ASSISTANT REFEREES "*Lonely Planet*" GUIDE TO TOUCH JUDGING

Pre Match

- Come prepared and focused
- Know exactly what the referee requires from the 'team of three' briefing ***(Importance of pre-match briefing cannot be emphasised enough now. Needs to be concise, accurate, and relevant to what is happening AT THE TIME).***

During the match

- Understand that you are not there to watch a game and enjoy the outcome ***(If you want to enjoy the whole game –borrow the DVD and watch it later!)***
- Know when to talk and when NOT to talk
- When you do talk, follow the ABC principle:
  - **A** – Accuracy
  - **B** – Brevity
  - **C** - Clarity
- Anticipate what might happen
- Be positioned correctly to provide the correct advice
- Be prepared to be an official of the game and not just an advisor
  - If you feel there is a critical decision to be made and the referee is not acting on it – have acceptable communication strategies ready.
  - It is important that the correct outcome is applied and not just the correct process.
- Correctly observe "trends" that are occurring in the game – not isolated incidences
- With Foul Play, be clear and concise with:-
  1. Number and colour
  2. What happened and where it happened
  3. Recommendation - only when asked
  4. Restate facts, if you feel the incorrect sanctions has been determined by the referee
  5. Ensure that the correct restart and/or location of punitive action are applied.
- Be supportive of the referee at all times

Post match

- Be supportive of referees performance
- Don't give personal opinions unless they are asked for by the referee
- Do not discuss the referee's performance with ANYONE – ***if you have done your job correctly, you will not know how to answer this question anyway.***
- BE SUPPORTIVE!

[1] Preseason Seminar – 22 February 2009