



— EUROPEAN —  
**PROFESSIONAL  
CLUB RUGBY**

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MATCH OFFICIAL'S BOOKLET  
2017/18

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This booklet has been produced to assist Match officials in administrative matters for the European Rugby Champions Cup and the European Rugby Challenge Cup. It contains information on rules and other matters that are important details for all Match officials officiating in EPCR tournaments.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE HOWEVER THAT THE ULTIMATE REFERENCE IS THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.**

- 1.2 All Match officials shall comply with the terms of this booklet, including the terms of the Code of Conduct at Appendix Six to this booklet. Accepting an appointment to officiate at a Match will be deemed to signify acceptance of such terms.
- 1.3 Capitalised terms have the meanings set out in the Participation Agreement.

## **2. ROLE OF MATCH OFFICIALS**

- 2.1 Each Match shall be played in accordance with the Laws of the Game, as varied or supplemented by EPCR as set out in the Participation Agreement.
- 2.2 The roles of the different Match officials and other officials:
- 2.2.1 The roles of the referee and assistant referees as well as any other Match officials appropriately authorised by EPCR, including the number 4 and 5 Match officials, shall be to enforce the Laws of the Game (as varied or supplemented by EPCR as set out in the Participation Agreement). For the avoidance of doubt, and in addition to the referee's tasks as set out in this booklet and/or the Participation Agreement, the referee shall have the ability, either on his own initiative or upon reference by another Match official, to take appropriate action in relation to incidents that take place on or near the touch-line or elsewhere in the Playing Enclosure (for example, breaches of the technical zone protocol set out at Appendix One to this booklet).
- 2.2.2 A television match official may be appointed by EPCR for any Matches in the Tournament. The role of the television match official shall be as set out in the Laws of the Game and the relevant World Rugby protocol relating to television match officials set out at Appendix Seven to this booklet (as varied or supplemented by EPCR at its discretion pursuant to written notice from EPCR to the Clubs).
- 2.2.3 The duties of the Official Data Provider shall be:
- (a) to receive, no later than one hour prior to kick-off of the Match, completed Match Squad Sheets from the EPCR Representative (or, for the Challenge Cup, from a representative of each participating Club) and to receive, after the Match, the substitution/replacement form and substitution/replacement cards used during the Match by the Clubs and Match officials pursuant to Appendix Five to this booklet;

- (b) to record the results of any place-kick competition held pursuant to paragraph 17 of this booklet;
- (c) to notify the result of the Match to EPCR or its designee, and to provide to EPCR or its designee an official statistical record of the Match (as directed by EPCR), including confirmation of the Clubs' Match squads (as listed on the Match Squad Sheets obtained from the EPCR Representative or representatives of the respective Clubs), details of any substitutions/replacements used during the Match and, where appropriate, the record of the place-kick competition results; and
- (d) to report to EPCR on other issues, including the organisation of the Match and the participating Clubs' compliance with the Participation Agreement, as requested by EPCR from time to time.

2.2.4 In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the Match referee is responsible for keeping time at a Match. However, unless EPCR indicates otherwise, the Match referee will delegate the task of keeping time at a Match to the Official Time-Keeper. At all Matches (unless EPCR indicates otherwise), the Match time will be kept on an 'elapsed time' basis, so that when time is lost (due to, for example, injuries or replacements/substitutions) the Official Time-Keeper will stop (and then subsequently re-start) the stadium clock and (where the Match is being televised) the television screen clock. When the Match time is kept on an 'elapsed time' basis, the stadium clock and (where the Match is being televised) the television screen clock will indicate how many of the 40 minutes have elapsed in each half and the Official Time-Keeper will liaise with the Match referee during the Match (via the referee communications system) in order to communicate when the clocks have stopped/re-started and when the last-play of each half is taking place. (An elapsed time protocol is attached as Appendix Three to this booklet). Each Match will have a 15-minute half-time interval.

2.2.5 For the Challenge Cup, EPCR reserves the right to determine that no Official Data Providers be appointed (for individual Matches or for the Tournament generally). Where EPCR so determines, it will also determine (and inform the Clubs) who is to fulfil the duties of the Official Data Provider as set out in paragraph 2.2.3, above (in those circumstances, the duties set out in paragraph 2.2.3(b), above, will be fulfilled by the Match referee).

2.3 Before, during and after a Match, all Persons must comply with the instructions given by representatives of EPCR (including, but not limited to, instructions relating to the team captains' attendance at the coin toss, the teams' departure from the changing rooms, and the Clubs' representatives' attendance at media interviews).

2.4 No Player or other Person may enter, or attempt to enter, the Match officials' changing room(s) at any relevant time before, during or after a Match (including at any time when one or more of the Match officials are in the Match officials' changing room(s)).

2.5 In order to maintain the integrity and success of EPCR's tournaments, each Match official must conduct himself at all relevant times in accordance with the highest

standards of honest, disciplined and sporting behaviour and must (among other things) comply at all times with paragraph 9, below, and the EPCR Match Officials' and Citing Commissioners' Code of Conduct (**Code of Conduct**), a copy of which is set out at Appendix Six to this booklet. EPCR will be entitled to discipline any Match official for failure to comply with this paragraph. Further, each Match official recognises that it will be a condition of his further participation in EPCR tournaments that he execute a copy of the Code of Conduct, thereby agreeing to comply at all relevant times with the same.

### **3. MATCH OFFICIALS' PRE-MATCH PROTOCOL**

- 3.1 Match officials should arrive at the ground no later than 1½ hours before kick-off.
- 3.2 On arrival at the ground the referee and his two assistant referees should assume responsibility for all issues to do with the two teams as they prepare for the Match, including warm-ups on the pitch and liaising with broadcasters as to when teams exit the dressing rooms.
- 3.3 Prior to the Match, the number 4 and 5 Match officials should meet with each Club's Technical Zone Manager, who will be responsible for, among other things, all his/her Club's substitutions/replacements during the Match, as well as his/her Club's compliance with the technical zone protocol (set out at Appendix One to this booklet). The number 4 and 5 Match officials should ensure that each Technical Zone Manager is familiar with the substitution and replacement protocol (set out at Appendix Five to this booklet) and the technical zone protocol (set out at Appendix One to this booklet) and is aware of his/her duties as set out in those documents.
- 3.4 Prior to the Match, the number 4 and 5 Match officials should identify the positioning of the technical zones, the 'sin bin' areas and where the substitutes/replacements will be positioned during the Match. The technical zone protocol stipulates that substitutes/replacements must be located, other than when they are warming up or entering the Playing Area as a substitute or replacement, outside the Playing Enclosure throughout the Match. In practice, substitutes/replacements will ordinarily sit in the stand. However, in some venues this is not achievable or suitable in terms of safe and efficient movement of substitutes/replacements during the Match. It is therefore vital that the number 4 and 5 Match officials discuss this issue with venue personnel and/or the Technical Zone Manager(s) and identify clearly where all Club personnel will be positioned during the Match.
- 3.5 The position of the 'sin bin' areas should not be in either technical zone but should be within clear view of the Playing Area.
- 3.6 Prior to the Match, the number 4 and 5 Match officials should provide to each Technical Zone Manager different colour substitution/replacement cards for use during the Match.
- 3.7 The number 4 and 5 Match officials should agree together how they will manage each technical zone. It is recommended that each official manages one technical zone.

- 3.8 The number 4 and/or 5 Match official fills in the details of substitutions/replacements on the substitution/replacement form and at the end of the Match attaches all substitution/replacement cards to this form and hands it to the Official Data Provider (or the individual selected to perform his duties in accordance with paragraph 2.2.5, above).
- 3.9 During the game the number 4 and 5 Match officials manage all touchline activity as part of a team. In the case where assistance is required the Match referee may be asked to intervene.
- 3.10 It is not the role of the EPCR Representative to intervene in disputes during the Match and number 4 and 5 Match officials should not call on the EPCR Representative to provide assistance should any such dispute arise.

#### **4. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION**

- 4.1 Travel and accommodation details must be communicated to the EPCR Match official co-ordinator no later than the Monday before each Match.
- 4.2 Without prejudice to the obligation at paragraph 3.1 of this booklet, Match officials must arrive in the vicinity of the Match venue no later than the day before the Match unless the Match venue is less than three hours travel by land door to door.
- 4.3 The Match official's Union is responsible for the organisation and cost of each Match official's travel, accommodation and subsistence.

#### **5. UNCONTESTED SCRUMS**

EPCR has adopted World Rugby's variation to Law 3 regarding front row replacements. A minimum of six Front Row Players must be included in each Match squad such that at the start of the Match the Club's team can play safely with contested scrums and (a) on the first occasion that a replacement hooker is required, (b) on the first occasion that a replacement tight-head prop forward is required, and (c) on the first occasion that a replacement loose-head prop forward is required (in each case whether due to injury or a Player being Temporarily Suspended or sent off), a replacement can be made and the Club's team can continue to play safely with contested scrums. If a Club does not nominate at least six such Front Row Players and/or does not have at least six such Front Row Players in the Match squad ready to participate in the Match (in accordance with this paragraph) and, as a result, the referee orders that scrums in the Match be uncontested scrums, one or more Misconduct complaints may be brought against the Club in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules (for the avoidance of doubt, Misconduct complaints may be brought against a Club that does not nominate at least six such Front Row Players and/or does not have at least six such Front Row Players in the Match squad ready to participate in the Match in accordance with this paragraph, even if that does not result in uncontested scrums). Notwithstanding the other consequences, if a Club does not nominate at least six such Front Row Players in its Match squad for a given Match, it must reduce the size of its Match squad accordingly, so that (for example) if it nominates only five such Front Row Players, its Match squad must not number more than 22 players. Further, and in any event, where uncontested scrums are ordered as a result of the departure of a Front Row Player (whether due to injury or his being Temporarily Suspended or sent

off, or otherwise) and there is no suitable replacement Front Row Player for any reason, the Club concerned shall not be entitled to replace the Front Row Player whose departure caused the uncontested scrums.

## **6. TECHNICAL ZONE/SIN BIN**

### **6.1 At each venue at which a Match is played:**

6.1.1 two technical zones will be provided. Appendix One to this booklet is a technical zone protocol, which sets out the features of the technical zones and the obligations of the participating Clubs with respect to their activities in and around the technical zones, including which personnel are permitted in the technical zones, what activities each Club's medical staff and water carriers may carry out (and where) and where each Club's substitutes/replacements and coaching/management staff may be located; and

6.1.2 two 'sin bin' areas shall be designated by EPCR, not in the technical zones, but with a clear view of the Playing Area, where Players who have been Temporarily Suspended should stay, subject to instructions of the Match officials, during the period of their Temporary Suspension.

6.2 During a Match, only the following persons may enter the Playing Area: the Match officials, the 15 Players from each Club participating in the Match (along with any substitutes and/or replacement Players joining the Match in accordance with Appendix Five to this booklet or warming up in accordance with Appendix One to this booklet), medical staff (in accordance with the Laws of the Game and Appendix One to this booklet), water carriers (in accordance with the Laws of the Game and Appendix One to this booklet) and coaching staff (during the half-time interval in accordance with the Laws of the Game and Appendix One to this booklet).

