



ACTRRA - The Whistler!



Issue 2, Aug 2013

Welcome back!

This is the 2nd edition of The Whistler. Thanks to those that have read the first edition. It appears some of you have taken notice and applied what was being asked - Thank You. If you haven't read the first issue, then please take the time to review it.

We are now coming to the business end of the junior season where teams are vying to make the finals – and ultimately compete in a Grand Final. It is now time for all referees to start thinking the same way – by putting in their best performances so you can be considered for the honour of refereeing in the final series. It's now up to you. The referee coaches and mentors will be on the look out to see those referees applying the correct laws and managing the game effectively. Are you ready?

Website

Regularly check our website www.actrra.org.au as it contains many news items and has useful resources to help you be a better referee.

Punch = Red Card!

Recently I have noticed that a number of Yellow Card (YC) reports are reporting the player punched or threw punches. ***In juniors, any player throwing a punch is an automatic RED CARD; NO ifs, NO buts, NO maybe!*** If you identify a player throw a punch, whether it connects or not, then it is a RED CARD. If a player retaliates with punches they also receive a RC. There can be no leniency on this issue – apply zero tolerance. If you send off, make sure you get ALL the player's details (Name, Number, team, time) before you show the red card and tell them why they are being sent off. Confirm the player details with the team coach/manager at the end of the game. (below U13s the player can be replaced, from U13 and up, the player cannot be replaced). **Complete the Send off report**

Send-off Reports

The Send Off report form is found on the ACTRRA website at <http://www.actrra.org.au/send-off-juniors.html>. Send off reports **must be completed by 11am Monday morning** so that the player can be called to the

judicial hearing. Unfortunately many send off reports are very poorly written which has meant a number of players are getting off. When completing a report please make sure you give accurate details that precisely describe the incident that YOU saw. Write it so that the judiciary members can accurately understand exactly what happened. Use proper English with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. Before you send the complete online form, make sure you write it up in draft first and have someone (an adult) check it for you. This was covered in the pre-season seminar with examples. Read here for help:

<http://www.actrra.org.au/u19-specific.html>

No Front Row = forfeit?

The local ACTJRU rule 46 D says that if a U13 and above team turn up to a game without a suitably trained and experienced front row and request uncontested scrums before the first scrum, then they will forfeit the game. If faced with this issue you do not need to get involved or decide the outcome, request the coaches sort it out with ACTJRU. If during a game, and after the first contested scrum, a team request to go uncontested then you MUST comply. If however a player is asking to go uncontested scrums because they told you they are injured, then that player should be asked to leave the field (Rule 30C/Law 3.9). Furthermore, if you allow uncontested scrums, the team that did not request the uncontested scrums are permitted a Free-Kick option (in place of a scrum). Please make sure you read up on Rule 46 D at

<http://www.brumbies.com.au/Grassroots/ACTJuniorRugbyUnion.aspx>

Behind the ropes!

Referees should ensure that all persons, including players and coaching staff are behind the ropes at all times. The only people permitted in front of the ropes are the TJs and the team waterboy. The team first-aider should remain behind the ropes until they need to attend to an injured player. You should enforce everyone to be behind the ropes at all times. If players/coaches refuse to do so and think they are permitted to be there, then simply stop the game and tell them the game will not restart until they are

behind the ropes. This is a safety thing, for you, the ARs/TJs and those people!

Stopping for injury

There is no rule or law that says you **must** stop for an injured player if the ball is in play even if other players are yelling at you. It is a good habit to tell each team coach that it is ok for their first aider to enter the field of play for an injured player. **You should stop for an injured player when:**

- ✓ they are in the line of play (so other players do not run or fall into them)
- ✓ the ball is dead - check on the injured
- ✓ it is obviously very serious and the player needs immediate first aid

It is better to err on the side of safety for an injured player (especially below U13), but you are permitted to let play continue if the injured player is behind back play.

Squeeze Ball – a no no!

It has become more common that tackled players are attempting to execute a 'squeeze ball'. This is where the ball carrier lays over the ball and plays it under and between their legs -like laying an egg! This play is illegal in juniors and dangerous (as it puts that player in a prone position and exposes the neck). If you see it you should stop play, remind the players of both sides to stop the action, and restart with a scrum of the team in possession. If they do it again the player should be penalised (not release).

Other Laws to note

- scrum push – below U13 is 1m, U13 and above is 1.5m (FK)
- ensure quick taps are taken correctly
- early lifts at lineout can deny a contest
- do not tolerate foul language – no matter who it's directed at (PK)
- **BE EARLY – arrive 30mins before your game.**

Finals Seminar

In mid-August there will be a weekday afternoon finals seminar. If you're hoping to be considered for a finals appointment then you must attend. The seminar will address finals specific issues and will not go for too long. Details will be sent out soon.

Ask, Tell, Penalise!
Dennis Beissner

U19 Referee Coordinator