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Memorandum

To:	ARLRA Referees' Coaches
From:	Michael Stone
Date:	21 April 2005
Subject:	MS 007/05

LEVEL 1 COURSE

David Jay has asked me to advertise the fact that there is a proposed Level 1 course to be held on 8,9 10 July next. Those knowing people who may be interested please contact their State Association as soon as possible.

THIS WEEK'S GENTLE ENQUIRIES

From Frank Samyia.

"I refer to Friday Night's game between Penrith and Melbourne.

When Scott Hill had the ball knocked out of his hands by a Penrith defender as he was going over to score, why did play resume with a 20m restart? I would have thought that the defender knocking the ball out and the ball bouncing dead would have resulted in a goal line dropout."

Fair enough question really. It all comes down to intent. Did the defender play at the ball with the intention of STEALING it? If he did, then it could have been play on as there was only one in the tackle. The referee on the day was of the opinion that the hand struck the arm of Hill anyway and not the ball. It did strike the arm but also the bottom of the ball. However, the last thing the ball touched prior to going dead was Hill's hand so the Referee gets the restart right, even if by good fortune rather than anything else. The real question should be.....How would all of you go with that level of scrutiny on each and every decision that you make in every game that you referee? Tough isn't it?

From Tim Kennedy.

“Just saw an interesting incident in the Sharks v Cowboys game tonight on Fox Sports. At around about the 10th minute of the second half the Cowboys were penalised while in possession deep in the Sharks half. No problems with the penalty as the Cowboy player clearly never got to his feet to play the ball. What happened next was quite bazaar (SIC) and I haven't seen any replays of what transpired so I could be mistaken but this is what I thought I saw happen. After receiving the penalty Brett Kimmorley had the ball in his hands and was preparing to kick for touch. As he was moving in to take his penalty kick he twirled the ball in his hands and then dropped the ball on to his boot performing a neat little drop punt which he immediately caught and then continued running before kicking the ball out over the touch-line on the full. When I saw him do this I thought he was being sneaky and taking a quick tap as he clearly kicked the ball but when he continued on and kicked the ball into touch I was confused - he had kicked the ball twice. Tim Mander was the referee and he did make some comment to Kimmorley following the incident but what was said was not clear. Cronulla continued play with their free kick. When is a kick not a kick? In my opinion, Tim Mander would have been correct if he ordered a scrum from the point that Kimmorley kicked the ball into touch on the full since Kimmorley had already taken his penalty kick and the ball was then in general play before he kicked it out. Pedantic yes but also a correct ruling! Have you seen this incident and have an opinion on what did happen and what should have happened? Was Tim Mander aware of what Brett Kimmorley did? What was said by Tim Mander to Brett Kimmorley? It did happen very quickly and it was a strange incident but a referee should notice these things and rule accordingly rather than giving the benefit of the doubt to the player. In so many parts of the game the referee has to act on what they see and maybe Tim Mander simply never saw Brett Kimmorley kick the ball the first time but given that he did mention something to him straight after the kick found touch I don't think that's the case this time.”

Very observant Tim (Kennedy of course, not Mander!). Kimmorley was getting a “feel” for the ball I guess and was clearly not kicking the ball to bring it into play. If you award a goal line drop out and a defending player picks the discarded ball up near the dead ball line and transfers the ball to the kicker by way of a punt kick, would you penalize him for an incorrect kick? Of course not, because you know that he is not attempting to bring the ball back into play. Tim Mander was aware that Kimmorley dropped the ball onto his foot and moved on towards the mark. He determined that it was not a kick to restart play. He also doesn't recall saying anything to Kimmorley. Having looked at the incident again, he certainly understands your concerns. It comes down to common sense on this occasion.

From Eric Ancich.

“What is the situation when one team has 14 players on the field and a touch judge so advises the referee? Is there a penalty? If yes, which law has been breached? Is it just a case of noting the occurrence in the match report for the non-offending team to take action with the Group if they so choose?”

The law which was breached is Law 1 of Section 4, which says “The game shall be played by two teams each consisting of not more than thirteen players on the field at any one time.” As I said in 08/004, in response to this question,

“A 14th player illegally enters the field of play after disobeying a touch judge's instruction (completely hypothetical of course). The touch judge immediately comes on and reports him to the referee. Where is the penalty awarded.?”

Citing personal experience, I said “where he comes into play.” However, Alex Mangovsky suggests otherwise. He said:-

“An alternate argument would be that the player in question committed misconduct the moment he crossed the touchline making 14 players on the field. As he was spotted at this point in time by the touch judge then I believe you should penalize him where he crossed the line (or 10 metres in from that point).”

Fair point. However, you wouldn't penalize him ten metres in. That is reserved for a breach actually occurring **in touch**. Therefore, as close to the touch line as possible would be the position if he doesn't enter play but the touch judge sees him enter the field of play illegally. Well done Alex.”

MINI PENALTY FROM 004/05

From Neville Norris.

“In response to the article about the Mini Penalty. I have some trouble correlating the Modified Law and the International Law. They are different. Mini/Mod 14 c. from a Penalty Kick the ball is touched by a member of the non-kicking team before entering touch and International: 13.4.(b).If the ball touches an opponent in flight and then enters touch, a scrum shall be formed etc. I haven't been able to determine why they should be so different. Perhaps a call to the author of the Modified games would help. Maybe they should be the same. I personally believe that they should both say... If a ball touches or is touched by an opponent... Incidentally, Modified scrums are 10 metres in field. Also, all of the following are the same and mean the same, accidental strike, rebound, ricochet, the ball touches and the player is touched by the ball. (See

Glossary). They all mean that the player was totally ignorant of the presence of the ball at that particular time. Hopefully, the above wording anomalously (sic) will be corrected”.