## **7. SUBSTITUTIONS/REPLACEMENTS**

7.1 Communications with Match officials in relation to substitutions/replacements must take place in accordance with the substitution and replacement protocol set out at Appendix Five to this booklet.

7.2 A substitution/replacement card (an example of which is shown in Appendix Two of this booklet) will be used for the management of substitutions/replacements on and off the pitch. The official form used will be in English.

7.3 When a Club decides to substitute or replace a Player on the Playing Enclosure, the Club's Technical Zone Manager fills in the appropriate details on the substitution/replacement card and signs it. The respective numbers of the Player leaving the Playing Area and the Player substituting/replacing him must be written in the appropriate box on the substitution/replacement card by the Technical Zone Manager.

## **8. PLAYING STRIP**

8.1 In respect of each Pool and quarter-final Match (and, for the Challenge Cup, each semi-final Match), the "home" Club must wear its registered "preferred" Strip (it will be deemed to have been designated by EPCR) and EPCR will designate, in its

discretion, which of the “away” Club’s registered Strips the “away” Club must wear, and notify the Clubs thereof as soon as reasonably practicable (in respect of each Pool Match, EPCR envisages that it will have made that designation and notification by 5 October 2017). In respect of each semi-final Match (for the Champions Cup) and the final Match, EPCR will designate, in its discretion, which of its registered Strips each Club must wear and will notify the Clubs thereof as soon as reasonably practicable. For the avoidance of doubt, in respect of the “away” Club’s Strip to be worn at a Match, EPCR will not be obliged to designate the Strip notified by the Club pursuant to clause 5.9 of the Tournament Rules. At each Match, each Club must wear the Strip designated by EPCR for that Match pursuant to this paragraph.

- 8.2 Notwithstanding paragraph 8.1, above, if at a Match a Club fails to wear the Strip designated by EPCR for that Match and an EPCR representative or (in the absence of any EPCR representative) the Match referee determines that there is a colour clash, that Club must change Strip in that Match.

## **9. COMMUNICATION**

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Code of Conduct, Match officials should not communicate or comment to the media on, or discuss through social media outlets such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram or similar, issues arising at or out of a Match (including any decisions by Match officials) or issues regarding EPCR (unless instructed by EPCR to do so).

## **10. COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

Prior to departure the Union of the referee should confirm with the visited Union the agreed communication system process. We recommend that Match officials fully understand the arrangements before departure.

## **11. SCHEDULING**

- 11.1 Subject to EPCR’s power (set out in the Tournament Rules) to alter the venue or date of a Match, Matches will be played on the Thursday (Challenge Cup only), Friday, Saturday or Sunday of the respective weekends designated in Part One (Pool Matches) and Part Two (Knock-Out Matches) in paragraph 21 of this booklet.
- 11.2 Each Match must be played on the date and at the time and venue selected in accordance with the Tournament Rules, unless:
- 11.2.1 it is agreed by EPCR in writing to change the Match to another date and/or kick-off time and/or venue; or
  - 11.2.2 the Match is postponed pursuant to paragraph 11.3, below, in which case EPCR shall select a rearranged date and kick-off time (and, where necessary or appropriate, an alternative venue) for the postponed Match to be played. The Clubs (and, where practicable, the Match officials) involved shall comply with the directions of EPCR as to the arrangements for playing the rearranged Match, including staying in the locality if requested to do so by EPCR in order to facilitate the playing of the rearranged Match; or



- 11.2.3 the Match is begun but then abandoned pursuant to paragraph 11.4 below, in which case the procedure set out in that paragraph will apply; or
  - 11.2.4 EPCR exercises its power pursuant to the Tournament Rules to alter the venue of the Match as a result of adverse venue or weather conditions at the original venue or any other reason. The Clubs (and, where practicable, the Match officials) involved shall comply with the directions of EPCR as to the arrangements for playing the rearranged Match, including staying in the locality if requested to do so by EPCR in order to facilitate the playing of the rearranged Match.
- 11.3 Subject to EPCR's absolute rights under the Tournament Rules and to any local law that confers responsibility for the matter on a third party, it will be for the Match referee to decide whether or not to postpone a Match because of adverse venue (including but not limited to floodlights and/or electricity failure) or weather conditions. If the Match referee is for any reason unavailable when the time comes to make such a decision, it will be for a referee of the Union in whose territory the Match is to be played (with such referee to be nominated by that Union) to decide whether or not to postpone the Match. However, before making a decision as to whether a Match is to be postponed because of adverse venue or weather conditions, the Match referee (or, if appropriate, pursuant to this paragraph, a nominated referee of the host Union) must consult with one or more representatives of each competing Club.
- 11.4 Subject to EPCR's absolute rights under the Tournament Rules and to any local law that confers responsibility for the matter on a third party, it will be for the Match referee to decide whether or not to abandon a Match (once it has begun) including because of adverse venue (including, but not limited to, floodlights and/or electricity failure) or weather conditions. However, before making a decision as to whether or not to abandon a Match, the Match referee will, where it is reasonably practicable to do so, consult with one or more representatives of each competing Club (which may be a Player).
- 11.4.1 In the event that a Match has begun but is then abandoned after 60 minutes or more have been played (i.e. at least 20 minutes into the second half):
    - (a) the Match will be deemed to have been completed, and the result at the time of the abandonment will stand as the Match result; and
    - (b) the procedure regarding any Cautions, other Temporary Suspensions and sendings off during the Match and/or any incidents in the Match that are the subject of citing or Misconduct complaints will be the same as if the Match had been completed.
  - 11.4.2 In the event that a Match has begun but is then abandoned after fewer than 60 minutes have been played (i.e. fewer than 20 minutes into the second half):
    - (a) if both the participating Clubs and the EPCR Board agree, the Match will be deemed to have been completed and paragraph 11.4.1, above, will be deemed to apply;

(b) if there is no such agreement:

- i. the abandoned Match will be replayed in full from the start;
- ii. EPCR shall select a date and kick-off time for the replayed Match (having taken into account the relevant Clubs' reasonable requests, where it is reasonably practicable to do so), which will be (unless both the participating Clubs and EPCR agree otherwise) no earlier than 48 hours after the kick-off of the abandoned Match;
- iii. unless EPCR selects another venue, the replayed Match will take place at the same venue as the abandoned Match;
- iv. the procedure regarding any red cards shown during the abandoned Match and/or incidents in the abandoned Match that are the subject of citing or Misconduct complaints will be the same as if the abandoned Match had been completed (for the avoidance of doubt, therefore, the procedure where a red card is shown as a result of two yellow cards will be the same as it is for any other red card: the Player will be required to attend a hearing before a Disciplinary Committee, the Player will not be permitted to play pending resolution of the case, and further sanctions may be imposed pursuant to the Disciplinary Rules);
- v. the procedure regarding any Cautions (i.e. a Temporary Suspension for an infringement of Law 10.4 or a Citing Commissioner Warning) received in, or in respect of, the abandoned Match will be the same as it is for Cautions received in any other Match;
- vi. subject to the application of clauses 11.4.2(b)(iv) and (v), above, any other yellow cards shown in the abandoned Match will be disregarded; and
- vii. for the avoidance of doubt, a Club participating in a replayed Match may select a different team and/or squad from the team/squad it originally selected for the abandoned Match.

11.4.3 The Match referee will determine whether or not 60 minutes or more of a Match have been played at the time of abandonment, having consulted with the Official Time-Keeper where he deems it necessary to do so.

11.5 Each Club shall use its best endeavours to procure that each Match for which it is the "away" Club does not have to have its kick-off time, date or venue altered by EPCR pursuant to the Tournament Rules. This shall include (without limitation) taking all appropriate steps to ensure that its Players, staff and equipment arrive at the venue in adequate time for the scheduled kick-off and acting on all instructions/protocols given by EPCR at any time. In addition, each Club shall use its best endeavours to procure that each Match for which it is the "home" Club does

not, for example due to adverse weather or venue conditions (a) have to be postponed pursuant to paragraph 11.3, above, (b) have to be abandoned pursuant to paragraph 11.4, above, or (c) have to have its kick-off time, date or venue altered by EPCR pursuant to paragraph 11.2.4 above or 11.6, below. This shall include (without limitation) taking all appropriate steps to prepare and protect the playing surface at its designated venue (e.g., use of covers and heaters), having an alternative venue in reserve where the Match may be played if the playing surface at the original venue is unplayable, and acting on all instructions/protocols given by EPCR at any time. Any alleged failure and/or refusal to satisfy this best endeavours obligation shall be referred to the Disciplinary Officer for investigation, enquiry and/or for the bringing of Misconduct complaint(s) in accordance with the Disciplinary Rules.

- 11.6 Without prejudice to the best endeavours obligation imposed on Clubs pursuant to paragraph 11.5, above, a Club must advise the Events and Operations Director without delay of any difficulties as regards (for the "away" Club) its Players, staff and equipment arriving at the venue in adequate time for the scheduled kick-off or (for the "home" Club) adverse weather or venue conditions that may threaten the ability to stage a Match. In any event, and while EPCR will take into account Clubs' reasonable requests (where it is reasonably practicable to do so), EPCR may decide in its absolute discretion, at any time in the week leading up to a Match (including on the day of the Match), to alter the date and/or kick-off time and/or venue of the Match from the originally-designated arrangements, if EPCR considers that actual or anticipated adverse venue or weather conditions at the originally-designated venue (or other reasons, like the arrival of the "away" Club's Players, staff or equipment) pose an unacceptable risk of postponement or abandonment of the Match or the Match not being played at the scheduled kick-off.
- 11.7 Subject to paragraph 11.4, above, all Matches must be played. If a Club refuses and/or fails to fulfil a Match (including a Match that has been postponed or abandoned and then rescheduled pursuant to the Tournament Rules, or a Match that has had its kick-off time, date and/or venue altered by EPCR pursuant to the Tournament Rules), which can include demonstrating that it does not intend to fulfil the Match (for example, by its Players, staff or equipment leaving the scheduled venue for the Match without EPCR's consent):
- (a) the result of the Match will be deemed to be a 28-0 (four-try) loss by that Club;
  - (b) that Club will be awarded no Match Points for the Match and the opposing Club will be awarded five Match Points; and
  - (c) the Disciplinary Officer may investigate, hold an enquiry and/or bring Misconduct complaint(s) against that Club and/or others.

## **12. PLAYING SQUADS**

### **12.1 Tournament squads:**

- 12.1.1 Only those Players who are properly registered under clause 6 of the Tournament Rules and who satisfy the relevant eligibility criteria set out in clause 7 of the Tournament Rules may play for a Club in the Tournament.

