

CAPTAINS & THE REFEREE

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THE CAPTAIN

- Why are you the captain?
 - Trust and confidence of the coaches and teammates
 - You have a key role to perform
 - Expectations:
 - Leader
 - Set the example
 - Communicator
 - Controller
 - Corrective actions
 - Decision-maker
 - What are your expectations for the match officials?
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THE PRE-GAME

The referee locates and greets the coaches and asks them to identify you

- From then-on all communications from the referee go through you
- There will be a coin-toss with the opposing captain at which time the captains and referee build some trust and expectations
 - Captain has to control the players on his/her team
 - Referee will manage the game
 - All three of you have to communicate
- You will learn whether Assistant Referees are in use or just volunteer touch-judges
- Referee will check on things like color of jerseys, match-balls, and confirm the kick-off time
- The referee should arrange for an equipment check and front-row briefing for both teams

DURING THE GAME

- **CAPTAIN: CONTROL YOUR PLAYERS**
 - This means controlled aggression and player/team discipline
 - The referee will admonish/caution players through you, so always be prepared to accompany your player
 - Keep you players quiet and focused on your game plan
 - Lead your team, set the example, avoid & forbid foul language
- **REFEREE: MANAGE THE GAME**
 - The referee will manage the game, if they have to control players too, then there will be lots of penalties and cards
 - Referee is the sole judge of law and fact on the day
 - Referee is trying to be fair and safe but all referees have experience to gain
 - Referee is never doubt but they are not always correct
 - Things happen outside their field of view and they can't act on that
 - They will not change their mind on a call, so an argument is not helpful

DURING THE GAME

- **REFEREE & CAPTAINS: COMMUNICATE**
 - You, alone, have the ability to communicate with the referee for your team
 - Use this wisely – choose stoppage moments, ask clear questions, don't just complain or contradict
 - If you ask the referee to “watch the high tackles”, but that's not very useful, instead ask for clarification on what the referee is using to judge high tackles in the game
 - You should probably only have to have 2-3 stoppage conversations with the referee; more than that and it's too much (referee may be at fault too)
 - Communicate to your team what you are learning from your interaction with the referee, especially help inexperienced players and those having repeat infractions
 - Communicate with your side-line
 - NOTE that the referee may not call on you to manage side-line interference – under new guidance, referees are now to caution sidelines (coaches) directly and dismiss nonresponsive coaches or players. Coaches are to be directed by the referee to deal with inappropriate spectator behaviour. There are no penalties for side-line misbehavior and the game restarts as per the stoppage.

THANK YOU

I highly recommend all rugby players, especially captains, see the following two movies; since pictures are more valuable than words.....