Anyone like to respond?

MOVEMENT, SURRENDER.

From one Perry Langley.

“I have been looking everywhere to find out about the call of "Movement" when a player is tackled, but I cannot find anything on the NRL website and I cannot find anything on your ARLRA site.

I spotted the "Email the CEO" link and I am not sure if it is the right way to ask questions on the rules, but there seems to be no other way.

I thought the "Movement" call was to be used when a player is tackled but moves off the mark thereby gaining an advantage if the defensive side is to remain 10m away. It seems that the movement is called constantly in NRL games, even when the tackled player hasn't had a chance to move forward.

Can you please enlighten me about the Movement call or point me to where I can find out information about it (and other calls such as Surrender, etc.).”

I replied:-

The "movement" call is to the tackler. As you would no doubt know, once a tackle has been completed the tackler must immediately release the tackled player. The Head referee's coach, Robert Finch met with the NRL club coaches and one of the things which they spoke about was effective vocabulary to be used by referees to player. "Movement" represents one of the key terms used by referees. It prompts the tackler(s) to immediately move off the tackled player in circumstances where the ball carrier has "won" the tackle contest.

"Surrender" refers to the situation where a player surrenders his run to the line. In other words, he does not contest the line in the hope that he can land hands and knees and jump up to play the ball quickly. That is seen to not be in the best interests of the game and the surrender call indicates to the tackler that he can lay on the tackled player longer to negate any advantage which he would otherwise gain. He can also work the player on the ground and spin to the front. Another player cannot, however, flop on the tackle.”

I hope that helps a few others to understand too.

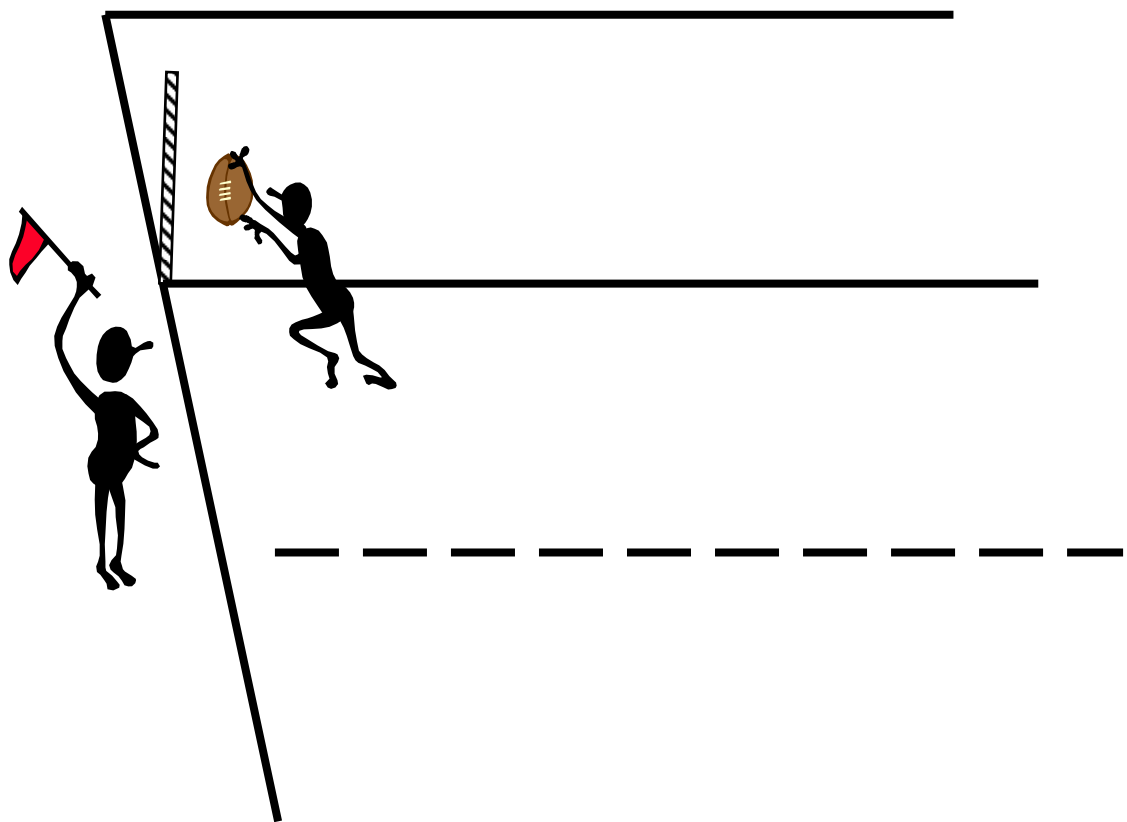
A GREAT COACHING INITIATIVE FROM PARRAMATTA

This is something we can all adopt. I've already suggested that Michael reid gives me a new ruling for each of my newsletters. Look at this.

Ruling of the Week

An attacking player in possession crosses the goal line and claims a try. In your view the player has clearly stayed away from the touch line, yet the touch judge is standing out from the post with his flag raised.

What is your ruling?



The Laws

Section 16. 10 The referee shall accept the decision of an official touch judge relating to touch and touch in-goal play and kicks at goal.

Notes 10. A touch judge is at all times under the control of the Referee and may be dismissed and replaced if, in the opinion of the referee, he can no longer be considered to be neutral. In this case any decision made by a touch judge leading to his dismissal may be disregarded."

Don't take your eye off the ball.

MICHAEL STONE

ARLRA PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE CONSULTANT

NRL REFEREES' CO-ORDINATOR