

## Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees

### Season 2015/2016

#### Referee - Club Protocol

The purpose of this document is to set out the protocol that the Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees (LSRUR) expects clubs and their coaches to follow for the season 2015/2016. Referee abuse is becoming a major problem in the game of rugby, particularly at the mini/midi and junior level; there is also an increase in the level of abuse from coaches, club officials and spectators.

Clubs should be aware that the LSRUR, conscious of its duty of care to its members, is now asking match officials to highlight issues of abuse they experience at all LRU affiliated clubs, be it from players, coaches, club official or spectators.

Referees, the same as players, do make mistakes in the game. The numbers of incidents where referees have had to abandon matches due to poor player discipline and/or abuse, or coach/club official/spectator abuse are also increasing. Clubs should be aware that the RFU recommended sanction for an abandoned game is a 25-point deduction, and this means that a league club 2<sup>nd</sup> team incident could affect the league position of the first team.

The following are guidelines and what the LSRUR and the LRU should expect from each of the categories listed:

#### Society Referees

- For League and Cup matches, Referees should, where possible, arrive at the ground no later than 60 minutes prior to kick off. This is to ensure that all the safety checks required can be done in time. They should, on arrival, make contact with the captains, coaches and the home club official to enable these checks to be carried out in good time prior to kick off. For all other matches referees should where possible, arrive at the ground no later than 30 minutes prior to the kick-off.
- Referees will referee the game according to the laws of the game and will expect the Players and Coaches of the teams involved to have an understanding of the laws of the game
- Referees will engage with the team captains or coaches and mutually agree a suitable time in which the referee can carry out his pre-match brief and stud check. At the pre-match brief the Referee will check the studs of all players, including replacements and go through the scrum engagement sequence with the respective front rows

- Referees will insist that all replacements from both teams are on the same side of the playing area. Replacements will only be allowed to come on from the halfway line with the permission of the referee
- Referees will brief the touch judges on what they expect from them (touch and kicks at goal)
- Referees will be available to coaches up to 15 minutes prior to kick off for questions on the game but it is up to each individual referee as to whether he/she wishes to answer any of them
- Referees may, if they wish, speak to the Captains of each side at half time as part of their game management strategy
- Referees will not be available to Coaches or Club Officials until 30mins after the end of the game including half time.

### Coaches

- Coaches should not approach the referee from a period of 15 minutes prior to the start of the game until 30 minutes after the end of the game, though they may during the game indicate to the referee that they want to make a replacement
- Any dialogue with the referee during the game should be made via the captain. In mini/midi and junior matches (under 14 and below) where this is not applicable then the coach may be allowed, at the discretion of the referee, to discuss playing matters at half time
- Coaches should restrict themselves to the technical area. If there is no Technical Area, then to a point between the halfway line and the 10-metre line
- Coaches should at all times be well beyond the touchline and **should not walk or run up and down the touchline.**
- Coaches who stand behind the posts may do so provided they are well outside the playing area and where a barrier is provided behind that barrier
- Coaches should be encouraged to give positive playing instructions to their own players but should not shout at the referee. Continual shouting at the referee could be considered as abuse or harassment and, as such, could be reported to the appropriate disciplinary authority
- Referees appreciate the time and effort put into the game by the coaches and they will of course not always see decisions the same way. Referees are encouraged to speak to coaches, and there is no reason why a discussion cannot take place in the clubhouse, no less than 30 minutes after the end of the game
- Coaches can also contact a LSRUR committee member to discuss a referee's performance. If a match observer is in attendance, he may also be approached.