- 12.1.2 Before the start of the Tournament, each Club will have registered a squad of up to 41 Players to compete on its behalf in the Tournament.
- 12.1.3 At least ten of the Players registered by the Club pursuant to paragraph 12.1.2, above, must be capable of playing in front row forward positions and must be suitably trained and experienced for that role (a Player with such competence, training and experience is hereby referred to as a **"Front Row Player"**), although further Front Row Players may subsequently be registered pursuant to the terms of the Tournament Rules.
- 12.1.4 Further detailed provisions on the registration and eligibility of Players to participate in the Tournament are set out at clauses 6 and 7 of the Tournament Rules.
- 12.1.5 Subject to the foregoing provisions of this paragraph 12.1, each Club shall nominate its strongest possible squad to compete on its behalf in the Tournament.

## 12.2 Match squads

- 12.2.1 At least one hour prior to the kick-off of each Match, each participating Club must (a) enter on the EPCR Online Match Squad Selection System details of the Club name, venue, date, kick-off time and opposing Club in the fixture, and the Club's Match squad of between 19 and 23 Players from its registered Tournament squad (each with full name, position and shirt number), of which 15 shall be specified to be starting Players (with one of those Players identified as the team captain) and the remainder shall be specified to be potential replacement or substitute Players, and which must not (save in exceptional circumstances, which might include an injury to a Player so long as that has been notified to EPCR in advance) include any changes whatsoever (including position or number changes) from the Match Squad Media Announcement provided pursuant to the Media Rules; and (b) provide to the EPCR Representative (or, for the Challenge Cup, the Official Data Provider and, in case of any Match that is being broadcast live on television, the EPCR representative at the Match) a print-out of the details entered on the EPCR Online Match Squad Selection System, signed by the Club's team manager (**"Match Squad Sheet"**). The EPCR representative or Official Data Provider (as applicable) will then provide a copy of the Match Squad Sheet to the Official Data Provider, Citing Commissioner, Broadcast Partners' commentators and the opposing Club. Only Players whose details are entered on the EPCR Online Match Squad Selection System and who are listed on the Match Squad Sheet may play in that Match.

## 13. EPCR REPRESENTATIVE

If there are any matters that are not addressed in the Laws of the Game, the Participation Agreement or this booklet, Match officials should refer such matters to the EPCR Representative present at the Match or other EPCR personnel listed at section 24, below.

## **14. MATCH OFFICIALS' INPUT INTO DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

### **14.1 Reports**

- 14.1.1 Where a Player is shown a yellow card or red card, the referee (and, where relevant, the assistant referee(s) and/or the television match official) must send to the Disciplinary Officer by email, [liam.mctiernan@epcrugby.com](mailto:liam.mctiernan@epcrugby.com), as soon as reasonably practicable a report (which may be in any form including, without limitation, the forms set out in Appendix Four to this booklet or in another similar form as provided by EPCR from time to time).
- 14.1.2 The report(s) should ordinarily contain the following information:
- (a) the name, number and Club of the Player shown a yellow/red card;
  - (b) the date of the Match, the venue and the Clubs participating;
  - (c) the reason(s) for the Player being shown a yellow/red card (and, particularly in respect of yellow cards, the provision of Law 10.4 that was infringed); and
  - (d) any other information that the Match official in question considers relevant.

### **14.2 Disciplinary proceedings may arise in the following circumstances:**

- 14.2.1 when a Player is shown a red card during a Match;
- 14.2.2 when a Player is the subject of a citing complaint made by a Citing Officer or a Citing Commissioner for an incident of Foul Play committed during a Match;
- 14.2.3 when the Disciplinary Officer considers a Player might have committed an act or acts of Foul Play or other Misconduct on the Playing Enclosure during a Match;
- 14.2.4 when the Disciplinary Officer considers a Player might have committed an act or acts of Misconduct other than on the Playing Enclosure during a Match;
- 14.2.5 when the Disciplinary Officer considers a Club and/or any of its Persons and/or supporters or purported supporters may have committed an act or acts of Misconduct;
- 14.2.6 when a Player receives in the Tournament three or more Cautions (a "Caution" is a Temporary Suspension for an infringement of Law 10.4 or a Citing Commissioner Warning);
- 14.2.7 when the Disciplinary Officer considers a Person might have committed an Anti-Corruption Offence; and

- 14.2.8 when the EPCR Board is satisfied that a Club has breached one or more of the provisions of the Participation Agreement that are set out in Appendix Four to the Disciplinary Rules and is liable to a fixed fine penalty.

### **14.3 Red card cases**

- 14.3.1 In cases arising out of a Player being shown a red card, the function of the Disciplinary Committee shall be to review the showing of the red card in order to determine what further action (if any) should be taken. Subject to paragraph 14.3.5, below, the Player may seek to show that the referee's decision to show the Player a red card (including where that decision was the result of consultation with one or both assistant referees and/or the television match official) was wrong (for example, because the Player had committed no act of Foul Play or because the act of Foul Play he had committed did not warrant a red card). For the avoidance of doubt, where a referee's decision to show a Player a red card was based on the referee at the time of the incident drawing conclusions about certain matters in respect of the incident (for example, the specific point of contact between the Player and an opponent), and some or all of those conclusions subsequently turn out to have been mistaken (for example, because the Player made contact with a different part of his body from that which the referee had initially considered), the Disciplinary Committee will not be precluded from determining that the referee's decision was not wrong if, for example, regardless of the referee's conclusions on such matters, the Disciplinary Committee is in any event satisfied that the Player committed an act of Foul Play that warranted a red card.
- 14.3.2 Where one or more Official Report(s) recording a red card shown to a Player is/are sent to the Disciplinary Officer, in accordance with paragraph 14.1.1, above, as soon as reasonably practicable after receipt of such Official Report(s), the Disciplinary Officer will send a copy of the Official Report(s) to the chairman of the Disciplinary Panel with a copy to the Player. The chairman of the Disciplinary Panel (or his designee) will, on receipt of the Official Report(s), appoint a Disciplinary Committee pursuant to clauses 4.2 and 7.1.2 of the Disciplinary Rules. The Player may not play rugby union anywhere (and nor may he enter the Playing Enclosure in any capacity, including as a water carrier or tee carrier, at any time on the day of a Match), pending resolution of the case by the Disciplinary Committee. Where reasonably practicable, the Disciplinary Committee will hear a case within seven days of the Match in which the Player was shown a red card.
- 14.3.3 At the hearing, the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee should refer to the Official Report(s) and ask the Player whether he accepts the Official Report(s) as true and accurate accounts of the incident that resulted in the red card being shown and the facts surrounding the incident, and whether the Player accepts that he should have been shown a red card.
- 14.3.4 The chairman of the Disciplinary Committee should then direct that the video footage of the incident (if any) be shown. He should then give the referee and/or assistant referee(s) and/or television match official (if present) the opportunity to supplement their respective report(s). The member(s) of the Disciplinary Committee, as well as the Disciplinary Officer

(or his representative), will be entitled, at any time, to seek from the referee or assistant referee(s) or television match official (if present) clarification regarding any matter referred to in their respective reports or otherwise arising during the hearing.

- 14.3.5 If the Player does not accept that he should have been shown a red card, the burden will be on him to prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the referee's decision to show him a red card (including where that was the result of consultation with one or both assistant referees and/or the television Match official) was wrong.
- 14.3.6 The Player, or his representative, will be entitled to question the referee and/or the assistant referee(s) and/or the television match official (if present) on any relevant aspect of their reports, as well as any other witnesses on any aspect of their evidence, but only through the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 14.3.7 For the avoidance of doubt, and subject to clauses 7.7.15 and 7.8.39 of the Disciplinary Rules, the provisions of this paragraph 14.3 will apply to all cases of a Player being shown a red card, including where that is as a result of being shown two yellow cards in a Match.
- 14.3.8 The Match officials may be required to attend the hearing either in person or by way of telephone.

#### **14.4 'Totting up' cases**

- 14.4.1 Where a Player is Temporarily Suspended for an infringement of Law 10.4, the Disciplinary Officer will ordinarily forward a copy of the Match officials' reports on the incident to the Player within 48 hours of receipt.
- 14.4.2 In the event that the Player considers that the Temporary Suspension was wrongly issued to him (for whatever reason), the Player must give written notice to this effect, with details of evidence in support thereof, to the Disciplinary Officer within 48 hours of receipt of the Match officials' reports. Upon receipt of any such notification, the Disciplinary Officer shall expeditiously obtain the comments thereon of the referee and, where applicable, the assistant referee(s) and television match official and any other person(s) that the Disciplinary Officer deems appropriate. Copies of such comments shall be sent to the Player.
- 14.4.3 The Match officials' reports and, where applicable, the Player's notification pursuant to paragraph 14.4.2, above, and any comments thereon will be kept on file by the Disciplinary Officer and considered (if appropriate) pursuant to paragraph 14.4.4, below. Similarly, the Disciplinary Officer will keep on file Citing Commissioner Warnings issued to the Player.
- 14.4.4 When a Player receives in Matches during the Tournament three (or more) Cautions, that accumulation of Cautions will give rise to a 'totting up' case and the following will apply:

- 14.4.5 The Disciplinary Officer will refer the matter in writing (with copies of relevant documents) to the chairman of the Disciplinary Panel, with copies sent to the Player concerned. Upon the Disciplinary Officer making the referral to the chairman of the Disciplinary Panel pursuant to this paragraph 14.4.5, the Player may not play rugby union anywhere (and nor may he enter the Playing Enclosure in any capacity --- including as a water carrier or tee carrier --- at any time on the day of a Match), pending resolution of the case by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 14.4.6 Upon receipt of the referral from the Disciplinary Officer, the chairman of the Disciplinary Panel (or his designee) shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee to hear the matter.
- 14.4.7 Subject to clauses 5.4 and 5.12 of the Disciplinary Rules, the Disciplinary Committee will consider, first, whether the Player is able to demonstrate (on the balance of probabilities) that one or more of the Cautions were wrongly issued to him, and (if the Player is not able to demonstrate such matters), second, what sanctions should be imposed on the Player.
- 14.4.8 At the hearing, the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee should direct that the video footage (if any) of the incidents be shown. He should then give the referees and/or assistant referees and/or television match officials and/or Citing Commissioners (if present) the opportunity to supplement their respective report(s). The member(s) of the Disciplinary Committee, as well as the Disciplinary Officer (or his representative), will be entitled, at any time, to seek from the referees, assistant referees, television match officials or Citing Commissioners (if present) clarification regarding any matter referred to in their respective reports or otherwise arising during the hearing.
- 14.4.9 The Player, or his representative, will be entitled to question the referees and/or the assistant referees and/or the television match officials and/or Citing Commissioners (if present) on any aspect of their reports, as well as any other witnesses on any relevant aspect of their evidence, but only through the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 14.4.10 The Player will have the right to give evidence, to call witnesses and/or (personally or through his representative) to make submissions. The Player and any witnesses may be questioned by the members of the Disciplinary Committee, as well as (through the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee) the Disciplinary Officer (or his representative).
- 14.4.11 The Disciplinary Officer will be entitled to adduce evidence, call witnesses and/or (personally or through his representative) make submissions.
- 14.4.12 If the Disciplinary Committee is satisfied (on the balance of probabilities) that one or more of the Cautions were wrongly issued to the Player, the Disciplinary Committee shall take no further action (save that, for the avoidance of doubt, if any of the remaining Cautions were not found to have been wrongly issued to the Player, disciplinary proceedings may continue if there remain three or more of such Cautions, and (if there are fewer than three such Cautions) disciplinary proceedings may subsequently



be brought based on the accumulation of a combination of those Cautions and Cautions subsequently recorded against the Player in the Tournament).

