

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lead Area:	RUGBY SERVICES
Lead Procedure Title:	REFEREE DISSENT AND ABUSE
Date last modified:	MARCH 2019

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The purpose of this document is to outline South Australia Rugby Union Referees Association's (SARURA) and Rugby Union South Australia's (RUSA) expectations of members and the processes in relation to referee dissent or abuse.

We are all committed to providing an environment safe for all persons involved in rugby, which is free from harassment and abuse, and promotes respect, positive behaviour and rugby values.

RUSA members also have a responsibility to ensure there is a safe environment for players and fellow referees. We need to ensure any incidents of dissent or abuse is dealt with in a timely and appropriate manner.

DEFINITIONS OF DISSENT AND ABUSE

Dissent

can be described as the *repeated or continual questioning or disputing of decisions, including showing contempt for decisions of match officials.*

There will be "low tolerance" for dissent towards a match official.

Abuse

can be described as *behaviour which has the effect of offending, humiliating or intimidating, through, but not limited to insulting, rude, vulgar, offensive, disparaging, belittling, derogatory or disrespectful behaviour or language.*

There will be "zero tolerance" for abuse towards a match official

1. Managing Dissent and Abuse During a Match (players)

The following management and process applies for dealing with players during the match for dissent or abuse towards a match official.

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	<p>Dissent Noting a "low tolerance" approach for dissent, dissent should be managed through the following escalation process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speak to the Captain for them to manage and deal with the player (if this does not work, escalate) 2. Penalty Kick (possibly including additional sanction to move penalty 10m forward) 3. Yellow Card 4. Red Card <p>Depending on the level or severity of dissent, a match official can directly apply any sanction at any time or instance of dissent.</p>	Players / Managers
2	<p>Abuse Noting a "zero tolerance" approach, acts of Match Official Abuse should result in a send-off (red card) sanction.</p>	RUSA

* This procedure has the effect of a Rule under the Competition Rules issued by the Union and terms used in this procedure and defined in the Competition Rules have the same meaning in this procedure and the rule of interpretation set out in the Competition Rules also apply to this procedure.



2. Management and Reporting Process (e.g. non-players and outside of match time)

The following management and process applies for dealing with severe dissent towards a match official or abuse for all incidents and persons (including players) before or after the match, and/or non-players during the match.

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	During a Match 1. Referee call 'time-off', 2. If the person can be identified, speak to the appropriate team captain who the offending person is supporting and have the captain speak to their Manager, Coach or Ground Marshall to request they deal with the offender / situation, 3. If the person cannot be identified, speak to the home team captain and have them speak to their Manager, Coach or Ground Marshall to request they deal with the offender / situation, and 4. When the Referee is satisfied the situation has been handled, blow 'time-on'.	Referee / Team Captain / Team Manager / Coach / Ground Marshall
2	Before or after the match Speak to the Ground Marshall and request they deal with the offender / situation Where appropriate attempt to obtain any information to identify the person	Referee / Ground Marshall
3	If either of 2.1 or 2.2 occur, match officials can report the incident via the Rugby Australia website through "Report a Concern" http://www.rugbyau.com/about/codes-and-policies/reporting-a-concern OR Via direct communication the Rugby SA Referees Association and/or Rugby Union SA (info@sarugby.com.au) A Conduct Committee may be appointed to deal with the 'Incident Reports' either under the application Code of Conduct or Member Protection Policy.	Referee / RUSA

OTHER INFORMATION

Members should be mindful that Judicial and Conduct Committees can only deal with an incident of match official abuse if it is reported in a timely and appropriate manner.

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