been some controversy or crowd hostility during the game.
- ♦ exit the field promptly at half time and full time.
- ♦ avoid requests from coaches, managers or others to talk about rule interpretations or particular game incidents - these requests often lead to criticism or abuse.
- ♦ refer any complaints about your refereeing or touch judging to your Association or the Senior Referee on the day. You are not expected to defend yourself publicly at a game.
- ♦ know who the Games Controller is for your game and where he intends being located during your game. If there is an issue directed at you during a game let the Games Controller know at half time so he can monitor it in the second half.
- ♦ be careful not to put yourself in a vulnerable position off the field which could provide someone with an opportunity to verbally or physically attack you.
- ♦ give respect to players, officials and the public.
- ♦ be aware of situations around you - as a touch judge, should crowd behavior or bench officials / players behavior threaten you or the proper conduct of your game, report the matter to the on field referee. Stay in the field of play if possible with the referee until assistance comes and action is taken to resolve the problem.
- ♦ as soon as possible after the game change out of your on field uniform.
- ♦ be tactful in any comments you make to officials, players or the public - don't provoke controversy.
- ♦ never lose control of your emotions - stay calm under pressure and walk away from a potential off field argument rather than get involved. Remember you may be deliberately provoked.
- ♦ know your rugby league rules and administer them fairly and consistently.
- ♦ take action against on field violence and unsportsmanlike behavior.
- ♦ ensure you give proper signals for all your decisions - make them confidently and lengthy enough so the players and crowd can see them and understand them.
- ♦ do not react to comments from spectators - doing so will adversely affect your concentration level.
- ♦ be aware that members of the reserves bench (coach / players / manager / trainer / water carriers) must not during the course of a match breach the rules of rugby league, abuse a referee or touch judge or opposing players in insulting terms, or act in a provocative manner towards a referee touch judge or opposing player - certainly deal with situations early but don't over react to same.

Finally do not allow the actions of a few individuals to spoil your involvement as a referee or touch judge. Everyone involved in rugby league is accountable, even spectators and the League has the power to deal with everyone. Punishment can be fines/suspensions/warnings/ or even banning from playing or attending rugby league games.

Bill Logan
Wide Bay R.L. Referees' Co-coordinator