



Surrey Rugby

Surrey Minis County Festivals Referees Briefing

Purpose of This Briefing

1. Objectives for the festival referees
2. Planning for the day
3. Festival rules
4. Refereeing Pointers



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Objectives

- ▶ Raise standards
- ▶ Improve consistency
- ▶ Give referees status
- ▶ Make the games safe
- ▶ Ensure fair play
- ▶ Make sure the kids have fun!

Planning

- ▶ Please arrive at the pitch 5 minutes early
- ▶ Meet Pitch Marshals – Your biggest friend!
- ▶ Ensure pitch is marked out and clear
- ▶ Match balls are present
- ▶ Bring: whistles, pens/pencils, pad
- ▶ Stop watch
- ▶ Read latest continuum version
(www.community-rugby.com)

Festival Rules

- ▶ Match durations in accordance with the Continuum
 - ▶ Under 7s and Under 8s → 5 minutes each way
 - ▶ Under 9s and Under 10s → 6 minutes each way
 - ▶ Under 11s and Under 12s → 7 minutes each way
- ▶ Stop play at next stoppage after time elapsed, excluding penalty. Call 'last play'
- ▶ Injury time is permitted

No extra time at any stage of festival



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Codes Of Conduct

- ▶ Encourage: fun, fair play, discipline and “the spirit of the game”
- ▶ Ask unruly supporters to leave field of play – do not penalise players
- ▶ Bad player conduct – substitution of player
- ▶ Poor or Bad Coach/Parent conduct including “Gamesmanship” to be reported to Pitch Marshal and Festival Organiser or Festival Discipline Officer
- ▶ Incident: stop play; explain to those involved and coach if necessary, what has happened and your decision. No debate.

Referee Pointers

Safety

- ▶ Correct and safe footwear (Blades OK, but not with single stud at front). Do inspect them and ensure safe.
- ▶ Wearing of gum shields is highly recommended.
- ▶ Stop play for high tackles
- ▶ Games played on feet
- ▶ No feet on bodies
- ▶ Scrum engagement (body position, binding, stability).

General Referee Pointers

- ▶ Play advantage (even at tag level)
- ▶ Offside... apply it consistently to make a fair game.
- ▶ Do not make allowances for ‘personalities’, the continuum does that in the structure of the game.
- ▶ Control the game, be vocal to players and supporters
- ▶ Penalty, penalty, warn, bin for repeated offences
- ▶ Have your own independent linesmen for all games

Tag Consistency

- ▶ Players must stay on feet
- ▶ This is a non contact game .. No barging
- ▶ The ball must pass through the air
- ▶ Restart – Defending players cannot move until ball is passed
- ▶ Diving tries are disallowed. On knees is permitted.
- ▶ Equality of tags/belts – i.e. play with similar tags
- ▶ One hand on ball is not an offence – two hands encouraged.



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- ▶ Fending off, protecting tags with hand/ball is not permitted.
- ▶ Spinning is allowed, i.e. to avoid a tag, but not continuously.
- ▶ A tagged player is allowed one step to score a try
- ▶ 3 steps/3 seconds to pass when tagged - Penalty
- ▶ Watch for chucking tags on floor, warn, penalise
- ▶ If tag player is out of the game, can't participate in any way – even if tag falls off.
- ▶ Tagged player goes into touch = “player in touch” - turnover ball.
- ▶ Under 8s – On 7th tag a try cannot be scored under one step rule.
- ▶ Under 8s – tackle count reset if a penalty is awarded

Contact Consistency

- ▶ Offside lines created at ruck,maul,lineout scrum & kick
- ▶ Apply offside, esp at ruck/maul. Come through the gate, no side entry.
- ▶ Ball is out when scrum-half has ball clear of legs (allow scrum-half to pull ball out)
- ▶ Scrum-half may use foot at ruck, but not at scrum
- ▶ Back foot is the offside line
- ▶ Tackle area... release ball/player, roll away
- ▶ Call ruck/maul formed
- ▶ Anyone may use their hands to pull the ball out of a Ruck if they are not bound and not offside.
- ▶ Kick ahead... retreating players, played onside
- ▶ Scrum, watch engagement, especially binding. Several clubs have ‘turned a blind eye’ to poor binding...it is illegal and dangerous.
- ▶ Do not allow early push, stop if turned 45 degrees or pushed more than 1.5m
- ▶ Lineout distance.. short and long throws
- ▶ Hand offs not allowed; brushing off tackler?
- ▶ 1 quick tap and go at a penalty
- ▶ 15m drop out, dead in goal from kick ahead etc as per senior game.

And Finally

- ▶ Enjoy your day
- ▶ Remember it is about the kids

Thank you for volunteering!