#### **14.5 Other disciplinary procedures**

Match officials may be contacted by a member of the Disciplinary Panel appointed under the Disciplinary Rules to conduct an enquiry into a particular matter and/or by the Disciplinary Officer in connection with any disciplinary proceedings brought under the Disciplinary Rules. In all such cases, Match officials should assist such individuals (including, where necessary, answering any questions and/or providing statements in relation to particular incidents) as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

### **15. COMPETITION RULES**

#### **15.1 Pool Matches**

The following points shall be awarded based on the results of each Pool Match (such points to be referred to as **“Match Points”** to distinguish them from points scored on the field of play):

- (a) The Club that wins the Match shall be awarded four Match Points or (if it scores four tries or more in the process) five Match Points.
- (b) The Club that loses the Match shall be awarded no Match Points or (if it scores four tries or more in the process or loses by a margin of seven points or fewer) one Match Point or (if it scores four tries or more in the process and loses by a margin of seven points or fewer) two Match Points.
- (c) Clubs that draw a Match shall each be awarded two Match Points and any of them that scores four tries or more in the process shall be awarded a further one Match Point.

#### **15.2 The Knock-Out Stage**

15.2.1 The Knock-Out Stage shall be divided into four quarter-final Matches, two semi-final Matches and a final Match.

15.2.2 In the event of a tie at full-time of a Knock-Out Match, the winner of that Match shall be determined by reference to the following rules:

- (a) Extra time will be played in accordance with the protocol set out at paragraph 16, below, and the Club that scores the most points in such extra time shall be deemed the winner of that Match.
- (b) If the scores are tied after extra time, then the Club that has scored the most tries in that Match (including extra time) shall be deemed the winner of that Match.
- (c) If the scores are tied after extra time and the Clubs have scored the same number of tries in that Match (including extra time), then the winner of the Match will be determined by a place-kick competition conducted in accordance with paragraph 17, below.

## **16. EXTRA TIME PROTOCOL**

If the score is tied at the end of a Knock-Out Match, then extra time will be played, consisting of two periods, each of ten minutes plus any stoppage time in each period.

At the final whistle signalling the end of normal time in the Match, there will be a five minute break. Neither the teams nor the Match officials may leave the Playing Enclosure during this break, save for exceptional reasons. The coaching/management/medical staff of each Club shall be permitted onto the Playing Area to bring water, nourishment and treatment to their Players, but they must leave the Playing Area before the end of the break.

After the five-minute break, the teams will swap ends and the Club that kicked off the first half of the Match will kick off the first period of extra time. After ten minutes (played on the 'elapsed time' basis as set out in paragraph 2.2.4, above, and Appendix Three to this handbook) the referee will stop the Match and the teams will swap ends again while there is a break of one minute. Neither the teams nor the Match officials may leave the Playing Enclosure during this break, save for exceptional reasons. The coaching/management/medical staff of each Club shall be permitted onto the Playing Area during the break to bring water, nourishment and treatment to their Players, but they must leave the Playing Area before the end of the break.

After the one-minute break, the Club that kicked off the second half of the Match will kick off the second period of extra time. After ten minutes (again, played on the 'elapsed time' basis as set out in paragraph 2.2.4, above, and Appendix Three to this handbook), the referee will stop the Match. If at that point there is no winner of the Match according to the criteria set out in the Tournament Rules, then the referee will conduct a place-kick competition to determine the winner (see paragraph 17, below).

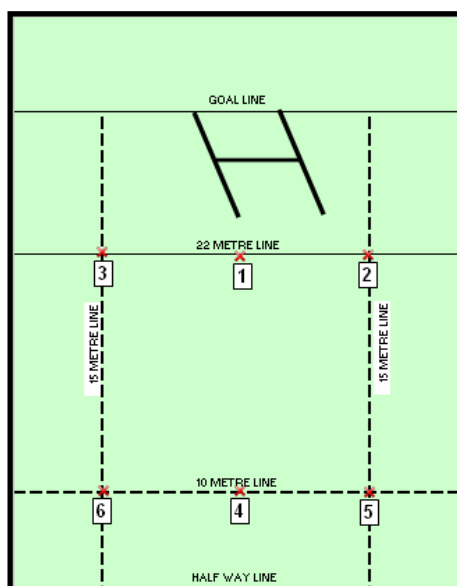
## **17. PLACE-KICK COMPETITION**

If at the end of a Knock-Out Match, after extra-time has been played, the scores remain equal and the number of tries scored in the Match (including extra time) is equal, then the referee will conduct a place-kick competition to determine the winner of the Match, according to the following procedures:

- 17.1 All Players and Match officials will remain on the Playing Area. The referee will call the captains of the two teams together and will conduct two coin tosses. The first toss of the coin will decide which team selects the end at which all place-kicks must be taken; the second toss of the coin will decide which team selects whether it wishes to kick first or second in sequence. For the avoidance of doubt, it may be that the same team wins both tosses in which case it may select the end at which all place kicks must be taken and whether it wishes to kick first or second in sequence. For the purposes of this paragraph 17, the team selected to kick first will be referred to as "Team A" and the team that kicks second will be referred to as "Team B".
- 17.2 Each team must nominate three Players to take part in the competition. For the purposes of this paragraph 17, each Player will be allocated a number, 1, 2 or 3, and

will be referred to throughout the place-kick competition as "Kicker 1", "Kicker 2" or "Kicker 3", respectively. Only Players on the Playing Area at the final whistle of extra-time may be nominated. No substituted Players, replaced Players or Players who have been shown a red card may take part at any time. Any Player who has been Temporarily Suspended and who remains in the 'sin bin' at the time of the final whistle of extra-time may not take part in the place kick competition. The order in which the nominated Players will kick is determined in accordance with paragraphs 17.5 to 17.10, below.

- 17.3 The Match officials and the six nominated Players (three from each team) will assemble on the halfway line. Coaching/management/medical staff and Players not nominated must gather and remain in their Club's respective technical zone. No one other than the Match officials and the participating Players is allowed in the part of the Playing Area being used for the competition (including around the Playing Area, behind the posts, etc).
- 17.4 The three Players from each team will kick in the order and from the positions set out in paragraphs 17.5 to 17.10, and the diagram, below.



- 17.5 The referee starts the competition by calling Kicker 1 from Team A first to take his kick from position 1. Once Kicker 1 from Team A has taken his kick, the referee calls Kicker 1 from Team B team to take his kick from position 1.
- 17.6 The referee then calls Kicker 2 from Team A to take his kick from position 2. Once Kicker 2 from Team A has taken the kick, the referee calls Kicker 2 from Team B to take his kick from position 2.
- 17.7 The referee then calls Kicker 3 from Team A to take his kick from position 3. Once Kicker 3 from Team A has taken his kick, the referee calls Kicker 3 from Team B to take his kick from position 3.

- 17.8 The referee then calls Kicker 1 from Team A to take his kick from position 4. Once Kicker 1 from Team A has taken his kick, the referee calls Kicker 1 from Team B to take his kick from position 4.
- 17.9 The referee then calls Kicker 2 from Team A to take his kick from position 5. Once Kicker 2 from Team A has taken his kick, the referee calls Kicker 2 from Team B to take his kick from position 5.
- 17.10 The referee then calls Kicker 3 from Team A to take his kick from position 6. Once Kicker 3 from Team A has taken his kick, the referee calls Kicker 3 from Team B to take his kick from position 6.
- 17.11 After each of the three nominated Players from each team has taken his two kicks, the referee will declare the winning team based on the number of successful kicks. If there is an equal number of successful kicks, the competition continues on a 'sudden death' basis. All kicks will take place from position 4 and will take place in the following order:
- Kicker 1 from Team A and then Kicker 1 from Team B;
  - Kicker 2 from Team A and then Kicker 2 from Team B; and
  - Kicker 3 from Team A and then Kicker 3 from Team B.
- 17.12 The competition will continue two kicks at a time (one from each team in the order set out at paragraph 17.11, above) until one Player succeeds with a kick and the Player from the other team taking the corresponding kick misses it. Once that happens, the team of the Player who succeeded with the kick will be declared the winner.
- 17.13 Throughout the place-kick competition:
- 17.13.1 Once a Player has positioned the ball on the kicking tee, he must take the kick within one minute. Should he take longer, the referee shall declare the kick unsuccessful.
- 17.13.2 After each kick, the referee records the number of the Player and whether or not the attempt was successful. The Official Data Provider will record the same details on the official Match report.
- 17.13.3 Whether or not the kick is successful in each case is the sole decision of the referee, who may at his sole discretion rely on the assistance of his assistant referees. The referee's decision shall be final and binding.
- 17.13.4 If a Player selected to be a kicker becomes injured, he may be replaced but only by a Player who was on the Playing Area at the final whistle of extra-time in accordance with paragraph 17.2, above (and, for the avoidance of doubt, the replacement kicker must take the number of the kicker he is replacing, so that, for example, if Kicker 1 becomes injured and is replaced, the replacement becomes Kicker 1).

17.13.5 Subject to paragraph 17.13.4, above, the kickers may not change numbers (so that, for example, Kicker 1 cannot swap with Kicker 2).

## **18. CITING COMMISSIONERS**

- 18.1 EPCR may appoint a Citing Commissioner for any Match in the Tournament. Where a Citing Commissioner is appointed, he/she will be from a neutral country (ie, not the country of either Club participating in the Match) and shall act independently of the Match officials, Disciplinary Officer and of the Disciplinary Committee thereafter appointed in respect of any incident arising from the Match.
- 18.2 The appointed Citing Commissioner will attend at the Match and shall be entitled (a) to issue a Citing Commissioner Warning (see paragraph 14.4.3, above) to any Player who has, in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner, committed an act(s) of Foul Play that (in the words of World Rugby) "falls just short of" warranting that the Player be shown a red card (where such act(s) did not result in a yellow card or red card) and/or (b) to cite a Player for any act or acts of Foul Play that in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner warranted the Player being shown a red card, even where such act(s) were detected by the referee, assistant referee(s) and/or television match official and were the subject of action taken by one or more of them. In circumstances where the appointed Citing Commissioner does not attend the Match, this will not affect his entitlement to issue Citing Commissioner Warnings and/or to cite Players in accordance with this paragraph. However, in those circumstances, EPCR can elect (in its absolute discretion) to appoint a replacement Citing Commissioner, who will have all the powers and entitlements of the originally-appointed Citing Commissioner (whether or not that replacement Citing Commissioner attends the Match).
- 18.3 A Citing Commissioner may cite a Player in respect of an incident or incidents for which the Player was Temporarily Suspended or shown a yellow card. A Citing Commissioner may not, however, cite a Player for an act or acts of Foul Play in respect of which the Player has been shown a red card (although, for the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this paragraph prevents a Citing Commissioner from citing a Player for an act or acts of Foul Play in respect of which the Player was shown a yellow card for the second time in a Match, and was therefore shown a red card).

