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Memorandum

To:	ARLRA Referees' coaches
From:	Michael Stone
Date:	31 July 2003
Subject:	MS 010/03

TRAINING VIDEOS

When I think about the days when we would give our eye teeth for just one respectable educational video tape.....

You should all be in possession of the video "Coaching Referees 2003 #1". If not, contact your State Association. They have it, as well as a copy for all Associations.

"Coaching Referees 2003 #2" has been edited by the CRLRA South Group and all that needs to be done is some minor typos and proof viewing before the script is written. Then, probably late next week, an order for 400 will be placed with the production company. Sometime in the next month it will be distributed.

In 1992, Don Furner, then NSWRL Referees' Director, produced a video entitled "Anatomy of a Forward Pass". I have been commissioned by Robert Finch to reproduce a number of copies for distribution to various media outlets in the forlorn hope that someone amongst them might learn something about the Laws of the Game. On the way, we might get a few more done to distribute to Associations as it is a tremendous aid and explains completely why the law relating to forward passes is worded the way that it is.

Sydney based Level 2 coaches met recently at Harbord (see later) and amongst other things, decided that a video tape specifically designed for mini-mod games should be produced. Text of the Email from David Jay follows:-

"As agreed at the last meeting of the Level 2 Sydney Based Coaches, our next project will be to produce a coaching video tape specialized on Mini/Mod. It was agreed that each Association would review the Grand Finals of mini/mod in their own districts and prepare incidents for review for putting onto a final tape..."

The reason for choosing Grand Finals to review is that apparently all are professionally taped and this is important for the final quality of our coaching tape. Remember, when selecting incidents, consider what is the coaching benefit of showing the incident. We must be able to write a script which will provoke discussion, we don't just want a tape of errors but rather incidents where we can ask WHY????

In coming up with incidents, consider the following headings:

*Interesting Rulings
Safe Play Code
Positional Play
Communication with Players
Signals
The Play the Ball
Advantage Play
Anything else?????*

To make the editing process more efficient at our day at Telstra Stadium, it would be very much appreciated if each Association could have already copied their incidents onto one tape, preferably in the order of the headings above. All it takes to do this is to have two video machines side by side cabled together, playing on one and recording on the other. If anyone is unsure of how to do this, please just give me a call. If we don't do it this way, we will be spending all our time (as we did last time) looking for the incidents and REMEMBER this time we wont have the times from Foxtel and Channel 9 to go by!"

David asked me to extend an invitation to all other Level 2 coaches to join in the Sydney project so that it can truly be a National initiative. David will co-ordinate this one, so get back to him if interested. Wow. See what networking can achieve.

MINUTES OF SYDNEY BASED LEVEL 2 COACHES MEETING

The meeting was held at Harbord and conducted under the strict control of Noel Bissett. Here is what happened.

“Business Plans:

All present gave a summary of the progress & success experienced working to the original plans submitted last year. It was decided by all in attendance, they will continue to update & advance their own individual Association Plans.

Skills Training:

The success of the organized Skills Session held at St. Mary's earlier this season was discussed at length. Dennis to be approached about utilizing his Coaches in preparing another of these sessions early next season. (Noel to arrange).

Brett Lynch reported Penrith involved their Advisory Board personnel at sessions & has proven most beneficial.

Alan Farlow raised an issue that new drills are being developed & not distributed. All agreed any future drills be circulated to ensure consistency.

David Jay reported that the Level 1 Courses now included practical sessions of deriving drills for certain incidents. David will distribute relevant Skills Drills to all in the future.

Recruitment:

An issue was raised concerning development of referees in schools & not being passed on to relevant associations for further advancement.

Les Mathews indicated that NSWRA are presently addressing this problem & will advise of future progress in this area.

Coaching Video's:

David Jay introduced the latest Coaching Video. All present congratulated David on his presentation & the quality of the tape agreeing how beneficial this type of Educational tool is. All members were provided with a copy.

An open forum then discussed where do we go from here in respect to 'what further areas should we be catering for.' It was decided by the meeting to develop a tape for Mini Mod. The following members were nominated to provide suitable incidents of Mini Mod games to David Jay for Coordination of the master tape.

Michael Reid, Michael Quailey, Tim Robinson, Brett Lynch, Jack O'Sullivan & Rob Peard. Dave may be contacting those not in attendance also for their input. All taped incidents are to be with David no later than 1st. October 03.

Buddy System:

Jack O'Sullivan presented a video & literature of how West's are operating the Buddy system. General discussion followed. Jack was congratulated along with Col White on this initiative & the benefits shown to younger members.

Jack also indicated the video was available on loan to any interested Association.

Personnel for Level 1 Course:

Meeting decided there was no real need to prepare personnel to attend Level 1.

The important issue is to identify suitable personnel.

David indicated members of the Junior Rep's had attended & had performed well.

Critiquing on Field Performances:

Along with all the information contained in the ARL Coaching manual & individual requirements for local Associations it was decided there was know need to explore this area at this time."

I suggested that for future meetings we concentrate on one or two items ensuring that important issues are given time to be covered effectively allowing maximum input by all”.

I've been to some meetings that would have taken a month to get through all that. I note particularly that the coaches were evaluating their own performances against their business (or action) plans. Is my job done now?

ILLAWARRA'S BUDDY SYSTEM

Illawarra have a system where all reports are collated and placed on an excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet indicates when the referees have been observed, who by, the observations by the buddy, age, grade capability etc, etc. Here is an example of the type of report given to a young hopeful referee.

“Referee:

Buddy / Assessor:

Grade: 10-1v....

Venue:

Report: What a great display for someone who hasn't been doing it for very long. I hadn't seen since the first game she did at and her refereeing has improved out of sight. She didn't miss one safe-play breach that I saw and she dealt with them without hesitation and with the confidence of a professional. All of her rulings were spot on with great communication with the players. The most pleasing part of her game and one which demonstrates her confidence was the fact that she was able to very efficiently communicate why she had made the rulings and she did this succinctly without wasting any time at all. What more can I say. has really benefited from her enthusiasm at training. The game didn't present the opportunity to observe her in a really tight or volatile situation but maybe that's because she had such good control on safe-play. She'd probably handle such a situation very well but it's a bit too early to push her into games that have that potential.

Performance: A very good overall confident display. She had no trouble whatsoever with this grade but we shouldn't push her upwards too fast considering that she's only very young herself.”

For a youngster, don't you think that is a great confidence building report.

Something from NRL next report. I just thought that there was too much other good stuff to be reported to you about yourselves and your networking. In the meantime, good luck, clear rucks and good ten in the future.

MICHAEL STONE

NRL REFEREES' CO-ORDINATOR

ARLRA PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE CONSULTANT