



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of April 1st, 2011

1 2012 Law Changes Leaked.

There has been a lot of speculation regarding possible changes to the laws following the 2011 Rugby World Cup. A memo with the most likely changes was recently leaked to a UK sports columnist, who has since posted them on his web-site. To avoid the chaos of speculation and rumours, I list the main proposed changes below:

- Unlimited substitutions at each stoppage. This is to allow scrum specialists to be replaced by lineout and vice versa, allowing for players to focus on a specific element of the game. It also allows for coaches to adjust their sides for different situations during the match, such as try-line defence or attacking wide.
- Five Officials. Two touch judges and three on-field refs. This will provide a head referee as well as an official on each side at breakdowns. Offences will only be called if two of the three officials agree, which will be determined through hand gestures or a 1-minute stoppage to consult.
- Halves to be replaced by 4-twenty minute quarters. This will allow for more recovery and coaching interventions, as well as increase revenue with more time available for commercials.
- Commercial stoppages. Televised games will be allowed to delay resets (scrums, kick-offs, etc) once every ten minutes to allow two minutes for televised commercials. Refs will receive these directions from the television production manager via two-way radio.
- 3-step scrum engage. To reduce injuries, the front row will engage first, then the second row will join on, then the loose forwards. The ref will call the following engagements sequence "front row" (wait five seconds) "second row" (wait five seconds) "back row" (wait five seconds) "Ball in."
- Ref to put the ball into scrums. To deal once and for all with the crooked feed, refs will follow the example of basketball, ice hockey and Aussie Rules Football and put the ball in play themselves. Once the scrum is engaged (see above), the ref will call "ball in" and roll the ball into the tunnel from the loosehead side of the non-offending team.
- Maximum 15 kicks per game. Teams will be allowed only 15 kicks in open play during the full match. Any kicks from hand after 15 will result in a free kick to the opposition.
- Reset scrums. After the fifth reset scrum in a match, the ref will order uncontested scrums for the rest of the match.
- Law change date established. All future law changes will be implemented on April 1st each year. Yes-April 1st. **April Fools!**

2 **Beach Rugby Tournaments in Curacao**

Thanks to Arthur Hogesteger of the Netherlands Antilles Rugby Federation for information on the beach rugby tournaments being held in Curacao. Please see attached, and note that the April event is actually being held October 22-23, NOT April. I've been to a tournament in Curacao and they put on a very enjoyable event.

3 **Pacific Coast Invitational**

As well as the attached poster regarding the Pacific Coast Invitational tournament, there is the following message from Ray Schwarz regarding referees for the event: *We need refs!*

This is also about the busiest week in rugby across the United States, so most of the top refs will be elsewhere. We need refs!

For anyone truly ambitious and who loves large tourneys, this could be a great match. We'll have at least (4) 70-minute playoff games late Friday afternoon, and then a ridiculously busy schedule Sat/Sun. We need refs!

Refs could fly into Oakland or San Francisco (both an hour north), but San Jose is less than 1/2 north of Morgan Hill. Perhaps you already have someone from your Society vacationing, or on business down this way... could be a perfect fit!?

Eric Rauscher <ericrauscher@comcast.net>; will be the PCIT Referee Manager, Bruce Carter <RUGBYREFMD@aol.com>; is, as always, the NorCal Ref Pres.

We will make certain those who can take the leap this way are well taken care of. Hotels are right across the street from the Park. We will feed and house...

Please have anyone call me directly if there are any questions left unanswered.

Ray Schwartz

(916) 524-8928 cell

4 **Rugby Super League Week 4 Preview**

As usual, there are a slew of great games in the schedule this weekend. In Dallas, the Denver Barbarians make the trip to take on the locals in a clash of two teams in search of their first win of the season. Though winless, Denver has competed well and has a couple of points in the standings. A Denver win would put the team back into contention and give the team confidence before playing San Francisco the following week. At 0-3, Dallas has struggled this year, and they are unlikely to find Denver in a charitable mood.

The game of the week is probably San Francisco Gold Gate at Old Puget Sound Beach. Both teams are undefeated, and had a similar

result against their common opponent. Expect to see a high scoring encounter here as both teams can play a flowing game, but the teams are more than capable of grinding out a win if necessary. Sole possession of first place in the West and an inside track to the playoffs make this an important fixture.

In the East, Boston visits Chicago to take on the Lions. The Lions are back to a more familiar position, near the top of the standings. Boston's only loss has been to Life University, and Boston will be looking for a win to force their way back into the reckoning. Also in Chicago, the Griffins will host Life University. The Griffins did not have a great outing last week and will be looking to correct that. Their opponent has certainly answered any questions that may have been raised before the season, and once again are the team to beat.

In New York, with the latest winter storm forecast to clear out by the weekend, Old Blue make the cross town trip to take on NYAC. Old Blue may be a little unlucky to be 0-2 in the standings, so the extra impetus when playing their local rivals may be just what they need. , NYAC are 1-1, their loss coming at the hands of Life, and they will also look to get back on track with a win. With little room for error, it is shaping up to be a pivotal week in the East Conference.

5 April 1st Officials test

In honour of the April Fools' Day, below are some situations to puzzle refs. I look forward to receiving some creative answers...

- In a remote location, the visiting blue team scores with one minute to play. They now trail by one point, but before they can attempt the conversion, the ball ruptures and goes completely flat. There is no replacement ball and the only other items available are a Frisbee, tennis balls and a basketball.
- One of the red team's players is an orangutan. He appears to know the laws and his team assert that he has already played four matches that year with only one yellow card (for dissent).
- Assuming that you let the orangutan above play, he shows his unique talents by binding legally to rucks then reaching through with his hand-like foot to pick up the ball from the opposition side.
- A massive prop and a small, former gymnast are brought onto the field for an attacking 5m lineout with one minute to play. The prop launches the gymnast so far that he catches the ball and flies over everyone's heads into the in-goal, where he lands smoothly and grounds the ball for a try.

6 Picture caption

I had a good assortment of captions for this picture submitted by the readers- thanks to all that responded. Most of the captions followed the same theme...
"Surprise!"



Actively yours

Scott Harland

Regional Development Officer

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