



# 2021 NORTH HARBOUR GAME DAY PROTOCOLS

**For all North Harbour Senior Club and Secondary Schools Teams**

# INDEX

## Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	1
PURPOSE .....	2
1.0 FIELD PREPARATION.....	3
1.1 Technical Area .....	3
2.0 GAME DAY PROTOCOLS .....	3
• The Visiting Manager: .....	4
• Authorised persons that are permitted inside the ropes Summary of Personnel permitted .....	4
• Premier Grade 1 teams and Secondary School grade teams hosting a televised fixture may have:...	4
• All grades from Premier 2, and non televised Secondary School games .....	4
2.1 Water carriers and Medical personnel.....	5
• May only enter the field of play on the following occasions:.....	5
2.2 Kicking Tee Carrier .....	5
2.3 Ball boys.....	5
• Ballboys should be instructed by team management:.....	5
2.4 Team Management.....	6
APPENDIX A: Game Day Management Protocols .....	6
APPENDIX B: Game Day Field Set-up: Ropes & Technical Area .....	7
APPENDIX C: NHRRA Reporting Process of Protocol Non-compliance .....	8

## INTRODUCTION

Rugby must be played within the **spirit** in which it was intended. Therefore it must be played both to the letter and within the spirit of the laws. The

responsibility for ensuring that this happens lies not with one individual – it involves coaches, captains, players, referees and spectators.

(Ref: World Rugby Playing Charter - “**Spirit**”)

## **PURPOSE**

- To provide the best opportunities for the Referee, Assistant Referees and TouchJudges (when players are used) to carry out their roles and clearly observe the full sidelines.
- To ensure safety for spectators from sideline excursions by players.
- To enable substitution controllers where applicable to carry out their duties.
- To enable team managers to move players on and off the field in an efficientmanner.
- To ensure the safety of team support personnel, ball boys and personnel managing the sideline.
- To minimise sideline congestion and allow spectators an improved view of thegame.

## 1.0 FIELD PREPARATION

- Clubs/Secondary Schools are to ensure post pads are fitted, field flags are in position and ground markings are adequate.
- Clubs/Secondary Schools will ensure that fields are adequately roped to maintain the safety of players, spectators and match officials. All playing fields must be roped to a minimum of two metres (optimum three metres) from the side line. This includes both side lines and both dead ball lines. To provide a better view for spectators and assist in preventing spectator creep, ropes should be angled away from the in-goal area to the half way line in a "V" formation. Ropes must be supported so they do not allow spectators to bend them such that the Assistant Referee/Touch Judge are obstructed in their duties. *(Refer to Appendix B for field ropes set-up)*
- Where a ground has two fields adjacent to each other and both fields are being used: If the area between them is less than the minimum for each field the area should not be used for spectator viewing and that area is to be roped off. Club officials, selectors, medics or referee association officials may use such an area.
- All team reserves and management are to be located on either side of half-way on the same side of the field for the management of substitutions. The home club shall determine which side of the field team reserves and management shall be located.

### 1.1 Technical Area

- A technical area may be roped off to create a separate area from the spectators for the reserves and management of each team by roping an area of approximately 10m x 2m at the apex of the roped "V" on either side of half-way. It is preferable that seating is provided for reserves. Where possible individual seating should be provided in the technical area for temporarily suspended players from the match *(Refer to Appendix B for preferred technical area set-up)*
- The ground which is roped to host the Premier 1 grade fixture should be roped with a technical area specified in Appendix B unless a ground variation has been approved by North Harbour Operations Management.
- The above rope specification for Premier 1 fixtures shall also apply to Secondary School grades that are hosting a televised fixture.

## 2.0 GAME DAY PROTOCOLS

- All host clubs/Secondary Schools are to have a **Game Day Controller** on all occasions where fixtures are held at their home grounds.
- The appointed Game day Controller will:
  - Ensure team and referee changing rooms are open.
  - Liaise pre-game with visiting teams, referees and other match officials.
  - Ensure field preparation as in section 1 above is suitable.

- Ensure Game Day Management Protocols are implemented and followed by all teams and spectators.
- The Game Day Controller preferably shall wear a vest that identifies him/her to the teams, spectators and match officials.

All teams present must follow the direction of the appointed Game Day Controller

- **The Visiting Manager:**

- May be requested to assist the Game Day Controller/Referee where the visiting team's/supporters' behaviour contributes to game disruption.

