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Memorandum

To:	ARLRA Referees' Coaches
From:	Michael Stone
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Subject:	MS 013/04

BREEDING SUCCESS

There are many factors which bring about success as there are a plethora of definitions of success.

Success for many has nothing to do with making it to the A grade Association final or the NRL. It can simply be reaching your true potential. Whatever the individual's goal may be, there is a common thread pervading at all levels and that is a passion to reach your true potential.

For this to occur there is a need to look at those aspects which lead us all to achieve.

The individual *There needs to be a passion and a love for the sport. To be driven, there is a need to live and breathe the dream. One must also be prepared to take responsibility for ones actions and their outcomes.*

Developing the Skills *Not all referees are naturally gifted, so there is a basic requirement for hard work and to be self driven to develop the skills and strategies for success. Such skills can be, simply put, understanding the nuances of the game and then applying the physical requirements or communication skills to achieve player concurrence.*

The Association *Here we can either make or break the referee's desire to achieve success. Associations need to embrace change and ensure its members are provided with every opportunity to reach their true potential.*

Associations need to review their core business which should be a focus on Knowledge of Laws, On field Application of the Laws, Appropriate

Fitness Levels, Relevant Skill Related Drills Training and regular quality feedback by qualified personnel.

Coaches of Match Officials Such people within Associations, working closely with NRAS Supervisors, can ensure a positive culture is developed and maintained. Much has been written in previous memos of the importance of composure and the ability of referees to position themselves at 'on field meetings', Coaches of Match Officials in their mentoring role can be a valuable facilitator in such areas for aspiring referees.

Most referees have a dream to be successful when they take up the challenge to cross the white line. With all the concerns regarding high attrition rates in officiating it is essential that direction is provided via Associations to ensure the dream is kept alive and success is our attainable goal.

The above paper was submitted by Richard Johnston. There is something there for everyone.

RULINGS

It has been a while since Frank Samyia send an obscure incident in for clarification. So here goes the latest.

“Two teams, each comprising the full complement of 13 players run out on to the field to commence a game. One player from Team A (for reasons best known to himself) before the kickoff begins to verbally abuse the referee. The abuse warrants the player’s dismissal from the field and the referee sends the player from the field. With the game yet to have kicked off, is Team A still entitled to have 13 players start the game or must they play the full 80 minutes with 12 players?”

You have excelled yourself here Frank. Here goes my response, aided by some advice from Richard who incidentally believes that Frank has far too much time on his hands.

As the referee has control of all players at all times when they are on the playing AREA, he has the power of dismissal. The player’s team will play a man short. Any correspondence in this matter is most welcome.

Following on from the question about a drop out going the length of the field, landing in the playing area and going dead at the other end, result optional 20 metre restart, comes this gem from Paul Mossman in the far north.

“Team A, the defending team, receives a penalty in their own 20m zone. A player from Team A takes the penalty and attempts a kick for touch. Through some reason (whether it be act of God, stupidity or absolute

brilliance) the ball goes dead-in-goal or touch-in-goal. This is either on the full, after having landed in the field of play, or playing area.

Rule 8 (3) states "If the ball goes dead in the opponents' in-goal from a penalty kick (not necessarily a kick at goal) the game is restarted with a drop-out by a defending player from the centre of the 20m line".

What's the decision, bearing in mind that the rule says "'in the opponents' in-goal"? It seems that it can't be a 20m drop-out when considering rule 8 (3) and it can't be a goal-line drop out when considering rule8(4).

My guess would be that a 20m drop-out would be awarded, seeing as there is commonality in the scenario, save for the fact that he kicked into his own in-goal area. However that decision seems harsh as Team A then loses possession through the drop-out.

This scenario nearly happened up here last weekend - except that a player from the defending side managed to kick the ball dead before it crossed the line."

Don't over complicate matters. A defending player last touched the ball before it went dead. Goal line drop out.

From Peter Digby in Newcastle.

"I have been getting flack over the Clint Newton Sin Binning, in the Knights Cowboys game. I believe the right thing happened, but I keep getting told a memo came out saying that a penalty is all that will occur, and the player won't be sin binned."

Refer to Memo 001/04, where I said "In the NRL ..., when a ball is stolen by a defender in his own in goal, a penalty try will not be an option. The action may be penalized as it is still illegal, however, no penalty try."

TWO IN THE TACKLE OR NOT

From Tony Fletcher in Group 9.

"The general consensus was that the player, in possession of the ball, had broken the tackle when ALL tacklers (two or more) had dropped off ;and so when the other player came in to effect his tackle (and steal the ball) it was a " new " tackle situation and as such play would be allowed to continue.

It was also pointed out that if there was any doubt as to the tackle situation at the time when ALL tackling players " dropped off " then the referee should give a verbal instruction to " play on " or shout " held " as the case may be.(Section 11 Law 6.)"

Your interpretation is correct. See Notes on Page 26, Section 11, Law 9.

GROUNDING THE BALL

Following some spirited debate by NRL Referee's squad, the following memo emerged from the office of the Chief Operating Officer of the NRL. Note that it was issued as a result of a direction from the ARL, your controlling body.

"The NRL Referees' squad has this week discussed concerns about the interpretation of the Law relating to "Grounding of the ball".

The concerns revolve around the interpretation of the definition of "Grounding the Ball" found in the Glossary on page 5 of the Laws of the Game. The relevant part of the definition lies in paragraph (c) which reads:-

"...dropping on the ball and covering it with the part of the body above the waist and below the neck, the ball itself being on the ground."

On a strict interpretation of the wording of the Law in the past, it has been deemed that the ball must already be on the ground when the upper torso comes into contact with it. In other words, a player cannot bring a bouncing ball down with that part of his body to score a try.

In the Newcastle v Brisbane match on Sunday, a try was disallowed after the ball contacted an attacking player's elbow and therefore he was correctly ruled to have knocked the ball on. However, as the ball was bouncing at the time and was subsequently brought to ground by the player's upper torso, the question has been raised as to how the match would be restarted if indeed there had been no contact with the elbow and the try had been disallowed under this strict interpretation.

Subsequent correspondence with the ARL and RFL has resulted in the following interpretation of the Law now being agreed:

"The ball may be brought to ground by the "upper torso" of a player and provided that the ball is on the ground at the same time as it is covered by that part of the player's body, the ball will be deemed to have been correctly grounded".

In applying this interpretation to the Newcastle incident last weekend, if the attacking player had not previously knocked the ball on, but instead the ball hit his chest and was then taken to ground under his upper torso, a try would have been awarded."

HAS/NRL REFEREES' ACADEMY

The Academy for 2004 has been completed. Graduation will be held in Newcastle on Monday night, 6 September. Congratulations to those who participated and to the enthusiasm which you all demonstrated. It has given us all at the NRL a great deal of confidence moving forward.

It appears likely that Hunter will host another Academy next year and either Metropolitan West or Illawarra (South) may be included in the programme. The Southern option could include referees from Group 6, 7, 16, Illawarra, Cronulla and Canberra, depending upon its location. Interested candidates should contact the 2004 Graduates to determine the Academy's benefits.

LEVEL 2 MEETING

A meeting of the metropolitan Level 2 coaches is to be held at Marrickville Anzac Club on Tuesday, 10 August. Amongst other things, it is intended to pilot the latest videos from the ARLRA. As mentioned in earlier correspondence, these are on Decision making and Communication.

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