

Key areas – Law interpretation and application for Currie Cup 2011

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO LAW CHANGES, NOR ARE THERE ANY CHANGES TO WHAT WAS APPLICABLE IN SUPER RUGBY 2011.

HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY Coaches, players and Referees AS IT WILL BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THESE KEY AREAS NEED ATTENTION FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME AND CONSISTENCY.

1. BREAKDOWN:

a. Tackle:

- i.** Tackler must release ball carrier immediately – show daylight! (Allowing the tackler to not release or to do so after having slowed the ball up – negates quick ball and creates other infringements)
- ii.** Tackler must roll away – (when in way of ball passage)
- iii.** Assist tacklers WHO do not go to ground must release the tackled player prior to attempting to win the ball. (He must show daylight)
- iv.** Tackled player must release the ball after being tackled –or pass or place the ball.
- v.** Arriving players:
 - 1.** Must enter through gate
 - 2.** Must remain on feet when attempting to win the ball
 - 3.** Players going off their feet unintentionally (bumped, pulled, etc.) must roll away immediately.
 - 4.** Players deliberately going to ground must be penalized.

5. The trend that has developed whereby players who clean out ahead of the ball and then intentionally holding the cleared out players preventing him from defending should not be allowed. AR's and Referees are to be vigilant in this area.
 6. Sealing off (flopping, bridging, etc.) to prevent a player from reaching the ball legally is to be vigilantly dealt with. Especially the ball carrying team. (a player affecting a low clean out is not sealing off – provided he removes the threat and roll away.)
 7. Then the latest trend whereby a player acts as a “tractor” by cleaning out on all fours and move past the ball obstructing opposition players from getting to the ball. They do this under the excuse that they know they're off their feet and are trying to get away from the ball and the area. THIS NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH BY APPLYING THE LAW as the opposition has little to combat this except perhaps hands in, etc!
- b. Ruck:**
- i. Must clearly have been formed before off side lines apply across the field.
 - ii. Referee to call “ruck” once only.
 - iii. Player with hands on ball before ruck is formed, to be given opportunity to win ball – one go only! (players and referees to realize that the ruck formation may beat the player)
 - iv. Players entering the ruck to do so through ‘the gate’ and on their feet.
- c. Maul:**
- i. Players supporting the ball winner at kick-off and Line outs must do so from alongside or behind the ball winner. Players doing so from in front of the ball winner are to be penalize for obstruction.
 - ii. Both the ball carrying and defending side are to be refereed equally in terms of:
 1. Players having to join the maul through the gate,
 2. Players having to be on side – behind last feet of maul
 3. Players not being allowed to collapse the maul. (Sacking happens at the lineout and must be done immediately and not seconds (time) and meters (distance) away. Please note that sacking is bringing the ball catcher in the line out down, just before a maul is formed)
 4. Players having to remain bound, and
 5. Players who are caught up in the maul and makes his way through the middle of the formation is not obliged to leave the maul.

2. **SCRUM:**

- a. 4 clear and precise calls by the referee followed by 4 clear actions by the players concerned.
- b. ZERO tolerance to early engagement and failing to engage on referee' call
- c. Loose heads to be hitting up and tight heads to be square on engagement.
- d. Binding to be as per I.a.w. book and on body – not arms.
- e. Loose heads WHO end up putting a hand on the ground to prevent a collapse at engagement occasionally may be able to rebind. This should be an exception rather than the norm and referees are not use this as an excuse to allow loose heads placing their hands on the ground.

3. **OFF-SIDE:**

- a. Referees and assistant referees need to be strict on applying the offside law to both teams at the breakdown. Players close in at the breakdown (pillars, guards) must be policed strictly to ensure that they remain onside to allow the legal space teams are entitled to.
- b. Off sides both in general play and from kicks where offside players are within 10metres of the receiver are to be strictly enforced.

4. **FOUL PLAY:**

- a. Dangerous tackles such as the lifting a player and not safely brought to ground as well as
- b. Dangerous tackles around the head and neck area is to be dealt with vigilantly.
- c. The latest trend whereby players are grabbed around the neck is to be dealt with in ZERO tolerance manner in order to eradicate this from the game.

5. **QUICK TAPS:**

- a. Offending players slowing down the quick taking of a PK or FK are to be dealt with by means of awarding the PK/FK 10metres further and if continued, sanctioned by means of yellow cards.
- b. It is the referee's responsibility to ensure that a team being awarded a PK/FK is given the opportunity to play the ball freely and without unfair delay.

6. **QUICK THROW INS:**

- a. Quick throw-ins are to be encouraged and players preventing a quick throw by subtly throwing the ball into the stands or holding on to the ball, or throwing it to the ball boys for example, are to be penalized by means of a PK on the 15m line.
- b. This bad sportsmanship behaviour needs to be eradicated and referees are to ensure this is sanctioned.

7. **GENERAL:**

- a. The Red zone is a word that needs to be removed from everybody's mind and mouth and is taboo on SA Rugby fields. The laws are to applied equally across the field of play according to the law book. The RED ZONE application is a recipe for inconsistency.
- b. Please refer to all IRB rulings of 2010 and 2011 as well as the new technical area application and field markings as distributed by the office.
- c. Should there be any questions regarding above, please do not hesitate to contact A Watson, T Henning or A Schoonwinkel.

Good luck to all teams in the various SA Competitions and be assured of our utmost attention at all times in our endeavors to provide the best possible refereeing service in SA.

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