



National Rugby League Limited
Fox Studios Development
Lang Road, Moore Park NSW 1363
Postal Address:
GPO Box 3498 Sydney NSW 2001
ABN 23 082 088 962
Internet: www.nrl.com
Telephone: (02) 9339 8500
Facsimile: (02) 9339 8508

Memorandum

To:	ARLRA Referees' Coaches
From:	Michael Stone
Date:	22 April 2004
Subject:	MS 006/04

Traditionally, Round 6 starts to sort out the teams which look to be a chance of making it and those who have to blame the referees for their failure this year. This year is no exception. Watch for bleating coaches in the next few weeks. I'll bet that you can already tip who they might be.

MINI MOD QUERY

Tim Robinson from Balmain sent me this query. I believe in sending things to the expert, so I did.

"A very simple question regarding the new held up and coin toss rules - do they apply to mini/mod as well or just to international games. There has been some debate amongst our members, as well as other referees I have spoken to."

Peter Corcoran was good enough to reply.

"With regard to the Coin Toss -- this will apply in Mini & Mod also. With regard to the Held Up in In-goal -- not in Mini & Mod in 2004!!! Two reasons. Firstly, such instances are rare. Secondly, there are now only 4 instances where scrums occur in M / M. If the new Int. Law was introduced into M/M there would be only three -- and, you would agree, these give rise to very few scrums. The Scrum IS a part of the RL culture and it would be a tragedy if young players were introduced to (and coached in) scrimmaging only at 13 years. So, we'll take a good look at the scrum, and the M/M laws pertaining to it, in 2004 and re-assess the scrum situation in 2005."

Thanks Peter. From the horse's mouth.

MUTUAL INFRINGEMENT

From NRL Academy member Drew Oultam.

“I was quizzed by a junior member of our association recently regarding Mutual Infringements.

I told him that the most common Mutual Infringement up until this year was “held up in goal”, but as we all know this has been superceded by the 10m rule.

S16 P43 (referee accidentally blows whistle) & S3 P8 (ball burst) both state that the team last in possession has the scrum feed. The only other circumstances I can find in the “Laws of the Game” are in S16 P43 8.1 (e). I was of the belief that this would be a Mutual Infringement but it doesn’t state as much. I also question whether accidental interference by the referee against a defending player may also fit into this category.

I have questioned more senior referees and there seems to be some conflict in opinions. I would be willing to bet that many of our fellow referees from all over the state would be unsure of this, so let’s hope you can clear this up for us.”

Very well researched, Drew. If you look at Peter Corcoran’s publication, “A Guide to the International Laws of Rugby League”, 2004 edition, page 27 will tell you that a scrum is formed, *inter alia*, “...if the ball, or a player with the ball, accidentally strikes the referee, a touch judge, spectator, etc., and play is irregularly affected (Mutual Infringement).” Whilst there is no actual definition of “mutual infringement” in the book, convention has it that it is an event which stops play and no fault can be attributed to either side. In my opinion, interference by the referee against a defender does not fit the category. If you pack a scrum for that, you will find yourself being tackled more times than Martin Lang during the course of a match.

IS A TOUCH JUDGE AN OBJECT?

How is this for a curly one? I’ve heard touchies called all sorts of things but never an “object”.

At a recent NRL Touch Judge meeting, the question arose whether a player in possession of the ball brushes a touch judge who is still in touch, is in or out. One school of thought was that he was an “object” which is in touch and therefore the player is out. I initially scoffed at the idea but Richard Johnston has caused me to have my doubts. I will be contacting Stuart Cummings in England for his thoughts on the matter. Stay tuned.

EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY OF REFEREEING

I have studied a tape sent over by Stuart Cummings and designed to assist in the decision making process of referees. I am very impressed and want to replicate and improve on the model. Therefore, I intend to

hold a work shop for Level 2 referee coaches to create a laws training tape along similar lines to be used by (less experienced) referees to hone their decision making processes. Those who wish to participate, **please let me know asap**. I anticipate that we will run the workshop in the NRL Referees' Offices at Telstra Stadium on a Saturday around the end of May. Places may be limited so first in may be best dressed.

NRL/HAS REFEREES' ACADEMY

Very handsome photograph attached. As a bit of interest, and to bring some reality into the situation, I have attached a photo of the 1987 inter district squad, complete with staff. I can count 13 first grade referees in the photo, although I may be wrong. The person who can name, and nominate where they are, the most first grade centremen, wins a prize. Ie, Mick Stone, bottom row, second from left. Let's see how good you are.

CORNER POSTS

Frank Samyia was concerned that laws get changed at the whim of the Andrew Voss's of the world. God forbid!

"I have heard rumblings in the corridors that corners posts may be abolished as they as seen as unnecessary in the modern game.

Is this true?

I would have thought that for those of us not involved in running NRL lines (ie 99.99% of us) actually do need them to make decisions. I think their most important use is judging whether or not a kick goes into touch just either side of the corner post.

Imagine the scenario where a ball is kicked in general play towards the touch line from inside the 40m - if it is close it could mean the difference between a scrum 10m out with a feed to the kicking team or a 20m optional restart to the defending team. With no corner posts it would be frightfully difficult to judge unless you were to run in field and get in line with the trajectory of the kick (don't even want to go there)."

Be happy. Don't worry....yet!

SPORTS RAGE SEMINAR

I have been invited to address the IHNSW Sports Rage Seminar to be held next Friday 30 April in Sydney. It isn't to teach people how to rage but endeavouring to establish ways and means to control and eventually eliminate incidents of sports rage. If anyone has some ideas which I can convey to the Seminar or anecdotal evidence of incidents, please let me know.

MICHAEL STONE

ARLRA PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE CONSULTANT

NRL REFEREES' CO-ORDINATOR