
Match Official Development

Distribution List:

Referee Society Secretaries
Federation Secretaries
Area Training Teams
Match Official Panel Managers

Introduction:

Welcome to the 7th Match Official Update for the 2014-15 season. The countdown to RWC 2015 is well underway! The rest of the year is going to be very busy indeed.

In these updates we aim to provide you with useful information, which can be actioned, distributed or for information.

We hope that this helps to ensure timely communication and welcome any feedback you have on this process together with any ways in which we could improve further.

Should you have any questions in relation to law clarifications or changes please contact our dedicated service; Laws@RFU.com

Michael D Patz – RFU Match Official Development Manager

| | Update 7 – Friday 06th March 2015 |
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| 1 | For Action |
| 1.1 | <p>Sennheiser Radio Channel's</p> <p>The RFU has received the Licence renewal for the Radio Equipment (Sennheiser) to be used on Channel 38 – Frequency 606.500 – 613.500 MHz. The Licence is a 2 year Renewal to the existing licence.</p> <p>Please ensure that all of your members who use such equipment only use the frequency 606.500 – 613.500MHz, I have seen Match Observers & Referee Coaches using frequencies outside of this during the season.</p> <p>Ultimately using a different frequency will carry a fine.</p> |
| 1.2 | <p>England Rugby Women's Officiating Programme</p> <p>The England Rugby Women's Officiating Programme exists in order to establish a network of female match officials at all levels so that we can help promote and develop female officials involved with rugby union.</p> <p>Our aims are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Attract, engage and retain female match officials in the game.· Provide a network of support for members of the Programme.· Promote female officiating by raising the profile of female match officials in England and overseas. |

- Inspire female officials to reach their potential at whatever level they operate.
- Offer a pathway for talented female officials to England Rugby, European and World Rugby representation.
- Provide support, development and training for all members of the tiered programme.
- Work with stakeholders to enable officials to reach their potential. Stakeholders include referee societies, Federations, Regional Groups, England Rugby's National Team of Match Officials and Professional Referee Unit.
- Inspire a new generation of females to take up officiating and remain involved in the game.

To that end, we would like to ensure we maintain an accurate database of female match officials and would be extremely grateful if you could complete the attached table and return to claredaniels@RFU.com asap.

| Name | Referee Society | Grade | Phone Number | E mail address | Other |
|------|-----------------|-------|--------------|----------------|-------|
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(Please add relevant comment if necessary ie: referee likely to be upgraded at end of season, restricted availability, transfer, etc).

Please do not hesitate to contact Clare (claredaniels@RFU.com) if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

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For Distribution

2.1

World Rugby Law Clarification 1 – 2015

Union/ HP Ref Manager
Law Reference
Date

Joel Jutge
Law 5
February 23, 2015

Request

Following controversy after the Scotland v Wales game regarding the decision by the referee to blow the whistle for the end of the match, we would like a clarification in Law.

Scenario 1

A try is scored in the last minute of a game. The conversion is kicked and after the kick, there is between 5-10 seconds left on the clock, i.e. 79:50.

Question:

Does the referee allow for a restart to be made or does he blow the whistle for the end of the match, when the clock shows 80 (i.e. 40 minutes)? There are a set of Law variations for Sevens which are different. In this specific case, why not consider the application of the Sevens variation which is clearer and could avoid such controversy?

Law for fifteen-a-side:

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| | <p>5.7 (e) <i>“If time expires and the ball is not dead, or an awarded scrum or lineout has not been completed, the referee allows play to continue until the next time that the ball becomes dead. The ball becomes dead when the referee would have awarded a scrum, lineout, an option to the non-infringing team, drop out or after a conversion or successful penalty kick at goal. If a scrum has to be reset, the scrum has not been completed. If time expires and a mark, free kick or penalty kick is then awarded, the referee allows play to continue.</i></p> <p><i>(f) If time expires after a try has been scored the referee allows time for the conversion kick to be taken.”</i></p> <p>Variation for Seven-a-side – in practice: The team scoring a try within the last 40 seconds <i>may</i> however take the kick or not and, providing they decline the kick <i>or</i> take the kick with time remaining, a restart will occur and the match will end at the next stoppage within Law. Time is taken from the strike on the ball.</p> <p>Scenario 2 Can the same logic be applied to a penalty award at the end of the game, e.g. what happens if a penalty is awarded at 79:50 and the team wants to kick to touch and take a lineout?</p> <p>Clarification of the Designated Members of the Rugby Committee</p> <p>Scenario 1 A team scoring a try near the end of the match may take the conversion kick or not. Providing they decline to take the kick or take the kick within the time remaining, a restart will occur and the match will end at the next stoppage within Law. Time is taken from the strike on the ball. In the specific query where the conversion was kicked at 79:50 then the referee should allow for a restart.</p> <p>Scenario 2 The same logic applies, i.e. as long as the penalty kick is taken before 80:00 then the lineout will take place and the match will end at the next stoppage within Law. Time is taken from the strike on the ball.</p> |
| <p>2.2</p> | <p>Players Clothing – studs of players’ boots</p> <p>Following recent questions from different parts of the country, it is timely to re-iterate, Law 4 – Players Clothing, particularly as this relates to studs of players’ boots.</p> <p>The World Rugby Rugby Committee has stated that Studs of players’ boots must conform with World Rugby Specifications (Regulation 12) and Law 4.3.</p> <p>Law 4.3 – Studs states that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Studs of players’ boots must conform with the World Rugby Specifications (Regulation 12). b) Moulded rubber multi-studded soles are acceptable provided they have no sharp edges or ridges. <p>Unions are requested to remind Referees in their jurisdiction that they are obliged in accordance with World Rugby Law 4.5 to inspect player’s clothing and studs for conformity to the Laws and Regulations of the Game.</p> <p>If the referee decides that the clothing does not conform with Law or Regulation and in the case of studs specifically, the studs are burring, sharp or abrasive or liable to cause injury to a player then the referee must order the player to remove it or them (or, as appropriate change boots).</p> |

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| | <p>The player must not take part in the match until the offending items of clothing are removed.</p> <p>In summary;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no longer any restrictions on the configuration of studs or use of blades; 2. Studs, when present, must comply with World Rugby Regulation 12; 3. Referees must be vigilant to ensure that studs with sharp or abrasive edges are not worn. |
| 3 | For Information |
| 3.1 | <p>O2 Touch Centres</p> <p>Following a recent meeting with the RFRU a request was made to ensure members are aware of O2 Touch activities in their local areas. It was felt that these activities could be used to provide training, development and recruitment opportunities.</p> <p>Please find below the link that allows you to search for your nearest touch centre.</p> <p>You can find their local centre by going to www.engalndrugby.com/o2touch</p> <p>Type in your postcode in the search function and your local sessions will come up. The only thing to note is that it searches by session rather than by club/centre so you may have an O2 Touch centre close to you that may be starting sessions later in the year.</p> |