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## Memorandum

To:	ARLRA Referees' Coaches
From:	Michael Stone
Date:	24 February 2005
Subject:	MS 002/05

### **ARLRA LAWS QUIZ – PENALTY WHERE TAKEN**

You beauty, the first query about the Laws quiz on the website. Bob Long from Illawarra, has asked about Question 7 of the quiz, viz

*“I checked out the laws quiz a couple of days ago (and ashamed to admit I got three wrong – careless) and found it very refreshing and easy to navigate (although a couple of problems when using a Mac OS). However I have a problem with the answer to Q7. It states that a penalty kick from a start/restart infringement may be taken back (as for a penalty kick awarded in general play) from the spot where it is awarded. The section of the rules quoted is –*

*[s8.8]*

*A penalty kick resulting from an offence at the kick off shall be taken from the centre of the halfway line. Any penalty kick arising from the restarting of play from the 20m line shall be taken from the centre of that line. A PENALTY KICK RESULTING FROM ANY OFFENCE AT THE DROPOUT FROM BETWEEN THE POSTS SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE CENTRE OF THE LINE DRAWN PARALLEL TO AND TEN METRES FROM THE GOAL LINE.*

*Although I can see the consistency in the answer (as it relates to general play) I believe the actual wording of the rule does not permit this. The rule states that the penalty kick ‘shall be taken’ from a particular identified point. Not that the penalty is awarded at these identified points. Using the word ‘shall’ removes the option from the team – linguistically there is no alternative ie shall means ‘you will take a penalty kick (any form) from this determined spot’. We have distinct criteria for starts and restarts that don’t apply in general play (ie advantage play) and I would have thought that taking a penalty on a particular spot would just be another one of these criteria.*

*I raised this with Steve Brown, who suggested this may apply if the team wished to take a kick for goal, but, for consistency if this was the*

*case then a team should be permitted to take the mark backward from the centre of the goal, 20m or halfway lines to undertake any form of kick (as is allowed for a penalty kick). Things now seem to get complicated.*

*I would appreciate some comment as, over the next month, I will be lecturing on the rules to PD,H,PE students, teachers, and level 1 coaches – and I don't want to tell them anything that isn't right."*

It is impossible to argue with Bob as the words speak for themselves. However, clearly our Law drafters did not intend for the non offending team to be disadvantaged by having to, for example, take a kick for goal from ten metres out when the kicker would prefer to take it back a few metres. Law 2 of section 13 speaks of "penalty kick" and not penalty kick in general play so therefore one can only assume that the terminology used in Law 8 of Section 8 should be "awarded" rather than "taken". As long standing practice allows the kicker to take the ball back in a line drawn parallel to the touch lines as per Law 2 of Section 13, we should continue to do it.

Well done Bob!

### **HELD UP OVER THE LINE**

*"A question regarding held up over the line.*

*Is the player who was held up over the line, required to play the ball on the ensuing play the ball 10m out from the line or is it permissible for another player to play it? ( All assuming it is not the last tackle and the ball carrier is not injured )"*

I replied:-

*"No. See Notes to the Law Section 12. "The attacking player who was held up will play the ball..."."*

To which he replied:-

*"That's what I thought – it happened at Aussie Stadium on Saturday night. Luke Bailey was held up over the line and someone else played it."*

Fortunately I was on the Gold Coast away from the glare of television and WE had a perfect game. However, I will refer your query to Messrs Archer and Badger. (Smart Alec isn't he?).

### **ARL NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT**

It is perhaps appropriate that we reinforce not only our own Code of Behaviour as set out on the Website, but also the ARL's new National

Code of Conduct. As coaches, it is imperative that you embrace the code and encourage your referees to do likewise.

## **“(ARL) CODE OF CONDUCT – REFEREE/TOUCH JUDGE**

- *Be impartial! Also, be consistent, objective and courteous.*
- *Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else; be alert to minimise dangerous physical play, fair or foul, especially in junior matches.*
- *Accept responsibility for all actions taken.*
- *Avoid any form of verbal contact with coaches, team officials, parents and spectators during play.*
- *Avoid any situation which may lead to a conflict of interest, both on and off the field.*
- *Maintain an appropriate level of fitness for the standard of game at which you are officiating.*
- *Condemn all and every instance of unsportsmanlike, foul or unfair play.*
- *Set a good example by the way you dress, speak and act towards players, coaches, officials, parents and spectators.*
- *Show concern and caution towards sick and injured players.*
- *Officiate to the age &/or experience of the players.”*

The code is endorsed by one of our own.

*“As a referee, you are an integral part of the game and you can help each player enjoy the game by demonstrating a positive attitude, by promoting good sporting behaviour, by being consistent and by communicating in a fair and honest manner.*

*Try to clearly express your decisions to the players in a way that can be seen and understood.*

*Keep up to date with the latest trends in officiating and remember, there is no substitute for a thorough knowledge of the Laws of the Game and your own integrity.*

*Bill Harrigan  
Former NRL, Origin & Test Referee”*

So there you have it. Let’s do it! And don’t take your eye off the ball.

MICHAEL STONE  
ARLRA PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE CONSULTANT  
NRL REFEREES’ CO-ORDINATOR