- **Authorised persons that are permitted inside the ropes Summary of Personnel permitted**

- Match Officials – Referee and two Asst/Referees (or Touch Judges) plus
- Substitution Manager (and two Substitution Controllers where appointed).
- The Playing XV from each team. (This does not include Reserves or Substitutes).
- Personnel from each team who will administer first aid.
- Personnel from each team who will act as water carrier.
- St John/Medical Officials.
- Ball boys and Kicking Tee carrier.

- **Premier Grade 1 teams and Secondary School grade teams hosting a televised fixture may have:**

- **Water carriers:** Two per team who are permitted to stand in front of the ropes (one on each side of the field).
- **Medical personnel:** One qualified medical/first aid person (who may carry water) is permitted to stand in front of the ropes on the technical side of the field only.
- In the case of an injury (where the referee has **not** signalled for “time off”) the team's medical personnel can enter the field of play (over the ropes) to administer to an injured player. In this case water cannot be delivered to other players.

- **All grades from Premier 2, and non televised Secondary School games**

- No one is permitted in front of the ropes except in the case of an injury (where the referee has **not** signalled “time off”) when medical personnel, coaches or management can enter the field of play (over the ropes).

## **2.1 Water carriers and Medical personnel**

- When in front of the ropes must move up and down the sideline to ensure spectators and the technical area do not have their vision unnecessarily impaired. They must also at all times remain 1 metre back from the sideline so as not to obstruct the movement of Assistant Referees/Touch Judges.
- **May only enter the field of play on the following occasions:**
  - After a try has been awarded.
  - When there is an injury to administer to the injured player (water only for injured player).
  - When the referee has signalled for “time off”.
  - Water carriers cannot enter the field of play with water during penalty kicks at goal but may deliver the kicking tee.
  - Water bottles must not be thrown onto the field, nor can the water bottles/dispenser be left unattended on the field unless “time off” has been signalled by the Referee.
  - Water carriers and medical personnel should wear a vest or apparel identifying their role and indicates they are not an on-field player.
- Players may come to the side-line for water but must not step out of the playing field as they will be designated out of the game until the referee signals they may re-enter the playing field.

## **2.2 Kicking Tee Carrier**

- **May only enter the field of play on the following occasions:**
  - After a try has been awarded.
  - At a penalty kick at goal only after the referee has signalled for a kick at goal.
  - Water is not permitted on the field of play during a penalty kick at goal.

## **2.3 Ball boys**

Ballboys should be provided by the host club. When ball boys are provided there should be a minimum of three balls provided between both teams.

- **Ballboys should be instructed by team management:**
  - To remain well clear of the side-line as a safety requirement.
  - To be alert to the potential advantage the ball throwing team has in the event of a quick throw-in. (Enthusiasm to gather the ball may negate the opportunity for a quick throw-in).

## **2.4 Team Management**

Team management may have the choice of being in the technical area at any time during the fixture or at any location outside of the ropes.

All personnel in the technical area and any support personnel in front of the ropes must follow the instructions of match officials.

## **APPENDIX A: Game Day Management Protocols**

### **1.0 Guidelines for management of side-line abuse/misconduct:**

- a. If disorderly behaviour, misconduct or match official abuse (Referee, Assistant Referees or Substitution Controller) within the playing enclosure occurs, the incident and offenders are to be advised to the referee.
- b. The referee is to signal "time off", and advise the home team captain to require a member of the home team management to return with him onto the playing field to discuss with the referee. The home team management will be required to address the issue in the first instance or by contacting the appointed Game Day Controller (preferably by mobile).
- c. The Manager/Game Day Controller should adopt the following process:
  - Approach the offenders to identify them. Request that they cease the behaviour concerned and advise them that if they do not comply they will be asked to leave the playing enclosure.
  - If they fail to comply, call for the assistance of the referee. The referee will stop the match and support the process advised.
  - If non-compliance continues, the referee is to call the match off.
  - At no time should any match official or club/school representative/s confront any offenders physically.

