



COMMUNITY RUGBY

To: CB Hon Secretaries
Club Secretaries
Referee Society Secretaries
National Panel Match Officials

22nd February 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Deaf and Hearing Impaired Players

On 15th January, representatives of England Deaf Rugby Union (EDRU) met with representatives of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) Referee Department and Nic Scott, the RFU Equity, Welfare and Medical Manager.

The purpose of the meeting was to agree guidelines for the refereeing of deaf and hearing impaired players, particularly those who play in the front row. The following guidelines were agreed and I would ask the relevant individuals within your club to familiarise themselves with them. The guidelines will also be made available to Referees Societies and National Panel Officials.

1. Clubs shall take responsibility for informing the referee, prior to the game commencing, if a deaf or hard of hearing player will be present on the field of play.
2. The club shall inform the referee of that player's position.
3. In the event of that player being a front row forward and unable to hear or understand verbal signals from the referee, the club will inform the referee of arrangements as to how that player will be made aware of the signal to engage the scrum.
4. The club must satisfy the referee that the arrangements will remain in place should any player involved in assisting the deaf player have cause to leave the field of play.
5. In the event that the referee is not satisfied with the arrangements either before or after seeing the arrangements in play, the referee shall be entitled to require uncontested scrums.

Should you require clarification on any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

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