

Contributed by Paul Emerson, Elite Touch Judge Panel.

REFEREE'S PRE-MATCH BRIEFING TO TJ

Match Specific Remarks: Team of three focus. TJ primary role is Touch and Foul Play. Avoid marginal calls. Accompany calls with a number. Check referee's positioning.

Time: The referee will indicate Time On/Off. TJ1 will correspond. TJ2 will keep running watch.

Scrums: TJs observe patterns on angles, binding and engagement.

Line out: Manage 2 hookers and front. Ball in 5 meters. Foul play across line. Far position to assist both teams with regards to 10 meters.

Ruck and Maul: Cover blindside angles on side entry, collapsing, fringers.

Foul play: Report all foul play, rehearse protocols, TJ to signal foul play but continues duties. At stoppage, referee to invite TJ onto pitch to report. TJ will endeavour to give "Player, Team and Brief Description". Referee to repeat information and may ask for recommendation "reprimand, caution, send off". Referee informs TJ and delivers sanction.

In Goal: Rehearse protocol on close touch down awards. Confirm decision by eye contact and/or verbal. TJ to remain on touch line until try has been awarded and players move away. Position is outcome led. Always check referees position.

Open play offside: Assist referee by correct positioning of penalty award. No marginal calls. Accompany calls with number.

Forward pass and knock on: Check referees positioning before call. No marginal calls.

Stoppages: Mark restarts accurately.

TOUCH JUDGE PRE-MATCH REMINDER

Why am I here today? To support the referee, not to referee for him. I am not here to watch a game of rugby, I am here to do a job.

How will I do better? By remembering my responsibilities and concentrating on the differences between touch judging and refereeing.

What are the priorities? To run touch and identify foul play (anything else is a bonus)

What are the major pitfalls? Not complying with the pre-match briefing. Lack of concentration. Watching the ball and the play near the referee. Duplicating the referee. Taking up refereeing positions.

What does a good TJ do? Think like a touch judge. Support the referee. Stay calm. Have the courage to deal with problems. Concentrate on where to look. Anticipate the next phase of play. Anticipate trouble. Stay alert when the ball is dead. Look professional. Be professional.