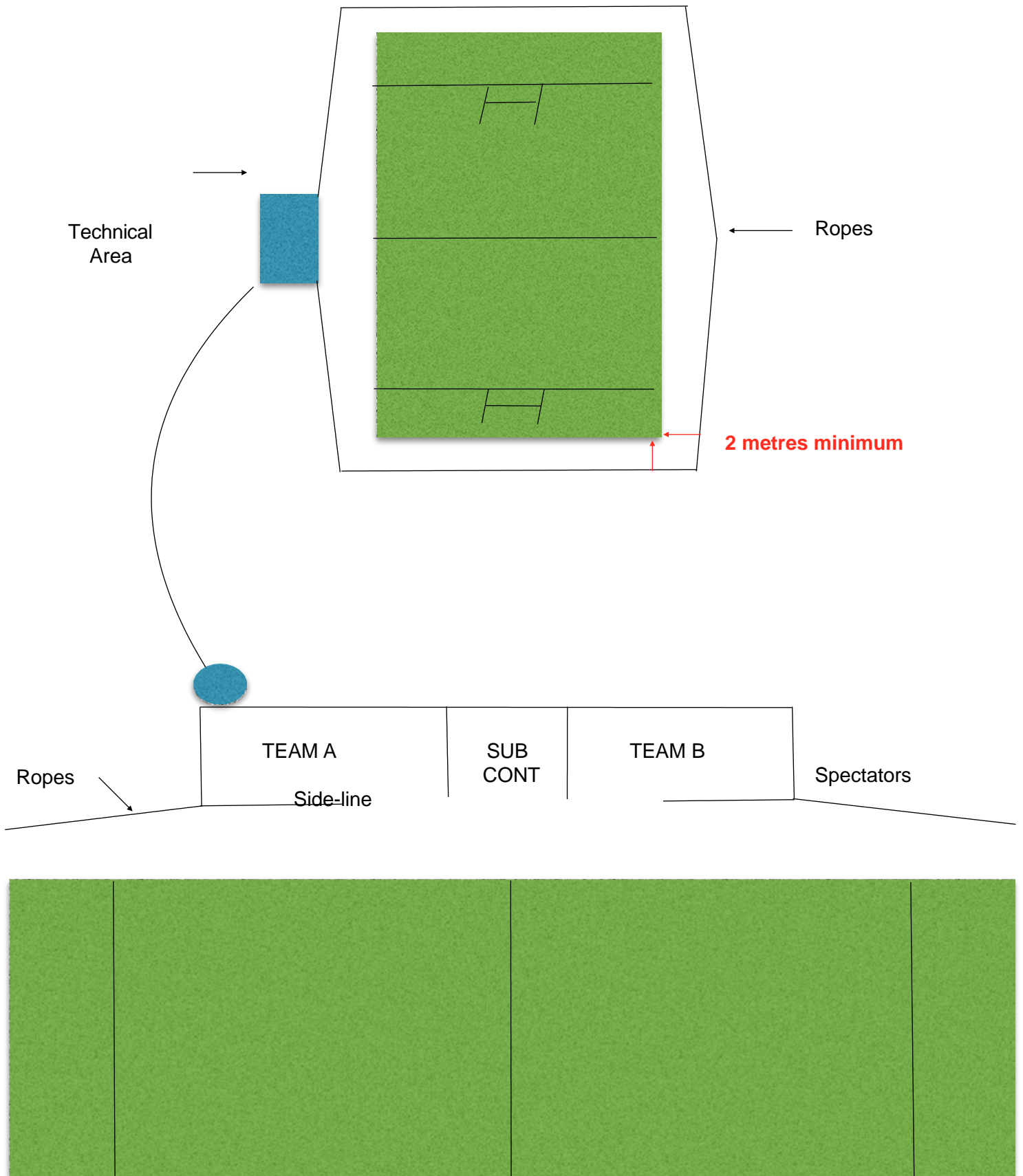
### **1.1 Referee/Club & School Management post match procedure:**

The referee shall follow up by advising a referee management appointed advisor and submit a Referee Abuse form to North Harbour Rugby and the NHRRA Chairperson within 48 hours of the match ending.

The home club shall submit a report to North Harbour Rugby with relevant information to identify the offender/s and any club affiliation concerned within 48 hours of the match ending.

# APPENDIX B: Game Day Field Set-up: Ropes & Technical Area

Technical area: All personnel must follow instructions of the match officials





## **APPENDIX C: NHRRA Reporting Process of Protocol Non-compliance**

This section will be developed by NHRRA in conjunction with the Council of Clubs and North Harbour Rugby.

It is the intention of NHRRA to introduce these Protocols with the acceptance of the parties above. It is accepted that some education within the club management/coaching structure will be necessary as it may be the first occasion some personnel are exposed to these Protocols.

Upon acceptance by the parties it will be incumbent on NHRRA management to liaise with clubs when a breach of the protocols occur and seek a solution that is acceptable to all parties. These protocols will form the basis of this Appendix.

**“Appendix C development plan as identified above will be included as an advisory item to the Club Boards only and comment will be invited when the parties above have agreed on a recommendation for forwarding to Club Boards.**