



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 Coaches
From:	Michael Stone
Date:	18 September 2003
Subject:	MS013/03

“GRAPPLE TACKLE?”

Talk about fortune telling! In MS011 I foresaw that there would be something further come of the “steer riding” tackle referred to by Dennis Spagarino. The over reaction to a couple of hold down penalties given by Tim Mander in the Canberra/Melbourne game gave rise to a tremendous amount of publicity, not much of it well meaning.

Tim penalised for holding down. The fact that the defenders were holding by the head was irrelevant to him. Since then there has been a lot of publicity which, as we all know, tends to impact on other Leagues. For the benefit of all concerned, it is important to discuss the matter in the context of the Laws of the Game.

If a tackler makes contact with the head or neck of an opponent intentionally, it is an offence in terms of Section 15 (1) (b). So if the tackler puts a headlock on a ball carrier when effecting a tackle, he is doing so intentionally and is in breach of the law. He should be penalised.

If the tackler waits for the tackle to be complete and then tries to grab the ball carrier by the head, he is still in breach of Law 15 (1) (b) and also in breach of the Law which states that when a tackle is completed, the ball carrier should be “immediately” released. If the tackler fails to do so, he should be penalised.

It really is as simple as that. Don't be mistaken, your referees will see some of this in the near future.

VOCAB

All clubs use their own vocabulary. It is consistent throughout the club from the lowest grade to the highest. Robert Finch has attempted to implement our own version of vocab to enable referees and touch judges to converse in an appropriate and timely fashion in familiar terms. It doesn't really matter what the terminology is, just so long as it is consistent and readily understood.

The importance of utilizing a consistent and readily understood vocab should be obvious to all as most of us now use on field electronic communication equipment. It can be a wonderful asset, but I've seen it used poorly and it can be detrimental to good performance.

Below is the basic vocab used in NRL matches. It may be of some assistance if and when you wish to create your own.

TOUCH JUDGE VOCAB

VOCAB	MEANING
<p style="text-align: center;">OFF</p> <p>Example of vocab:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 off on right/left • Hill off on right/left • Smith off - Kick • All off – Kick 	<p style="text-align: center;">Offside call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inside 10 metres • Offside from a kick • Scrum
<p style="text-align: center;">KNOCK ON</p> <p>Example of Vocab:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knock on Manly • Knock on both ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball propelled forward
FORWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass has gone forward
LOST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attacking team has lost ball.
STRIPPED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball has been stripped in the tackle.
LEG PULL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play the ball
HAND ON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand on ball
HELD BACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference of attacking support player. • Interference of player looking to charge down the ball.
BROKE EARLY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back rowers broke
INSIDE 40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball kicked inside the 40m line.
<p style="text-align: center;">INTERFERENCE</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference leg pull • Interference hand on • Interference stripped • Interference held back • Interference chaser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interference in specific area of the game. Ie Kicks, ruck
<p style="text-align: center;">PLAYER STANDING IN RUCK SLEEPER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleeper in ruck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When an attacking player deliberately stands near the ruck to obstruct defenders

DOWNTOWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players leaving early on a kick
ATTACKING THE HEAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attacked the Head of the player
DRIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attacking player interfering with a defender whilst in the process of making a tackle

Now I know that there will be some resistance to change. There always is. Before rejecting this though, try it.

RULING

Wayne Wilson wanted clarification of a ruling after watching an NRL match recently. He wanted to know where the handover occurs after the fifth play the ball. The handover occurs either at the point of the sixth tackle or where a scrum would normally be set – but, in the latter case, not closer than 10 metres from touch.

So, a player tackled for the sixth time 1 metre from the opponent’s goal line, the handover is on the spot. If he knocks on 1 metre from the goal line, the handover is given where a scrum would have normally been set, ie 10 metres out.

VIDEOS AND LEVEL 2 COURSE

The NSW Country South video has arrived and will be distributed during the off season to all coaches. Also a video “Anatomy of a Forward Pass” will be distributed to all Associations to assist with the understanding of that area of the Law. Courtesy of the Board of Directors of the ARLRA.

Another Level 2 course is to be conducted on the weekend commencing 14 November for Sydney based personnel. I will be in contact shortly with the participants to inform them of pre course requirements.

In the meantime, good luck to all referees and coaches still involved in finals footy.

MICHAEL STONE
 NRL REFEREES CO-ORDINATOR
 ARLRA PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE CONSULTANT