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## Memorandum

To:	ARLRA Referees' Coaches
From:	Michael Stone
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Subject:	MS 001/05

So here we are at the beginning of another season. Well for some it is the beginning of another season. Here at the NRL the boys began earnest training in mid November with two days a week culminating with pre Christmas weekend bash up by strength and conditioning trainer Klinton Hoare.

Whilst the focus was very much on physical fitness we are certainly cognizant of the importance of in depth knowledge of the Laws of the Game. As a result, the NRL squad has been given a research paper prior to Christmas and another one after Christmas that asked them to give an answer, quote the Section of the Law that is involved, and any other related Law. For example, when asked what was a voluntary tackle, the referee must refer to the Glossary in Section 2, Law 4 of Section 11 which describes the act and the notes to that Law which describe the situation where the marker dives behind the tackled player to drop on the ball as it was heeled. If they missed one of the answers, the response was incomplete.

The purpose behind the exercise was to make the referees pick up the Law book and become familiar with its use. At the CRLRA seminar last weekend, it was apparent that a large number of referees were short on knowledge. THAT IS TOTALLY UNFORGIVABLE IN A REFEREE. As coaches it is your responsibility to ensure that your referees maintain that in depth knowledge of the Laws of the game. To assist in that task, the ARLRA has provided a wonderful resource in the form of a Laws quiz posted on the website at [www.arlra.org.au](http://www.arlra.org.au). You must encourage your referees to enter that site on a regular basis to test their knowledge of the Laws. A CD ROM has also been provided and may be copied as many times as you need.

### **NEW VIDEOS**

During the off season we have been busy getting up to date with more audio visual coaching aids. The first was the second in a series called

“Quality Decision Making for Referees”. Whilst it follows the theories set out in the first tape, this one is a little more professionally presented. It will be distributed to Level 2 coaches for presentation to “newer” referees, and older ones too.

The second is a very exciting project. It was conceived by the Sydney based Level 2 coaches and using footage gathered by North Sydney, Western Suburbs and Manly volunteers, the first instructional video of its kind began to come together. David Jay and Rob Peard spent countless hours scripting and taping the commentary which was to be spliced into the tape. Finally, a thirty five minute video titled “Mini Mod – The First Frontier” came into being. It was presented to the Board of the ARLRA prior to the AGM and they were so excited by it a decision was made to order 200 and that each of the Level 2 coaches on the Register be provided with a copy. Prior to the start of your local competitions, make sure that you review the tape with all of the people who will control Mini or Mod games for you.

### **NRL DEVELOPMENT SQUAD**

Another group who got off to a flying start was the camp held in conjunction with the SCC camp at Narrabeen in mid January. Apart from eight referees from NSWRA, there were five from Queensland, three from NSW Country, and three from New Zealand, including their newest international referee, Glen Black. It is a further indication of the NRL’s commitment to look as far as it needs to recruit the right people to move forward. By the way, Russell Smith, recently voted International Referee of the Year, has decided to have a go at the NRL. That should not only be a compliment to the NRL but to everyone in the feeder system to the elite game. It will be interesting to see how he fits in won’t it.

### **HAS ACADEMY**

Wayne Wilson has nominated the following referees for the second HAS Academy to commence on Thursday 24 February. They are:-

Patrick Legge	Newcastle
David Dyson	Maitland
Alex Threadbare	Maitland
Kylie Black	Newcastle
Jackson Oultam	Newcastle
Grant Sweeney	Maitland
Sean Keens	Central Coast
Mitchell Stone	Central Coast
Ben Johnson	Newcastle.

I wish all these candidates the best for the 13 week course.

The new Academy to be based in Wollongong will commence some time in May.

### **LEVEL 1 AND 2 COURSES**

To bring the “seminar season” to finality, on the first weekend in March, there will be one Level 1 and one Level 2 course conducted in Wollongong. Further, another Level 2 course is to be run at Narrabeen the same weekend.

So let’s do a stock take. Since the end of last season, the ARLRA and its consultants have put together four (4) coaching videos on “Quality decision Making”, two of them, “Communication Skills for Referees”, and “Mini Mod \_ The First Frontier”. At last count, including the three videos which I produced under the NRL banner in 2000, there is now a total of eleven coaching videos produced available. In addition to that, a 100 question Laws quiz has been posted on the web site and CD ROM’s distributed to Associations. Another first. And Richard Johnston has a general coaching video in the pipeline as well. All while you guys were watching the cricket! Perhaps we will never again hear the plaintiff cry “What does the ARLRA do for us?” The next newsletter will contain news from the NRL and hopefully, some input from you guys. In the meantime, don’t take your eye off the ball.

MICHAEL STONE  
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NRL REFEREES’ CO-ORDINATOR