## **19. REPLACEMENT OF REFEREE DUE TO INJURY**

The protocol in the event a Match referee leaves the pitch due to injury is as follows:

- 19.1 If a Match referee leaves the pitch due to injury, he is replaced by the number 1 assistant referee.
- 19.2 Where the number 1 assistant referee replaces the Match referee in accordance with paragraph 19.1:
- 19.2.1 the number 1 assistant referee shall assume all of the duties, responsibilities and powers of the Match referee as set out in this booklet, the Participation Agreement and the Laws of the Game;
  - 19.2.2 the number 4 Match official shall assume the role of the number 1 assistant referee; and

- 19.2.3 the number 4 Match official shall assume all of the duties, responsibilities and powers of the number 1 assistant referee as set out in this booklet, the Participation Agreement and the Laws of the Game.
- 19.3 If a Match referee leaves the pitch due to injury in accordance with paragraph 19.1 and, after receiving treatment for such injury, is able to resume his role as Match referee, he may re-enter the pitch and do so. In such cases, the replacement referee shall resume his role as number 1 assistant referee, and the replacement number 1 assistant referee shall resume his role as number 4 Match official.
- 19.4 In the event the Match referee does not return, the number 1 assistant referee will continue as Match referee for the remainder of the Match.

## **20. MATCH BALLS**

EPCR shall supply a total of 32 official balls to each Club (at various stages prior to and during the Tournament). Such balls must be used in all Matches (and no balls, other than these official balls, may be used in Matches).

## **21. MATCH DATES**

### **Part One: Dates for Pool Matches**

Round 1:	weekend beginning 12 October 2017
Round 2:	weekend beginning 19 October 2017
Round 3:	weekend beginning 7 December 2017
Round 4:	weekend beginning 14 December 2017
Round 5:	weekend beginning 11 January 2018
Round 6:	weekend beginning 18 January 2018

### **Part Two: Dates for Knock-Out Matches**

Quarter-final Matches:	weekend beginning 29 March 2018
Semi-final Matches:	weekend beginning 20 April 2018
Final Match:	weekend beginning 11 May 2018

## **22. GPS AND HRM**

Further to clause 5.14 of the Tournament Rules, Clubs may use Global Positioning System (GPS) and Heart Rate Monitor (HRM) technology in Matches.

## **23. HIA**

Further to clause 5.15 of the Tournament Rules, subject to World Rugby granting EPCR the relevant approval pursuant to World Rugby Regulation 10, and more generally to the directions of EPCR, the provisions in Law 3.11 of the Laws of the Game, dealing with Head Injury Assessment ("**HIA**") (along with various elements of the World Rugby Head Injury Assessment Protocol) will apply in the Tournament.

## 24. EPCR CONTACTS

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Match official Co-ordinator	Rita Figueiredo	Mobile: +41 79 919 49 35 Email: <a href="mailto:rita.figueiredo@epcrugby.com">rita.figueiredo@epcrugby.com</a>

**THIS BOOKLET DOES NOT SUPERSEDE THE EPCR PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT OR THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

## **Appendix One**

### **Technical zone protocol**

#### **1. Location and dimensions**

- 1.1 Two technical zones (one for each Club) must be provided within the Playing Enclosure, on the same side of the Playing Area, one on either side of the half-way line and outside the Playing Area.
- 1.2 The technical zones must be marked on the ground and, in each case, the line nearest the touch-line must be parallel to the touch-line.
- 1.3 Save where otherwise designated by EPCR, each of the technical zones must commence a minimum of five metres from the half-way line, must not exceed ten metres in length and three metres in width, and where practically possible, must not be less than two metres from the touch-line and must be behind the perimeter advertising boards, with easy access to the Playing Area (see diagram, below).

#### **2. Personnel and conduct permitted in the technical zones**

- 2.1 The following persons may be present in each Club's technical zone during a Match:
  - (a) one certified and practising medical doctor;
  - (b) subject to paragraph 3, below, up to two other medically-trained personnel (certified and practising medical doctors or physiotherapists only);
  - (c) subject to paragraph 4, below, up to two water carriers; and
  - (d) the Technical Zone Manager (who will be responsible for the Club's compliance with this technical zone protocol during the Match).
- 2.2 All personnel permitted to be present in the technical zones pursuant to paragraph 2.1, above, must wear armbands and/or bibs, as supplied by EPCR, at all times during the Match.
- 2.3 Subject to paragraph 17 of this booklet (which requires coaching/management/medical staff and Players to gather and remain in their respective technical zones during a place kick competition), aside from those persons referred to in paragraph 2.1, above, no other person (including Club officials, coaching/management/medical staff and Players) may be present in the technical zones during a Match. And under no circumstances may any of the persons present in the technical zone pursuant to paragraph 2.1, above, be a Player serving a suspension imposed under the Disciplinary Rules.
- 2.4 Without prejudice to the generality of the Disciplinary Rules, all persons present in the technical zone (a) must conduct themselves at all times in an orderly fashion in accordance with the highest standards of disciplined and sporting behaviour; and (b) must not obstruct, interfere with or (subject to when the Technical Zone Manager is complying with Appendix Five to this booklet) direct any comments towards Match officials.



### **3. Medical personnel**

- 3.1 Of the two medically-trained personnel referred to in paragraph 2.1(b), above, one may be positioned on the far side of the Playing Area on the touch-line opposite the technical zones, and the other may be positioned on the near side of the Playing Area on the touch-line adjacent to the technical zones, but the two may not be together on one touch-line. These medical personnel must, where practically possible, stay behind the perimeter advertising boards. They may move up and down the touch-lines, keeping up with play, but must at all times pay due regard to the respective needs and rights of Players, Match officials, spectators, Broadcast Partners and EPCR's commercial partners.
- 3.2 In the case of injury to a Player in the Playing Area, the certified medical doctor referred to in paragraph 2.1(a), above, and/or the medically-trained personnel referred to in paragraph 2.1(b), above, and/or the Match Day Doctor (if appointed) may enter the Playing Area in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

### **4. Water carriers**

- 4.1 Subject to paragraph 4.4, below, the water carriers referred to in paragraph 2.1(c), above, must remain in their respective technical zones at all times unless they enter the Playing Area to provide water, which they may do only during stoppages in play in the case of injury to a Player in the Playing Area. For the avoidance of doubt, the water carriers are not permitted in the Playing Area during penalty kicks at goal.
- 4.2 At all times, Players may come to the touch-line adjacent to the technical zones to receive water.
- 4.3 Under no circumstances may water bottles or other containers be thrown onto the Playing Area.
- 4.4 One of the water carriers may enter the Playing Area to provide a kicking tee or sand to a kicker preparing to take a penalty kick at goal or conversion (i.e. once one of the Club's Players has (a) indicated that he intends to kick at goal after a penalty has been awarded, or (b) scored a try).
- 4.5 Neither of the water carriers referred to in paragraph 2.1(c), above, may be the Club's head coach.

### **5. Administration and enforcement of the technical zone protocol**

- 5.1 During a Match, the number 4 and 5 Match officials will administer and enforce this technical zone protocol on behalf of the Match referee. If there is a breach of this technical zone protocol, one or both of the number 4 and 5 Match officials will report the matter to the Match referee, who may caution any person responsible for such a breach (which can include, for the avoidance of doubt, a member of a Club's coaching/management/medical staff) or, at his discretion, expel that person from the technical zone and the Playing Enclosure.

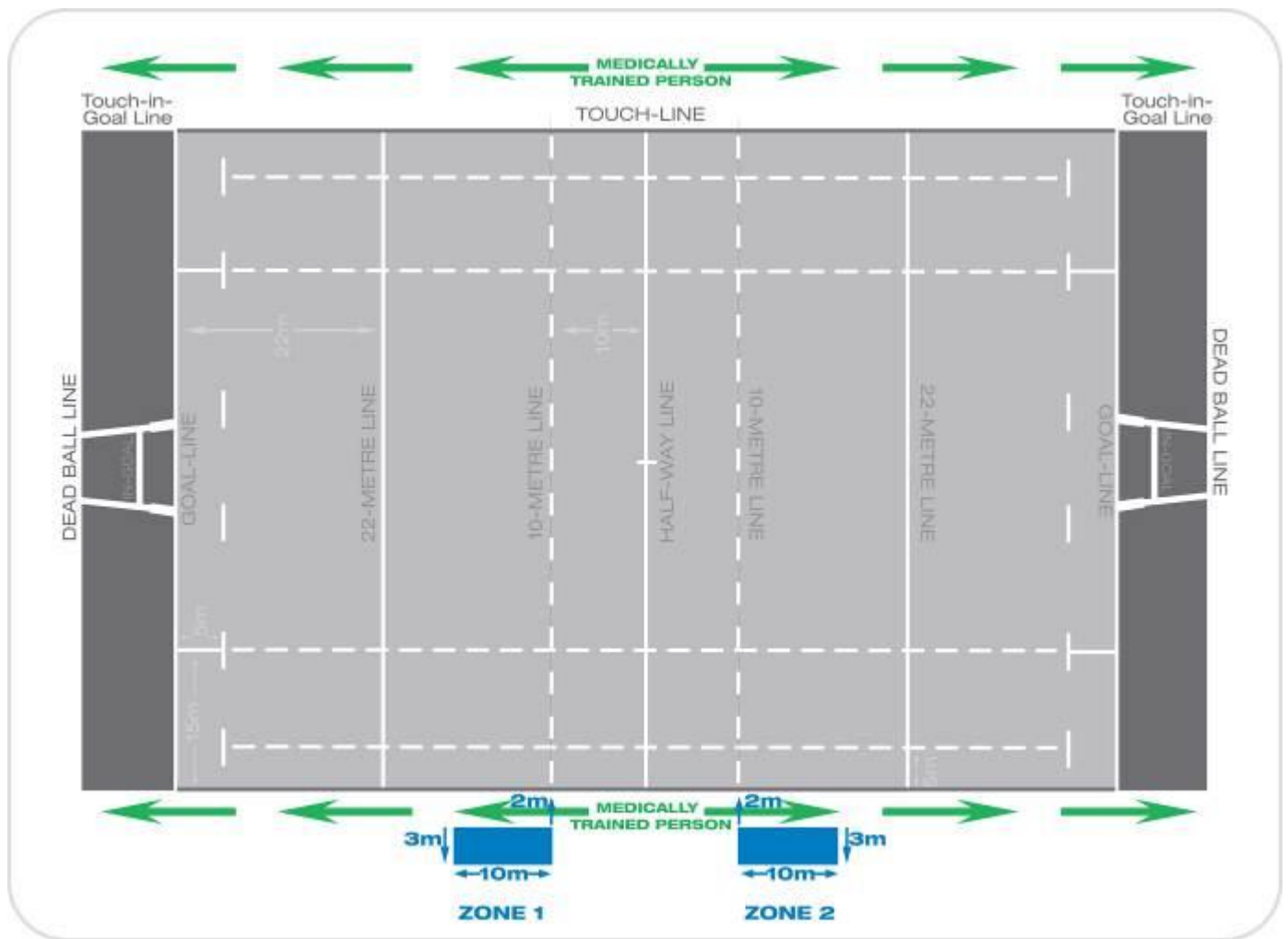
- 5.2 Without prejudice to any action taken by the Match officials pursuant to paragraph 5.1, above, any breach of this technical zone protocol (including those resulting in expulsions from the technical zone and the Playing Enclosure) may be reported to the Disciplinary Officer, who may investigate the matter, hold an enquiry and/or bring a Misconduct complaint pursuant to the Disciplinary Rules.

