

## Match Official Development

### Distribution List:

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

### Introduction:

Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> Match Official Update for the 2014-15 season. We are now reaching the climax of the current season, with critical league and play-off games and many end of season tournaments.

There are some exciting updates together with timely safeguarding advice. 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.

Contact us at; [matchofficials@rfu.com](mailto:matchofficials@rfu.com)

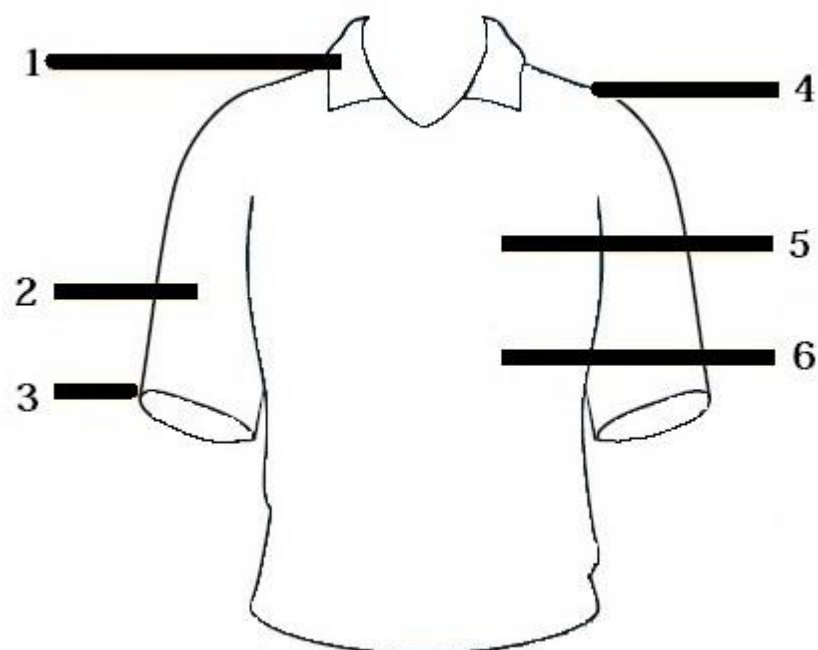
Should you have any questions in relation to law clarifications or changes please contact our dedicated service; [Laws@RFU.com](mailto:Laws@RFU.com)

**Michael D Patz – RFU Match Official Development Manager**

	<b>Update 8 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>For Action</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p><b>England Rugby Women Match Officials' Conference</b> <i>Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at The Lensbury (Teddington)</i></p> <p>We are delighted to confirm details of the first England Rugby Women Match Officials' Conference and do hope you will be able to join us for this exciting event next month. We have some great presenters confirmed for the day, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tony Spreadbury (former Premiership and International referee, now Head of Professional Match Officials in England).</li> <li>• Sara Cox and Nikki O'Donnell (World Rugby and RFU 15s and 7s referees)</li> <li>• Tracey Pettingale (RFU National Panel of Match Officials Assistant Referee)</li> <li>• Kevin Moggridge (Coach of England Women under-20s and Level 7 Somerset club)</li> <li>• Craig Maxwell-Keys (Premiership referee)</li> <li>• Michael Patz (England Rugby's Match Official Development Manager)</li> <li>• Alex Reid (England Rugby Strength and Conditioning consultant to the Professional Match Official Team)</li> </ul> <p>2015 promises to be one of the most exciting years in English rugby as we host the Rugby World Cup and so for us to be involved as match officials at all age-groups and levels means we really are contributing to the enjoyment for all involved in our sport. We want to <b><i>"Inspire to get involved - Inspire to improve"</i></b>, and so this will be the theme for this inaugural conference – with your help we can inspire one another and other women and girls to get involved and pick up a whistle!</p>

	<p>The day will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where we are now and good news stories from our female officials.</li> <li>• Pathway and opportunities for female officials.</li> <li>• Development sessions: Understanding the Game.</li> <li>• Assistant Refereeing.</li> <li>• Sevens Refereeing.</li> <li>• Fitness, nutrition and strength and conditioning advice.</li> <li>• You Be The Referee – have a go!</li> <li>• Q&amp;A sessions, including your feedback on how we can help develop, support and grow the female match official network.</li> </ul> <p>The conference will commence at 10am, with coffee from 9.30am – lunch will be provided and we aim to close around 3pm.</p> <p>If you would like to attend, please confirm by email <b><i>no later than Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup></i></b> – <a href="mailto:claredaniels@rfu.com">claredaniels@rfu.com</a></p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> A number have asked about car-sharing given some of the distances. As soon as numbers are confirmed, I can provide details of who is travelling from what part of the country so that you can organise lift-sharing.</p> <p>We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible and I look forward to hearing from you regarding confirmation of attendance.</p> <p>Best wishes and have a great weekend!</p> <p><i>Clare</i> Clare Daniels</p> <div data-bbox="304 1137 421 1254">         Conference Flyer.pdf     </div>
<p><b>1.2</b></p>	<p><b>Referees and Safeguarding</b></p> <p>The RFU Safeguarding Policy, Guidance and Procedures applies to all those involved in Rugby Union in England, therefore, it is essential reading for all referees, whether society members or occasional club referees. Anyone who works with children is part of the children's workforce, whether they are volunteers or paid. If they meet the criteria of Regulated Activity as set out in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2013 then a Disclosure and Barring Service check (DBS) will be required.</p> <p>Many referees officiate at games at the same club regularly and if this is the case then a DBS is likely to be required. However, those appointed to different clubs each week generally do not. If you have any queries regarding your eligibility for a DBS please contact a member of the RFU Safeguarding team at; <a href="mailto:safeguarding@therfu.com">safeguarding@therfu.com</a></p> <p>It is important for those working with children to ensure that they do not find themselves in positions where allegations may be made against them.</p> <p>The Policy is clear when it comes to changing rooms and showers; they must never be used by adults and children at the same time. This can often be inconvenient for referees who are in a rush after a match, often in inclement weather conditions, keen to shower, warm up and get back home.</p>

