

BSRFUR Training Evening 19th February 2013

Preventative Communication



BSRFUR – Monthly Meeting Agenda

Points from Adviser Reports
Preventative communication
Minimal/Zero tolerance of key points
Players off feet at the breakdown

Finer points of Advantage Break out session
for less experienced referees
to discuss issues/problems

Exchanges provide us with an opportunity to pick up ideas from other societies that can improve the overall performance of Berkshire referees. Comments from advisers belonging to other societies and techniques we spot in incoming referees need to be scrutinised and acted upon as deemed necessary. A review of the reports on our referees when they have been on exchange has identified some areas where more than one comment or piece of advice has been received.

This document outlines the discussions concerning preventative communication



BSRFUR – Monthly Meeting
Types of Preventative Communication

Basic	"Release", "Away"
Generic	"Tackler Release", "Tackler Away"
Specific	"Blue 7 Release", "Red 6 Away"

What problems do we anticipate?

To keep things simple I have categorised the degree of preventative communication as basic, generic and specific.

The simple instruction "Release" at the tackle is two-edged, meaning both Tackler release the tackled player and tackled player release the ball. The down side to this is the possibility that both will think it refers to the other and neither will do anything. So as we develop as referees we try and identify the person by role or, better, team and number.

It is recognised that there are problems with aiming for team/number every time. To assist with this I am grateful to Mike Hudson, at Bucks, for the following hints.

In a game, sometimes it is impossible to identify the number AFTER the tackle has been made (he may be on his back / away from you etc). It is helpful to identify him in your head beforehand.

I have found it very useful to anticipate the tackle before it happens - by looking at the number of the player who is just about to make the tackle on the ball carrier. So in my mind I have "Red 7" ready in case I need to say "Red 7, roll away" moments after the tackle. I like to think of it as sort of "loading the gun" in case it needs to be fired!

Also, the higher level / quicker the game, the less time you have post-tackle - so having the phrase ("Red 7, roll away") "loaded" and ready to be used - if needed - saves thinking and speaking time once the tackle has been made.



Use/frequency of preventative communication

How often do we use the calls we make? If we call at every tackle regardless of the need, e.g. if the tackled player has managed to place the ball at arm's length and moved his body away, the effect is dissipated. Consequently the ultimate aim is to call only when necessary. However for the less experienced referee this may prove difficult. Typically we go through a frequency curve of at first calling when we remember to do so (Sometimes), doing it all the time and

then trying to reduce the frequency by only doing it as needed. Accompanied by the progression through basic, generic and specific we typically see the situation as represented in the graph.

As a society we are trying to provide guidance to our referees and match observers by detailing what we expect to see at each level. In this, we express the level by which we expect the action to be ever-present, but also at that level we would expect to see some attempts at actions for up to two grades higher. Within that context we have provisionally determined the following for preventative refereeing:

Assessment Criteria by Level

- L10 Evidence of preventative refereeing**
- L8 Effective preventative refereeing throughout**
- L7 Identify the player where possible**
- L6 Preventative calls only used when necessary**



Encourage as well as discourage

In our preventative refereeing we are in effect discouraging players from offending. Should we not also encourage them when they do things right? Players and coaches do appreciate some recognition for good play.

A quiet word at the next stoppage, the occasional “Thank you” or “That’s good” add significantly to your rapport with the players.

John Ford
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