## Clubs

- Clubs should provide a barrier between the playing enclosure and spectators for the safety of both the players and the spectators. This will also restrict access to the playing enclosure. This is a league requirement for all league matches
- Where this is not possible the Club must ensure that spectators or parents are aware that they must not come onto the playing enclosure
- Clubs at level 5, 6 and 7 must ensure that a Technical Area is clearly marked on the side of the pitch
- Spectator behaviour is the responsibility of the club, and clubs are reminded that it is they who will be sanctioned in the event of referee abuse
- Clubs should have a process by which they can deal with members who regularly have behaviour problems with match officials or who verbally abuse referees.
- Clubs should bear in mind that some referees are under 17 years of age and that verbal abuse is treated very seriously by the RFU, LRU and the Referees Society
- Clubs should be aware the Referees Society will actively back and support club referees who are subject to abuse/ behaviour problems when refereeing games

## Match Notification and Fees 2015/2016

### Fixture Generation.

- All known club fixtures, including league, friendly, mid-week and Sunday fixtures, **must** be sent to the Society by no later than the 31st July. Failure to send such lists may result in the Society not appointing a referee to that Club or School until such time as the Fixtures are sent to the Society. Fixtures can be sent to any of the Appointment/ re-appointment Secretaries at their email addresses ([appoint@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:appoint@lsrur.co.uk); [reapps@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:reapps@lsrur.co.uk); [midweek@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:midweek@lsrur.co.uk); [sunday@lsrur.co.uk](mailto:sunday@lsrur.co.uk) )
- Any fixture changes should be notified to the appointment/ re-appointment secretaries as soon as confirmed. During the season, details of matches notified to the Society are emailed to the Club or School a month in advance. Any changes should be notified to the relevant appointment/ re-appointment secretary as soon as possible
- On the Monday of each week the Club or School will receive an email giving full details of the match officials appointed for each game notified – it is the Club or School's responsibility to confirm with the referee, by actual contact, no later than 48 hours in advance of the match. This contact should confirm the two teams involved, the kick-off time, colours of the teams (to include home teams colour change in the event of a clash) and directions to the ground. Any teams failing to confirm with the referee may have the services

of the match officials removed and those match officials appointed to other fixtures

- Late changes to match officials appointed are communicated by email and text, where more than one change in a week the latest email / text gives the correct detail of the match officials appointed
- All matches notified are available to be checked on the Society web-site [www.lsrur.co.uk](http://www.lsrur.co.uk). In the week leading up to a fixture the details of the match officials appointed will be made visible and clubs can login with the password supplied to see contact details for the match officials
- Match Fees shall be payable for the match officials appointed which will be invoiced monthly in arrears – failure to pay by the payment date may lead to non-appointment of match officials to future games. The rates are as follows and are reviewed each season
- The rates for Season 2015/16 shall be **£15.00** per game for the referee or **£45.00** for a team of three match officials
- An additional fee for the match officials may be made in the event that:
  - A club fails to inform the relevant Appointments Secretary/Re-Appointments Secretary and the match official(s), that a game has been cancelled by 17:00 on the day before before a Fixture is due to be played or a late notification of a game has been made - **£15.00**
  - A Club fails to inform the Match Official(s) of a change of kick-off time, and/or venue which has led the match official not being able to referee the fixture - **£25.00**
  - Late notifications or cancellations made after 18:00 two days before the date of the match may incur a penalty of **£5.50** depending on the amount of inconvenience to the appointment secretary concerned

If an out of county Club fails to fulfil a fixture, by cancelling after the 5pm deadline on the Friday before a Fixture is due to be played. The home club will be responsible for claiming any charges from the other club for any cancellation charges incurred

For the purpose of this condition, the term “match official” refers to any, or all, of the following:

- Match Referee
- Assistant Referees (where appointed by the Society)
- Match Observer (where appointed by the Society)

Clubs shall not engage, or seek to engage, the services of the Society’s referees for **all** matches, except through the Appointment Secretaries/Re-Appointments Secretary. Any Club found, to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee, to have broken this rule may be liable to have referees withdrawn from officiating at their Club for a period not exceeding 28 days

## **Yearly Subscription**

All Clubs & Schools using the LSRUR for the provision of match officials will be invoiced a Yearly Subscription fee of £12:00