## **6. Personnel outside the technical zones and the Playing Enclosure**

- 6.1 Subject to paragraph 3, above, and save where (a) substitutes/replacements enter the Playing Area pursuant to the substitution and replacement protocol at Appendix Five to this handbook or warm up pursuant to paragraph 6.2, below, and/or (b) the Club's coaching staff enter the Playing Area at the half-time interval to attend to the Club's Players, each Club's substitutes/replacements and coaching/management/medical staff must be located outside the Playing Enclosure throughout the Match.
- 6.2 If substitutes/replacements wish to warm up, they may do so either (a) in a designated warm-up area outside the Playing Area (where they may use balls, hit-shields and/or any other rugby equipment), or (b) in the opposition Club's in-goal area (where they may use balls and hit-shields only, which must be removed from the in-goal area immediately following the warm-up).

## **7. Players Temporarily Suspended**

- 7.1 When a Player is Temporarily Suspended, subject to paragraph 7.3, below, that Player must remain in the 'sin bin' area (as designated by EPCR pursuant to clause 4.3.2 of the Tournament Rules) for the duration of the Temporary Suspension.
- 7.2 A Temporarily Suspended Player may be given water and warm clothing while in the 'sin bin' area. If half-time occurs during the Temporary Suspension period, the Player may go to his Club's dressing room but must return directly to the designated 'sin bin' area for the remaining period of his Temporary Suspension when the second half begins.
- 7.3 A one-minute warm-up period is permitted prior to the Temporarily Suspended Player returning to the Playing Area, in which the Player may leave the 'sin bin' area.



**Appendix Two**

**Substitution/replacement documentation**

**Example substitution/replacement card**

<b>EPCR SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT CARD</b>			
<b>Home Team:</b> _____			
<b>PLAYER OFF</b>		<b>PLAYER ON</b>	
<div></div>		<div></div>	
<b><u>REASON:</u></b>			
<b>TACTICAL</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>INJURY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BLOOD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>SIN BIN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HIA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>TIME:</b> _____	<b>SIGNATURE OF TEAM OFFICIAL</b> _____		

### Match substitution/replacement form

Team A \_\_\_\_\_ v Team B \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

## Reasons

SI: Substitution Injury

ST: Substitution Tactical

YC: Sin Bin

YCR: Player returns after sin bin

RC: Send Off

SBF: Player off for a front row player during sin bin

SBFR: Player returns after front row sin bin

Bl: Blood and/or open wound

BR: Blood and/or open wound return

HIA: Head injury Assessment

HIAR: Head injury Assessment return

Concussion: concussion or suspected concussion

Signature of Fourth Official\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Give to Official Data Provider immediately on completion of match. Attach substitution/replacement cards to this form.

## **Appendix Three**

### **Elapsed time protocol for Match officials**

#### **Summary**

For all 2017/18 European Rugby Champions Cup and Challenge Cup Matches (televised and non televised), the elapsed time system will be used. While the referee remains the ultimate judge of time, for such Matches, the stadium clock and television clock will be synchronised automatically (with the help of the timing system) and an Official Time-Keeper will be appointed by EPCR.

The objective is to provide consistency and a raised level of service to the participating Clubs, Players, spectators and TV viewers.

#### **Operations**

Whenever the referee needs to stop a Match, he shall raise his arm vertically, blow his whistle and say, via the Referee Communications System, 'Time-off'. This action will instruct the Official Time-Keeper based in the stadium stand to stop the stadium clocks and automatically stop the TV graphics.

When the referee wishes to restart the Match the same process is reversed.

The stadium clock will show time from 0 to 40 minutes in each half i.e. the second half of the Match will start at 40 and end when the clock reaches 80 minutes. The TV clock will show time from 0 - 40 in the first half and from 40 - 80 in the second-half.

Close to the end of each half, the Official Time-Keeper will advise the referee, via the Referee Communication System, that the Match (or the first half) is nearing an end. The Official Time-Keeper will also advise the referee when the 'last play' of each half is.

#### **Additional Information**

Time can be stopped when the referee says so or if the Official Time-Keeper judges there is to be a stoppage in play e.g. when the referee is dealing with other matters. Should the referee forget to instruct the Official Time-Keeper to restart the time, then the Official Time-Keeper will restart the time when play re-starts and inform the referee.

Should there be extra time, then the same protocol will be followed but for two halves of 10 minutes each on the stadium clock. The TV clock will show 0-10 for the first period and 10-20 for the second.

Should there be any issue with the Official Time-Keeper, the timing or communication system, the TMO will take over the timing and the liaison with the referee. The stadium personnel, Clubs and Players should be reminded that while this system will be in operation, the referee will remain the ultimate judge of timing.


Should there be a breakdown of communication between the referee and TMO then EPCR will ask the referee to rely on his time measurement instrument.

For non televised Matches, in case of breakdown of communication between the referee and Official Time-Keeper then EPCR will ask the referee to rely on his time measurement instrument.


There will be no hooters to signal the end of the Match.

## Appendix Four

### Forms



# CITING COMMISSIONER REPORT WARNING & CITING FORM



**CITING COMMISSIONER REPORT BASED ON THE EVIDENCE GIVEN BELOW.**

**PART 1 — DETAILS**

Competition:	Select	Match Date:	
Player's Full Name:		Position:	Select
Player's Club:	Select	No.:	
<b>Match Result:</b>	Home Team:	Select	
	Away Team:	Select	
Venue:			
Ground/Weather Conditions:			

**PART 2 — THE INCIDENT**

Citing Commissioner Decision:	Select	
Period Incident Occurred:	Select	
Timing:		
Score at Time:	Home Team:	Away Team:
Nature of Offence:	Select	
Brief Report of Incident:		
Proximity of Referee/Asst. Referee to Incident (in metres):		
Brief Report of Discussion with Match Officials:		
Did the incident necessitate attention on or off the field (if YES, give details)?:		
Did the incident require the injured player to attend hospital (if YES, give details)?:		

**THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND SENT TO THE EPCR DISCIPLINARY OFFICER, LIAM MCTIERNAN, WITHIN 50 HOURS OF KICK-OFF (LIAM.MCTIERNAN@EPCRUGBY.COM).**

Citing Commissioner:		Country:	Select	Date:	
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EUROPEAN  
PROFESSIONAL  
CLUB RUGBY

## MATCH OFFICIAL REPORT RED CARD



EUROPEAN  
PROFESSIONAL  
CLUB RUGBY

RED CARD REPORT BASED ON MATCH OFFICIAL OBSERVATION.

### PART 1 — DETAILS

Competition:	Select	Match Date:	
Player's Full Name:		Position: Select	No.:
Player's Club:	Select		
<b>Match Result:</b>	Home Team: Select		
	Away Team: Select		
Venue:			
Ground/Weather Conditions:			

### PART 2 — THE INCIDENT

Period Incident Occurred:	Select	Timing:	
Score at Time:	Home Team:	Away Team:	
Nature of Offence:	Select		
Report of Incident:			

Proximity of Match Official to Incident (in metres):

Did an Assistant Referee flag the incident? (Please attach their report, if so): Select

Had any other cautions been issued to a) the player; b) his club; or c) generally?: Select

Please give a brief explanation if yes:

**THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND SENT BY E-MAIL (AS AN ATTACHMENT) TO LIAM MCTIERNAN WITHIN 26 HOURS OF KICK-OFF. (LIAM.MCTIERNAN@EPCRUGBY.COM)**

Match Official Name:		Capacity: Select	
Country:	Select	Date:	



## MATCH OFFICIAL REPORT YELLOW CARD



YELLOW CARD REPORT BASED ON MATCH OFFICIAL OBSERVATION.

### PART 1 — DETAILS

Competition:	Select	Match Date:	
Player's Full Name:		Position:	Select No.: Select
Player's Club:	Select		
Match Result:	Home Team:	Select	
	Away Team:	Select	
Venue:			
Ground/Weather Conditions:			

### PART 2 — THE INCIDENT

Period Incident Occurred:	Select	Timing:	
Score at Time:	Home Team:	Away Team:	
Nature of Offence:	Select		
Report of Incident:			

Proximity of Match Official to Incident (in metres):

Did an Assistant Referee flag the incident? (Please attach their report, if so): Select

Had any other cautions been issued to a) the player; b) his club; or c) generally?: Select

Please give a brief explanation if yes:

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND SENT BY E-MAIL (AS AN ATTACHMENT) TO DANNY RUMBLE (DANNY.RUMBLE@EPCRUGBY.COM) WITHIN 50 HOURS OF KICK-OFF.

Match Official Name:		Capacity:	Select
Country:	Select	Date:	

## **Appendix Five**

### **Substitution and replacement protocol**

- 1 Each Club's Technical Zone Manager is responsible for the Club's substitutions and replacements during a Match, as well as the Club's compliance with the technical zone protocol at Appendix One to this booklet. The Technical Zone Manager must ordinarily be located in the Club's technical zone throughout the Match.
- 2 When a Club decides to substitute or replace a Player on the Playing Enclosure, the Club's Technical Zone Manager must fill in the appropriate details on the substitution/replacement card and sign it. The respective numbers of the Player leaving the Playing Area and the Player substituting/replacing him must be written in the appropriate box on the substitution/replacement card by the Technical Zone Manager.

When a Player leaves the field of play for a bleeding/open wound, the Technical Zone Manager must tick the blood box and enter in the appropriate box the respective numbers of the leaving Player and the replacement Player. This process must be repeated when the first Player returns to the field of play.

When a Player leaves the field temporarily for an assessment under the HIA procedures, the Technical Zone Manager must tick the "HIA" box and enter in the appropriate box the respective numbers of the leaving Player and the replacement Player. This process must be repeated when the first Player returns to the field of play (as appropriate). If a Player leaves the field permanently, for example due to concussion or suspected concussion, pursuant to World Rugby Regulation 10, the Technical Zone Manager must tick the "concussion" box.

