

For distribution to Principals, Delegates (College Sport) RAIS (ARU)

Dear Principal and Teacher In Charge of Rugby.

In the first three weeks of Auckland Secondary School Rugby there has been one abandoned game, another game where reserves have run onto the field, a third game where the official referee/linesman has been verbally abused by spectators, a fourth game where there has been a confrontation over two teams performing their Hakas. These situations have been the result of reserves not being behind the correct dead ball line, fields not correctly roped off and teams advancing to the half way mark in performing their Hakas.

All rugby coaches and rugby management are asked again to adhere to the following four points.

- 1) **All** reserve players for ALL Secondary School rugby games are required to position themselves behind the **dead ball area of their team** and not on the sides of the fields. At half time teams will change dead ball ends. **At least one Team Official** must be behind the dead ball line with their reserves.
- 2) If a team is performing a haka the following protocols need to occur; before the game the referee and opposition must be informed, the Haka must be completed before the designated start time of the game. The team performing the Haka must not advance beyond their 10 metre mark – if it is an *Advancing Haka* the Haka must start well behind the 10 metre mark and not advance beyond this 10 metre mark.
- 3) The side lines of **all 1st XV** games must be fully roped off – that is from dead ball line to dead ball line.
- 4) *If there is no official referee or associate referee officiating at the game then golden oldies scrums must be played. If there is an official referee or associate referee officiating the game and a team does not have a front row capable of scrumaging at the commencement of the game, then this team will have lost the game by default. A match can still take place with non - contested scrums and irrespective of the score the default stands.*

Referees have the power to penalize teams, and/or yellow or red card players who infringe on points one or two. 1st XV home teams who fail to comply with Point 3 will be deducted competition points.

Jim Lonergan
Chairman ASSRU
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