	<p>However, it is vital for referees to clarify the timings of changing room use to ensure they have use of the changing rooms and/or showers when no children will be present. A referee <b>should never use</b> these facilities at the same time as children, and if an overlap arises or children's timings overrun, the referee should contact a club official or team manager to have the issue resolved.</p> <p>Adults working with children are role models to those children. Referees must also be aware of this and never resort to using abusive language or swearing at any children. If a referee considers the language used by spectators to be unacceptable during a match then they should speak to those involved and warn them about their behaviour.</p> <p>The position and role of a referee is an important one, to be taken seriously by those fulfilling the job and upholding the core values of the game.</p> <p>Regards, <i>Richard</i> Richard Smallbone RFU Safeguarding Manager</p> <p>Further information can be found at; <a href="http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding">www.englandrugby.com/governance/safeguarding</a></p>								
<b>2</b>	<b>For Distribution</b>								
<b>2.1</b>	<p><b>World Rugby Law Clarification 3 – 2015</b></p> <table> <tr> <td><b>Clarification</b></td><td><b>3 – 2015</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Union</b></td><td><b>FMRU</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Law Reference</b></td><td><b>Law 4</b></td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Date</b></td><td><b>March 23, 2015</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Request</b> The Federación Mexicana de Rugby seeks clarification on the interpretation of Law 4 and Regulation 12.</p> <p>Is it a requirement for a jersey to have sleeves?</p> <p><b>Clarification of the Designated Members of the Rugby Committee</b> <b>Jersey construction.</b></p> <p>Each playing jersey shall be composed of structural sections which are combined in order to make up a full jersey. The sleeve of a jersey must extend at least half way from the shoulder point to the elbow.</p> <p><b>Jersey (construction guide with diagram reference)</b>  1.Collar area (collar does not need to conform to diagrammatical representation)  2.Sleeve  3.Sleeve bottom  4.Shoulder Point  5.Torso  6.Chest</p> <p>The onus is on Unions to comply with Law 4 and in turn ensure compliance by Clubs in their jurisdiction. Any Unions who have queries with respect to the compliance of jerseys intended to be used should submit a sample of such jersey sufficiently in advance of the proposed match date to World Rugby for review. Unions are strictly liable and may be sanctioned for a failure to comply with Law 4.</p>	<b>Clarification</b>	<b>3 – 2015</b>	<b>Union</b>	<b>FMRU</b>	<b>Law Reference</b>	<b>Law 4</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>March 23, 2015</b>
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#### World Rugby Law Clarification 4 – 2015

**Clarification**  
**Union**  
**Law Reference**  
**Date**

**4 – 2015**  
**UAR**  
**Law 6**  
**March 15, 2015**

#### **Request;**

The UAR seeks clarification on Law 6 – Match Officials.

**2.2**

Following the controversy after a match in the Argentine National Clubs Championships 1st Division on the 21st March 2015 regarding the decision by the referee to blow the whistle for the end of the match and then deciding to continue it, we would like a clarification in Law.

#### **Scenario;**

There is a ruck and the referee blows the whistle because the ball becomes unplayable and then blows again to indicate clearly the end of the match with the score 18-19. The assistant referee immediately calls the referee and tells him that a player from the winning team was clearly offside in the ruck and kicked the ball. The referee requests a review by the TMO that confirms the action. Then the referee shows a yellow card to the infringing player. After that, the referee decides the restart of the match with a penalty kick that is converted to goal and the referee blows the end of the match with the score 21-19.

	<p>The Law says:</p> <p><i>6.A.4(b) The referee keeps the time.</i></p> <p><i>6.A.8(a) The referee must carry a whistle and blow the whistle to indicate the beginning and end of each half of the match.</i></p> <p><i>6.A.6 The referee may alter a decision when an assistant referee has raised the flag to signal touch or an act of foul play.</i></p> <p><b>Question;</b></p> <p>If the referee blows for the end of the match, is there any reason for which he can restart the match?</p> <p><b>Clarification in Law by the Designated Members of the Rugby Committee</b></p> <p>If the assistant referee has flagged for foul play/deliberate infringement and it takes place before the end of the match, then the referee may restart the match with a penalty kick, free kick or mark, etc. If the flag was raised after the final whistle or for non-foul play/deliberate infringement, then the game is over.</p> <p>Law 5.7(e) reinforces this:</p> <p><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. <b>If time expires and a mark, free kick or penalty kick is then awarded, the referee allows play to continue.</b></i></p>
<b>3</b>	<b>For Information</b>
	None for this edition.