The 'sin bin' box must be ticked by the Technical Zone Manager when a Front Row Player has been 'sin-binned' and another Front Row Player has to enter the Playing Area in order to ensure non-contested scrums do not occur. The respective numbers of the Player leaving the Playing Area and the replacement Front Row Player must be written in the appropriate box on the substitution/replacement card by the Technical Zone Manager.

The card does not represent a valid request until it is signed by the Technical Zone Manager.

- 3 The card is then handed by the Technical Zone Manager to the number 4 or 5 Match official, who will check the details and then proceed with the substitution/replacement.
- 4 The number 4 or 5 Match official will add the details to his substitution/replacement form.
- 5 Once the card has been passed to the number 4 or 5 Match official, a substitution/replacement is effective only when the Match referee has clearly signalled for the Player to be substituted/replaced. The Technical Zone Manager may amend details on the card given to the number 4 or 5 Match official at any time before the substitution/replacement takes place but any such amendments to the card must be authorised by signature by the Technical Zone Manager.
- 6 Once the Match referee has clearly signalled for the Player to be substituted/replaced, the number 4 or 5 Match official will escort the substitute/replacement Player to the

touch-line at the halfway line and, subject to the following provision, that Player may enter the Playing Area only after the Player leaving the Playing Area has crossed the touch-line and is off the Playing Area, and the number 4 or 5 Match official has signalled for the substitute/replacement Player to enter the Playing Area. A replacement Player may be allowed to enter the Playing Area before the Player leaving the Playing Area crosses the touch-line if the Player leaving the Playing Area is injured to such an extent that it necessitates him being escorted from the Playing Area by medical personnel. In such a case, the number 4 or 5 Match official will signal to the replacement Player when he is permitted to enter the Playing Area.

- 7 Before each Match, each Club will receive a different colour substitution/replacement card which will be decided by the number 4 or 5 Match official.

## **Appendix Seven to the 2017/18 EPCR Champions Cup Disciplinary Rules**

### **EPCR Anti-Corruption Regulation**

#### **1. Anti-Corruption Offences**

1.1 The conduct described in paragraphs 1.2 to 1.5, below, if committed by a Person, will amount to an "**Anti-Corruption Offence**" by that Person:

#### **1.2 Corruption**

1.2.1 Fixing or contriving in any way or otherwise influencing improperly, or being a party to an agreement or effort to contrive in any way or otherwise influence improperly, the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match, including (without limitation) by deliberately underperforming.

1.2.2 Ensuring the occurrence of a particular incident in an EPCR Match, for the purposes of Betting (as set out in paragraph 1.3, below) or other corrupt purpose.

1.2.3 Seeking, accepting, offering or agreeing to accept any bribe or other Reward to: (a) fix or to contrive in any way or otherwise to influence improperly the results, progress conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match (including --- without limitation --- by deliberately underperforming); or (b) ensure the occurrence of a particular incident in an EPCR Match, for the purposes of Betting or other corrupt purpose.

1.2.4 Soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any Person to breach any of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph 1.2.

#### **1.3 Betting**

1.3.1 Placing, accepting, laying or otherwise entering into any Bet with any other party (whether individual, company or otherwise) in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match (or any incident within an EPCR Match) or an EPCR Tournament.

1.3.2 Soliciting, inducing, enticing, instructing, persuading, encouraging, or facilitating any other party to enter into a Bet in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match (or any incident within an EPCR Match) or an EPCR Tournament.

1.3.3 Receiving the proceeds of (and/or any benefit in relation to) any Bet placed in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match (or any incident within an EPCR Match) or an EPCR Tournament.

#### **1.4 Misuse of Inside Information**

1.4.1 Using any Inside Information for the purposes of (and/or in connection with) the placing of any Bet (whether by him/herself or by another individual) in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match (or any incident within an EPCR Match) or an EPCR Tournament.

1.4.2 Seeking, inviting, requesting or procuring Inside Information for the purposes of (and/or in connection with) the placing of any Bet (whether by him/herself or by another individual) in relation to the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match (or any incident within an EPCR Match) or an EPCR Tournament.

1.4.3 Disclosing Inside Information to any individual(s) where the Person knew or should have known that such disclosure might lead to the information being used for the purposes of (and/or in connection with) the placing of any Bet in relation to the result,

progress, conduct or any other aspect of an EPCR Match (including any incident within an EPCR Match) or an EPCR Tournament.

- 1.4.4 Soliciting, inducing, enticing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitation any Person to breach any of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph 1.4.

## 1.5 **General**

- 1.5.1 Giving or providing to any Person any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit (whether of monetary value or otherwise) either (a) for the purposes of procuring any Anti-Corruption Offence by another Person, or (b) in circumstances that could bring him/her, EPCR, the EPCR Tournaments, Clubs, match officials or any sponsor or commercial partner of EPCR or an EPCR Tournament into disrepute.
- 1.5.2 Failing to disclose to the Disciplinary Officer (without unnecessary delay) the receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit (whether of monetary value or otherwise) (a) that the Person knew or should have known was given or provided to him/her to procure an Anti-Corruption Offence, or (b) that was given or provided to him/her in circumstances that could bring him/her, EPCR, the EPCR Tournaments, Clubs, match officials or any sponsor or commercial partner of EPCR or an EPCR Tournament into disrepute.
- 1.5.3 Failing to disclose to the Disciplinary Officer (without unnecessary delay) full details of any approach or invitation received by a Person to engage in conduct that would constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence.
- 1.5.4 Failing to disclose to the Disciplinary Officer (without unnecessary delay) full details of any incident, fact or matter that comes to the attention of a Person that might constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence by another Person, including (without limitation) approaches or invitations that have been received by another Person to engage in conduct that would constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence. For the avoidance of doubt, this duty of disclosure remains even in circumstances in which (a) a Person has already made a disclosure to the Disciplinary Officer and becomes aware of any new incident, fact or matter that he is required to disclose under this paragraph 1.5.4, or (b) a Person is aware that such incident, fact or matter has already been brought to the attention of the Disciplinary Officer by another individual.
- 1.5.5 Soliciting, inducing, enticing, persuading, encouraging or intentionally facilitating any Person to breach any of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph 1.5.

## 1.6 For the purposes of this paragraph 1.6:

- 1.6.1 any attempt by a Person or any agreement by a Person with any other individual(s) to engage in conduct that would constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence will be treated as if an Anti-Corruption Offence has been committed by that Person, whether or not such attempt or agreement, in fact, resulted in conduct that would constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence; and
- 1.6.2 a Person who authorises, causes, knowingly assists, facilitates, encourages, aides, abets, covers up or is otherwise complicit in any conduct that would constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence committed by an/other individual(s) not bound by these Disciplinary Rules (whether (without limitation) an agent, family member, affiliate or associate) will be treated as having engaged in such conduct him/herself and will be held liable accordingly.

- 1.7 The following are not relevant to the question of whether or not an Anti-Corruption Offence has been committed (although they might be relevant to the question of the appropriate sanction to be imposed on a Person in the event that it is determined that such Person has committed an Anti-Corruption Offence):

- 1.7.1 whether or not the relevant Person was participating or involved in any other way in the specific EPCR Match(es) in relation to which the alleged Anti-Corruption Offence was committed;
  - 1.7.2 the nature or outcome of any Bet(s) that is/are the subject of (and/or otherwise relevant to) an alleged Anti-Corruption Offence;
  - 1.7.3 the outcome of the specific EPCR Match(es) in relation to which the alleged Anti-Corruption Offence was committed;
  - 1.7.4 whether or not the Person's efforts or performance (if any) in the specific EPCR Match(es) in relation to which the alleged Anti-Corruption Offence was committed were (or could be expected to be) affected by the conduct in question (ie, the conduct that would constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence); and
  - 1.7.5 whether or not the result(s) of the EPCR Match(es) in relation to which the alleged Anti-Corruption Offence was committed were (or could be expected to be) affected by the conduct in question (ie, the conduct that would constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence).
- 1.8 It shall be a valid defence to any alleged Anti-Corruption Offence to prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the alleged Anti-Corruption Offence was committed (and that, where applicable, it was not reported to the Disciplinary Officer thereafter) as a consequence of the Person's honest and reasonable belief that there was a serious threat to his/her life or safety or to the life or safety of another individual.

## **2. Interim Suspensions**

- 2.1 Where either: (a) the Disciplinary Officer charges a Person with an Anti-Corruption Offence, or (b) the Disciplinary Officer considers that there are other exceptional circumstances that are relevant to a Person (for, example, where any relevant police authority has arrested and/or charged a Person with an offence under any relevant criminal law in respect of facts or circumstances that may also constitute an Anti-Corruption Offence), the Disciplinary Officer will have the discretion, in circumstances where he considers that the integrity of the sport of rugby union and/or one or more of the EPCR Tournaments could otherwise be seriously undermined, to impose an interim suspension on the Person pending a Disciplinary Committee's determination of whether or not an Anti-Corruption Offence has been committed. Any decision to impose such an interim suspension will be communicated to the Person in writing, with a copy sent at the same time to the chairman of the Disciplinary Panel.
- 2.2 Where an interim suspension is imposed in accordance with paragraph 2.1, above, the Person subject to the interim suspension will (if he/she notifies the Disciplinary Officer in writing of his/her wish to do so) be given an opportunity to contest the imposition of the interim suspension in a hearing before a Judicial Officer appointed by the chairman of the Disciplinary Panel on a timely basis after the relevant Person has given such notice. At any such hearing, it will be the burden of the Disciplinary Officer to establish that the integrity of the sport of rugby union and/or one or more of the EPCR Tournaments could be seriously undermined if he/she does not remain subject to an interim suspension pending determination of whether or not an Anti-Corruption Offence has been committed. The hearing will take place on the basis of written submissions alone, save where the appointed Judicial Officer, in his absolute discretion, determines that an oral hearing should take place, in which case, the appointed Judicial Officer will determine the appropriate procedure for such a hearing.
- 2.3 When imposing an interim suspension in accordance with paragraph 2.1, above, the Disciplinary Officer will determine what activity the relevant Person is to be precluded from carrying out, but it is anticipated that where the relevant Person is a Player he will be precluded from (at least) playing rugby union anywhere (and from entering the Playing Enclosure in any capacity -- including as a water carrier or tee carrier --- at any time on the day of a Match).

