



## **Match Official Abuse Protocols**

### **The protocol for Junior Rugby Union Matches is:**

#### ***Pre- Game***

The Coaches and Managers of each team are present with the team Captain at the Referee's pre-game brief where they will be reminded that the abuse of Match Officials by their respective Clubs' players, officials and spectators will not be tolerated. Abuse includes all aspects of the ARU Member Protection Policy, as well as contempt for decisions and repeated questioning of decisions by players other than the Captain.

#### ***During the Game – On Field***

The Referee will use the Captains for any On Field issues regarding abuse of Match Officials.

The Referees sanctions for any On Field incident considered as abuse of a Match Official will be in line with Law 10 of the Laws of the Game of Rugby including Penalties, Caution and Temporary Suspension (Yellow Card), Ordering Off (Red Card) and Match Abandonment. The Referee may use any or all of these sanctions at their discretion – a Referee is not obliged to follow a progression of escalated sanctions. For example, the Referee may, at their sole discretion, decide that the level of abuse warrants the match being abandoned in lieu of awarding Penalties/Temporary Suspensions.

#### ***During the Game – Off Field***

The Referee will use the Coach/Manager of the Teams for any Off Field issues regarding abuse of Match Officials. This includes ensuring respective Club personnel (e.g. spectators) not involved as Match Personnel (i.e. reserves and coaching support staff) stay behind designated ground ropes. It is expected that the monitoring and discouraging of negative comments and behaviour towards Match Officials will also be facilitated by team Coaches/Managers.

Should an incident occur where the Referee receives a report stating that a Match Official has been subject to Off Field abuse, the Referee will take appropriate action in accordance with Law 10. In addition, he will approach the Coach/Manager of the team concerned and request their assistance in ensuring that this behaviour ceases immediately. Whether this occur through the use of the Ground Marshall or other club official, the Coach/Manager is responsible for ensuring that effective action is taken. An accredited member of the ACT Rugby Referees Association may assist in managing off field abuse of Match Officials by bringing complaints of abusive conduct to the attention of the Ground Marshall and/or Coach/Manager.



Should the appropriate action not be taken, or abuse of the Match Official(s) continue, the Referees' sanctions will be in line with the ARU Code of Conduct, which includes but is not limited to Match Abandonment.

### ***Abuse after the Game***

Coaches/Managers or spectators are not to abuse Match Officials at the completion of the game. Abuse in this instance includes questioning decisions made by Match Officials, displays of contempt or other unsportsmanlike behaviour. In the event that Match Officials are abused after a game, the Ground Marshall is to be advised and a report of abuse of officials submitted to the ACT Junior Rugby Union for disciplinary action against the offending team/club.

### **The protocol for Senior Rugby Union Matches is:**

#### ***Pre- Game***

The Coaches of each team are present with the team Captain at the Referee's pre-game brief where they will be reminded that the abuse of Match Officials by their respective Clubs' players, officials and spectators will not be tolerated. Coaches and the Captain will be instructed that repeated questioning of decisions, showing contempt for decisions, behaviour other than that which is conducive to good sportsmanship will be deemed as abuse.

#### ***During the Game – On Field***

The Referee will use the Captains for any On Field issues regarding abuse of Match Officials. Questioning of decisions by other than the Captain will be deemed as abuse.

The Referees sanctions for any On Field incident considered as abuse of a Match Official will be in line with Law 10 of the Laws of the Game of Rugby including Caution and Temporary Suspension (Yellow Card), Ordering Off (Red Card) and Match Abandonment. The Referee may use any or all of these sanctions at their discretion – a Referee is not obliged to follow a progression of escalated sanctions. For example, the Referee may, at their sole discretion, decide that the level of abuse warrants the match being abandoned in lieu of awarding Penalties/Temporary Suspensions.

#### ***During the Game – Off Field***

The Referee will use the Coach/Manager of the Teams for any Off Field issues regarding abuse of Match Officials. This includes ensuring respective Club personnel (e.g. spectators) not involved as Match Personnel (i.e. reserves and coaching support staff) stay behind designated ground ropes. It is expected that the monitoring and discouraging of negative comments and behaviour towards Match Officials will also be facilitated by team Coaches/Managers.



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