

BSRFUR Training Evening 19th February 2013

Minimal/Zero Tolerance of Key Points



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 minimal/zero tolerance of key aspects of play.



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Early Scrum Engagement

Get your warning in at the pre-match briefing

Maybe one chance at most in the game

Can upgrade the FK to Penalty if they persist

Consider cards for repeat infringement

In similar vein to before, encourage or give recognition:
"The last few scrums have been good, let's keep it that way"

Scrum Engagement

The scrum engagement can be the most dangerous legal action in the laws of the game. Consequently we must take steps to ensure that the first scrum of the game is as safe as any subsequent occurrence. In many aspects of the game we give the players a chance, warn them and then start penalising. We cannot afford that for the scrum engage. Therefore the pre-match briefing must include the warning and outline to the forwards what is required. Having done that, give at most one chance throughout the game and any issues at the first scrum should be penalised as appropriate – FK or penalty – to set the standard.

If the players persist, FK should be upgraded to penalty and you need to consider cards for repeated infringement.

Note: in the Wales v Scotland 6-nations match on 9th March Craig Joubert did that.

The ultimate sanction on the players if engagement problems do not go away is to threaten uncontested scrums for safety reasons.

If the scrums have been good, all players bound etc, encourage them to keep it that way.



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Backchat from players

Use the 10 metres

Upgrade FK to penalty

Reverse the penalty if necessary

Team warnings if widespread – give captain time to talk to the team

Has this been better, less of an issue, or different since our October meeting?

Backchat/dissent

At our meeting in October 2012 the speaker from the FA put forward the view that many problems in this respect are down to us as referees. Ensure you explain decisions and try to remain consistent throughout the game. A warning at the first instance of dissent should be followed with use of the 10 metres, or if it is a FK offence, upgrade to a penalty. Occasionally it is the non-offending team that makes an inappropriate comment on the decision and in this case consider very strongly whether or not to reverse the penalty.

If the situation is widespread or continues, a team warning would be appropriate. If this is given, ensure you give the captain time to talk to his team (or the vice-captain if the captain is one of the culprits!)



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Over robust play and deliberate infringement

Early use of yellow card sends a message

Incidents referred to:

Late charge on kicker

Deliberate interference when not 10 at quick penalty

Over-robust play and deliberate infringement

There is a tendency to regard use of cards as a sign of failure of our player management skills, and to only use them when all else fails.

Adviser reports suggest that this may be wrong – cards are part of the tool set given to us to manage problems. In some areas, their early use will send a strong message to all the players that incidents of that nature will not be tolerated. In matches that I have observed where this has been done, the players have definitely taken note.

The types of incident where this has been shown to be useful are:

Late/high tackles

Charging rucks/mauls

Dangerous use of the feet at the breakdown

Deliberately not 10 at the quick FK or penalty

John Ford
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