

Illawarra Rugby Referees Association Guidelines to support the ARU Code of Conduct

Purpose

To support the retention and recruitment of referees in the Illawarra Rugby Union District

Strategy

Support compliance with the ARU Code of Conduct by players, officials and club supporters by providing guidelines that identify the action to be taken by the Illawarra Rugby Referees Association (The Association) that, in respect of referees, there is a breach of the code.

Outcome

If an individual referee reports a breach of the Code of Conduct to The Association and perceives that they have been unfairly abused, The Association will not appoint referees to the junior or senior grade games (relative to the Division. junior or senior, where the perceived abuse has occurred) of that club the following week.

The Association will advise by email to the nominated representative of the IDRU Board and the offending club as per contact details on the Illawarra Rugby web site the non appointment of referees to that clubs games by 8:00 pm Wednesday the following week of the game.

The decision by The Association will be applied the following competition game.

ARU Code of Conduct Reference

The Code of Conduct includes the following provisions:

All participants in the game are bound:

Part 3

- (f) to promote the reputation of the game and to take all reasonable steps to prevent the game from being brought into disrepute;*
- (j) to accept and observe the authority of a referee, touch judge or other match official;*
- (k) not to abuse, threaten or intimidate a referee, touch judge or other match official, whether on or off the field, or a selector, coach, manager or other team official;*
- (l) not to show unnecessary obvious dissension, displeasure or disapproval, whether on or off the field, towards a referee, touch judge or other match official, his or her decision or generally following a decision of a match official;*
- (m) not to use crude or abusive language or gestures towards referees, touch judges or other match officials or spectators;*

Implications

- These guidelines will be reviewed at the end of season 2006.
- Where there are no appointed referees, responsibility is with the home team to make “Home Team Appointments”. For insurance reasons we believe these appointment must be a Smart Rugby accredited referees.
- The IDRU will need to have in place a determination of outcome if there is no game called by the Home team due to unavailability of an accredited referee.

- The district will be advised of the perceived abuse and able to take whatever action it chooses. The referee will provide written notification to the IDRU to allow normal judicial process to occur. This will not affect the decision to not appoint that has been made.
- The Guidelines will apply to preseason and competition games. Special consideration will apply to Finals Series
- Wherever possible a referee is expected to follow the procedures identified in these guidelines. However, if an individual is concerned for their own welfare they may report incidents of abuse directly to The Association.
- Where abuse is related to an “away” club, that club will be held responsible. The role of the “home team” match day controller is recognised however these guidelines place responsibility for the actions of the supporters and club associates on individual clubs.

Process and Actions

The Association will apply actions in accordance with these guidelines to any club whose members, spectators or anyone who has involvement with that club breaches the ARU Code of Conduct. In accordance with Law 6.A.4 there will be no right of appeal.

If there is a report to The Association in regard to the abuse of a referee the IDRU will be notified as soon as the consequential action has been determined.

Players

Penalties will apply in accordance with the Law Book.

1. Initial offence will be penalised
2. Second offence (by the team or an individual) maybe regarded as a repeat offence: Yellow Card.
3. Further offences will receive a Red Card
4. The appropriate IDRU documentation is to be completed by the Referee/Touch Judge and forwarded accordingly.

Officials, Club Representatives or Spectators

Officials, Club representatives and spectators are considered participants of the game and representatives of their club and are therefore bound by the ARU Code of Conduct.

1. Where a referee perceives a breach of the Code they should notify the Match Day Controller who then has responsibility to speak to the person(s) responsible
2. If a second breach occurs the referee should notify the Match Day Controller who may remove the responsible person(s) from the ground (outside the boundary fence not just away from the sideline)
3. If further breaches of the Code continue the Referee may call no side and cancel the game. (In such cases it is believed the District should have a match outcome decision prior to the commencement of the season)

Media or abuse away from the immediate playing field

A referee may advise The Association of any perceived abuse that occurred away from the playing field or is reported in the media.

When reported by a referee, The Association may choose to apply the consequential action, relevant to the specific club grades.

Referee Feedback Process

The Association recognises and values feedback from coaches and players. Coaches are encouraged to discuss a match with the referee in a constructive and non intimidatory fashion that does not breach the Code of Conduct. This should occur after the post match cool down period.

Purpose

To facilitate coach and captain feedback in regard to match referee performance that allows for the Coaching and Grading Board to identify areas that require improvement for Referees in the IDRU zone.

Strategy

Provide an electronic form that allows the team coach or captain to provide feedback regarding a referee's performance. The electronic form will allow information to be collected in a single database, collated and reported on to the Coaching and Grading Board.

One form will be accepted per team per game. The form must be completed by either a coach or captain and returned to the nominated address by email. Email responses will allow a more efficient collation process.

Where a video/CD is available it would be appreciated if a copy could be forwarded to The Association.

The feedback form will, when collated with other feedback sources, be used to assist The Association Coaching and Grading Board. There will be no direct feedback to a referee in regard to a particular game (or coach/captain) comments and there will be no feedback to coaches or captains regarding outcomes of an individual feedback form.

This strategy is put in place to provide opportunity for effective evaluation, it is not intended as a mechanism for complaint.

Outcome

Data collected will be collated and provide an overview of Illawarra referee strengths and weaknesses. During the course of the season it is intended that a summary report will be made available to clubs, highlighting issues that referees will be working to improve on.

For a copy of the Referee Feedback Form look in the reference library