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EASTERN COUNTIES RUGBY UNION

September 2009

PITCH SECURITY AND TECHNICAL AREA – Advice to all EC Member Clubs

*Last season there were several unsavoury “touchline” incidents and in an effort to eliminate these, and in the interests of general safety, the ECRU Management Committee expects that, where possible, pitches be roped off at no less than 2 meters from the touch line, on **BOTH** sides of the playing enclosure; this applies to Schools and Youth games.*

TECHNICAL AREA: *This should be regarded as part of the playing enclosure. For ALL games where there is no properly marked technical area, the two areas between the half way line and each 10m line will be designated and used as technical areas.*

Two coaches, no more than two water carriers and the medic and/or physio should be within those technical areas and will remain there unless called to the playing area.

No replacement will remain in the Technical Area, or anywhere near the Touchlines.

Replacements are to remain behind any barrier or ropes provided, or in any event away from the field of play. Replacements should only warm up behind their opponent’s goal area,

It is understood that there may be some local difficulties in fully implementing the boundary ropes. It is believed, however, temporary daily arrangements should be practicable. If there are difficulties, common sense must prevail. It is appreciated that these are guidelines.

However, following discussions with RFU Competitions Manager, and the London and North-East Competitions Secretary, the recommendation is that ALL Clubs must take ‘reasonable precautions’ to prevent spectators getting onto the Playing Enclosure.

Should an incident occur which may have been avoided by implementing these suggestions, the facts may be taken into consideration.

Clubs are again reminded of their collective responsibilities towards match officials and spectator behaviour.

* * *

NO-ONE, coach, spectator or parent will enter the field of play for ANY reason with out the knowledge AND permission of the referee. It is the duty of the referee to control the game.

This will negate ANY opportunity for allegations of “Child Abuse or Child Welfare”. Problems start, not when two 14 year olds have a spar with each other BUT WHEN an adult tries to separate them.

If any discipline matter is dealt with in-house, and that is the preferred way, the results must be sent to the Hon. Sec. Discipline within 72 hours of the incident. Failure to comply may result in further sanctions against the club.

Yours Sincerely,

Huw Davies,

Chairman,

ECRU Discipline Committee