### **3. Sanctions**

3.1 Where an Anti-Corruption Offence has been committed, the Disciplinary Committee will be required to impose a sanction on the Person from within the range of sanctions set out in clause 7.8.29 of the Disciplinary Rules. In order to determine the appropriate sanction that is to be imposed in each case, the Disciplinary Committee must first determine the seriousness of the offending, which will include identifying all relevant factors that it deems to:

3.1.1 aggravate the offending, including (without limitation):

3.1.1.1 a lack of remorse on the part of the Person;

3.1.1.2 the Person's previous disciplinary record (if this is not good);

3.1.1.3 where the monetary benefit gained (or to be gained) by the Person as a result of the Anti-Corruption Offence is/was substantial;

3.1.1.4 where the Anti-Corruption Offence substantially damaged (or had the potential to substantially damage) the reputation of EPCR, one or more of the EPCR Tournaments, Clubs, match officials, other Persons or any sponsor(s) or commercial partner(s) of EPCR or the EPCR Tournaments;

3.1.1.5 where the Anti-Corruption Offence affected (or had the potential to affect) the result of an EPCR Match;

3.1.1.6 where the welfare or safety of a Person or any other individual has been endangered as a result of the Anti-Corruption Offence;

3.1.1.7 where the Anti-Corruption Offence involved a conspiracy or the involvement of one or more Persons or individuals;

3.1.1.8 where the Person has not fully cooperated with any investigation into the alleged Anti-Corruption Offence carried out by the Disciplinary Officer (notwithstanding the fact that such failure to cooperate might also constitute Misconduct under these Disciplinary Rules); and/or

3.1.1.9 any other aggravating factor(s) that the Disciplinary Committee considers relevant and appropriate,

3.1.2 mitigate the nature of the offending, including (without limitation):

3.1.2.1 any admission of guilt and/or demonstration of remorse (the mitigating value of which will depend in part on its timing);

3.1.2.2 the Person's previous disciplinary record (if this is good);

3.1.2.3 the youth and/or lack of experience of the Person;

3.1.2.4 where the Person renounced an attempt or agreement to commit an Anti-Corruption Offence prior to it being discovered by a third party not involved in the attempt or agreement;

3.1.2.5 where the Person has fully cooperated with any investigation into the alleged Anti-Corruption Offence carried out by the Disciplinary Officer;

3.1.2.6 where the Anti-Corruption Offence did not substantially damage (or have the potential to substantially damage) the reputation of EPCR, one or more of the EPCR Tournaments, Clubs, match officials, other Persons or any sponsor(s) or commercial partner(s) of EPCR or the EPCR Tournaments;



- 3.1.2.7 where the Anti-Corruption Offence did not affect and did not have the potential to affect the result of a Match;
- 3.1.2.8 where the Person provides Substantial Assistance to EPCR, World Rugby, a Union, a criminal authority or a professional disciplinary or regulatory body;
- 3.1.2.9 where the Person has already been sanctioned for the conduct constituting the Anti-Corruption Offence by another organisation, including (without limitation) a criminal authority or professional disciplinary body; and/or
- 3.1.2.10 any other mitigating factor(s) that the Disciplinary Committee considers relevant or appropriate.

- 3.2 Having considered all of the factors described in paragraph 3.1 above, the Disciplinary Committee will then determine what the appropriate sanction(s) should be.

## **Appendix Eight**



### **Television Match Official (TMO) Global Trial Protocol**

#### **Introduction**

The current Law 6 provides the opportunity for match officials to utilise the TMO to assist in the adjudication of decisions when the team in possession of the ball has or may have touched the ball down in their opponents' in-goal area and any of the match officials have a view that there was a potential infringement in in-goal. The Global TMO Trial extends the jurisdiction of the TMO in two ways:

- The adjudication of decisions when the team in possession of the ball has touched the ball down in the in-goal area and any of the match officials have a view that there was a potential infringement in the field of play with limitations
- The review of potential acts of foul play or to assist in the determination of sanctions for foul play.

#### **Guiding principles**

- The TMO is a tool to help referees and assistant referees. The referee should not be subservient to the system. The referee is responsible for managing the TMO process
- The referee is the decision-maker and must remain in charge of the game
- Any relevant information taken into consideration must be CLEAR and OBVIOUS and in the context of materiality
- The application of the TMO system must be credible and consistent, protecting the image of the game.

#### **Global Trial Law 6.A.7 - Referee Consulting With Others**

- (a) The referee may consult with assistant referees about matters relating to their duties, the Law relating to foul play or timekeeping and may request assistance related to other aspects of the referees duties including the adjudication of offside
- (b) A match organiser may appoint an official known as a Television Match Official (TMO) who uses technological devices to clarify situations relating to:
  - i. Where there is doubt as to whether a ball has been grounded in in-goal for a score or a touchdown
  - ii. Where there is doubt as to whether a kick at goal has been successful

- iii. Where there is doubt as to whether players were in touch or touch in goal before grounding the ball in in-goal or the ball has been made dead
  - iv. Where match officials believe an infringement may have occurred leading to a try or in preventing a try providing that the potential infringement has occurred no more than two phases (rucks or mauls) after the potential infringement and before the ball has been grounded in in-goal
  - v. Where match officials believe foul play may have occurred
  - vi. The clarification of sanctions required for acts of foul play.
- (c) Any of the match officials, including the TMO, may recommend a review by the TMO. The reviews will take place in accordance with TMO protocol in place at the time which will be available on [worldrugby.org/laws](http://worldrugby.org/laws)
- (d) A match organiser may appoint a timekeeper who will signify the end of each half
- (e) The referee must not consult with any other persons
- (f) If a match official has requested a review by the TMO and stadium screens are present then the referee may short-cut the extended TMO process (see section 1 below) as long as the offence is CLEAR and OBVIOUS and included in the list of offences (2.3).

## **1. Decisions relating to in-goal**

- 1.1. The TMO may be used when the referee requires confirmation with regard to the scoring of a try. The TMO may also be consulted as to the success or otherwise of kicks at goal.
- 1.2 The referee will blow time out and make a "T" sign to indicate "time-out".
- 1.3 The referee will make a "square-box" signal with his hands and at the same time inform the TMO through the two-way communication that he will require his advice.
- 1.4 The referee will then ask the TMO one of three questions:
- 1) Is it a try - yes or no?**
  - 2) Can you give me a reason why I cannot award a try?**
  - 3) But for the act of foul play - probable try or no try?**
- 1.5 The TMO will then liaise with the TV director and look at all available footage in order to gather enough information in order to provide informed advice.
- 1.6 The broadcaster must provide all the angles requested by the TMO.
- 1.7 When the TMO has concluded his analysis he will provide the match referee with his advice and recommendations. The referee should repeat the TMO's recommendation to ensure that he is absolutely satisfied that he has heard what has been recommended.
- 1.8 The TMO will then advise the referee as to when he may go ahead and signal his decision. (This process is important in order to allow time for TV to focus their cameras on the referee for his decision).
- 1.9 The referee will then communicate his decision in the correct manner. Play will then continue and the time clock restarted.
- 1.10 Where large on-ground video screens are available the TV director may also communicate the decision.
- 1.11 In the absence of a video screen some grounds may use red and green lights to advise

the crowd.

- 1.12 The important and primary method of communication still rests firmly with the referee who will indicate in the normal way after receiving the TMO's advice.

## **2. Potential infringement by the team touching the ball down in opposition in-goal**

- 2.1. If, after a team in possession of the ball has touched the ball down in their opponents' in-goal area (including after a try is awarded and before the conversion is struck), any of the match officials (including the TMO) have a view that there was a potential infringement, within the list of offences (see 2.3) before the ball was carried into in-goal by the team that touched the ball down, they may suggest that the referee refers the matter to the TMO for review.
- 2.2. The potential infringement must have occurred between the last restart of play (set piece, penalty/free-kick, kick-off or restart) and the touch down but not further back in play than two previous rucks and/or mauls.
- 2.3. If the referee agrees to refer the matter to the TMO he will indicate what the potential offence was and where it took place. Potential infringements which must be CLEAR and OBVIOUS are as follows:
- Law 9.A. Scoring points
  - Law 10.1, 10.4. Foul play: obstruction, dangerous play, tackling a player without the ball
  - Law 11.1 (b, c). Offside: player in front of the kicker
  - Law 12, 12.1. Knock-on or forward pass
  - Law 16.5 (d). Ruck: offside at the ruck - players not joining the ruck
  - Law 17.4 (d). Maul: offside at the maul - players not joining the maul
  - Law 19.5 (a, b). Player in touch
  - Law 19.2 (d). Lineout: quick throw
  - Law 22. In goal (including ball grounded by a defending player)
  - Law 15.5 (f, g). Double movement.
- 2.4. Referee judgment decisions for all other aspects of the game are not included in the protocol and may not be referred to the TMO.
- 2.5. In reviewing the potential offence the TMO must use the criterion on each occasion that the infringement must be clear and obvious if he is to advise the referee not to award a try. If there is any doubt as to whether an offence has occurred or not the TMO must advise that an offence has not occurred.
- 2.6. For forward passes the match officials must adjudicate on the direction of the ball leaving the hands.
- 2.7. If there has been an infringement, the TMO will advise the referee of the exact nature of the infringement, the recommended sanction and/or where play will next restart.
- 2.8. The TMO may mention issues viewed in addition to those requested by the referee if it is appropriate to the situation under review.
- ## **3. Potential infringement by the defending team preventing a try from being scored.**
- 3.1. If the match officials have a view that there was a potential infringement in the field of play by the defending team that may have prevented a try being scored they may suggest that the referee refers the matter to the TMO for review.

- 3.2 The potential infringement must have occurred between the last restart of play (set piece, penalty/free-kick, kick-off or restart) and the touch down but not further back in play than two previous rucks and/or mauls.
- 3.3 If the referee agrees to refer the matter to the TMO he will indicate what the potential offence was and where it took place. The offences will normally be an act of foul play such as obstruction or playing a player without the ball.
- 3.4 In reviewing the potential offence the TMO must use the criterion on each occasion that the infringement must be clear and obvious and that but for the infringement a try would probably have been scored if he is to advise the referee to award a penalty try. If there is any doubt that a try would be scored the TMO must advise the award of an appropriate sanction in accordance with Law.
- 3.5 The TMO may mention issues viewed in addition to those requested by the referee if it is appropriate to the situation under review.

#### **4. Potential acts of foul play**

- 4.1 The match officials may suggest that the referee refers the matter to the TMO for review if they observe an act of foul play (prior to the next restart in play) where:
- They may have only partially observed an act or acts of foul play
  - They are unsure of the exact circumstances
  - The views of the match officials reporting the act(s) of foul play differ
  - There is doubt as to the appropriate sanctions to be applied.
- 4.2 If the referee agrees to refer the matter to the TMO he will indicate that he wishes the TMO to review the potential act(s) of foul play and to make a recommendation as to the appropriate sanction(s).
- 4.3 In reviewing the potential offence, the TMO must use the criterion on each occasion that the infringement must be clear and obvious especially where sanctions may apply where a player is removed from the field of play, either temporarily or permanently.
- 4.4 The other match officials may utilise the in-stadium screens (where available) to form a judgment in this matter.

In accordance with Law 6.A.4, the referee will remain the sole judge of fact and Law during a match.

**Please note: Communication guidelines will be issued together with online education.**

<p><b>Match officials' pre-match "team of four" talk must underline the above approach and must not include areas of jurisdiction that do not appear in this protocol.</b></p>
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