



Playing enclosure

August 2016

The development and expansion and all variations of rugby is one of the core imperatives of the Union's Strategic Plan and its successful implementation will encourage wider player/volunteer participation across all areas of the game.

Clearly, the role of the referee is crucial to the success of this strategic ambition and yet each season, many Code of Conduct cases are reported to the WRU Disciplinary Panel in relation to the verbal abuse of match officials by Club officials/spectators positioned inside the playing enclosure (inside the perimeter barrier/roped off area).

Whilst the Technical Zone guidelines featured in the WRU Disciplinary Regulations relate specifically to the Premier Division, Members of the Regulatory Committee have given consideration to what measures should be introduced to restrict the number of Club officials permitted to remain inside the playing enclosure whilst the game is in progress. Having given the matter a great deal of thought, the following measures will apply from the start of the new season 2016/17:

The personnel from each team permitted to remain in the playing enclosure between halfway and the 10 metre line (on each team's side of the field) for the duration of the match are as follows:

- Head coach
- Doctor and/or physiotherapist
- Two water carriers

It is essential that those permitted inside the playing enclosure conduct themselves at all times in an orderly manner and refrain from verbally abusing the match official and/or inciting spectators to verbally abuse match officials. There is a well-rehearsed process in place for Club officials to express their dissatisfaction about any refereeing performance and that is by liaising and/or submitting a written report to Mr Nigel Whitehouse (NMOM), who will take whatever action is required to raise refereeing standards.

Equally, there is an onus on Club officials to ensure that these guidelines are enforced and that spectators do not enter the playing enclosure at any point during the course of the game and that substitutes only enter the playing enclosure with the referee's consent.

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