



Appendix 5

Dorset & Wilts Rugby Football Union Limited

Working Together to Grow Rugby in Dorset and Wiltshire

This protocol conforms with the principles of RFU Regulation and applies to all D&W Clubs in RFU competitions at all levels. These regulations are written to enable the referee to officiate the match safely and effectively, the players to play without risk of injury to themselves or others and for spectators to watch our sport in safety. The protocol also supports and reinforces the RFU Core Values and Codes of Conduct. For the purposes of this protocol, barriers are defined as everything from permanent steel or wood fabrications down to temporary fencing posts with a rope tied between. They should simply be effective in keeping spectators away from the playing area.

1. The RFU Touchline Protocol for Competition.

- 1.1. All clubs in RFU competitions (League and Cup) must make provision to have all spectators behind barriers and to have Technical Areas.
- 1.2. Where a club committee decide that it is impractical or unnecessary to have pitch side barriers or Technical Areas they must ensure that, with the exception of permitted personnel, all other persons remain at a reasonable distance from the playing area. They must also ensure that permitted personnel remain on the side of the pitch designated by the home club and between the centre line and the ten metre- line
- 1.3. Only permitted personnel are allowed in the Technical Area, or where there is no marked Technical Area in the specified area as defined above, and they should stay there for the duration of the match except when:
 - 1.3.1. Medical personnel are treating injured players.
 - 1.3.2. Water carriers (with permission of the referee) are carrying out their duties.
 - 1.3.3. Replacements are warming up.
 - 1.3.4. At half time.
- 1.4. Replacement players may act as Touch Judges but, to avoid confusion, they should not wear, or must cover, team playing kit.
- 1.5. If permitted personnel do not want to take their place in the Technical Area they should be behind the barriers or at a reasonable distance from the playing area.
- 1.6. Replacements and substitutions should only take place from the Technical Area.
- 1.7. All personnel inside the barrier should cover team playing kit to avoid confusion.
- 1.8. Yellow carded players must remain in their team's permitted area.
- 1.9. Red carded players must leave the playing enclosure

1.10. If there are no barriers provided and if there is a continuing safety issue, then the referee may refuse to referee the match.

2. **Touchline Protocol for Other Matches.**

The Touchline Protocol for RFU competitions should also be adhered to by all Clubs for all matches. These include:

2.1. All Under 17 and Under 18 matches.

2.2. All Youth matches

2.3. All Representative matches at any age group.

2.4. In all matches clubs are encouraged to do their best to conform to the above protocols.

3. **Exceptions.**

It is recognised that there are practical issues such as:

3.1. Matches played on neighbouring pitches with common touchlines

3.2. Matches played alongside pitches used by other sports

3.3. Matches moved to other pitches due to ground conditions.

3.4. In these cases, Clubs should do everything they can to minimise risk by:

3.4.1. Ensuring that, where there are issues involving adjoining pitches, spectators are restricted to a single touchline and behind a barrier on that touchline.

3.4.2. Ensuring that Technical Areas are on non-adjoining touchlines.