

UAE Rugby Referees Game Norms for 2016/2017

These norms have been negotiated amongst the referees as the basis for consistency and interpretation in the 2016/2017 UAE and West Asia competitions. They take into account the new law amendments that came into effect for the Northern Hemisphere on 1 July 2016. In developing these norms consideration was given to a focus on the health and safety of participants, and the playing of the game in a positive and safe manner. While we recognise the differing levels of referees and refereeing in the UAE, referees at all levels will be coached to achieve consistency in applying these norms

Positive, fair and safe set pieces

Referees are to referee set pieces to allow for a fair and safe contest for the ball.

Scrum is to be set up without delay focusing on the formation (Note law amendment allowing up to 30 seconds for the scrum from the time the mark is made).

Scrum is to be stable and safe at each step of the formation and engagement process

Scrum must push "forward".

Lineouts must be formed without delay

Players must ensure the safety of jumpers and lifters in the lineout

Non participants and participants in the lineout must maintain offside lines (eg backs, tail gunners etc)

The feed to scrums and throws to lineouts are to allow for a fair contest for the ball.

Space

Players of the kicking side must be behind the kicker at restarts (half way and 22)

The 5 metre offside lines at scrums are to be maintained until the ball is out.

The offside lines at lineouts must be maintained until the lineout is over (the ball has been cleared from the line of touch).

Offside lines at ruck/maul are to be maintained until the ball is out.

Players must stop when they are ahead of the kicker in general play

Players must clear the 10 metre circle in general play

When a penalty/free kick is given and the attacking team elects to take a quick tap, defending players must make an effort to retire 10 metres, and they must not interfere with the ball carrier or support players unless they are onside

The Breakdown

The game will be refereed to ensure the availability of quick ball at tackle, ruck, maul.

Players are to stay on their feet and enter the breakdown through the gate.

A contest is to be encouraged at the breakdown for players on their feet.

Participants in rucks and mauls must be properly bound and on their feet. Attention is to be paid to players on the peripherals such as pillars, "swimmers" and the entry point of players joining in relation to the ball and the gate. In the same manner attention is to be paid to players moving through the maul, particularly those with the ball in hand "slipping" back to the rear of the maul.

Cleaning out of players beyond the ball is not acceptable. Tacklers must exit this phase and not interfere with the ball release.

Defending players are not to step over players off their feet at a breakdown to kick the ball. (new law).

Kicking at the ball at ruck and maul (either deliberately or unintentionally) at or near a player's head is to be penalised with red cards

The ball will be deemed to be out of the ruck, when the player acting as halfback lifts the ball not when the ball is touched by this player.

Game Values

The health and safety of participants is paramount. Actions by players, coaches, administrators, spectators, etc that put participants at risk are not to be tolerated and are to be severely dealt with. These actions include neck rolls, players in the air, tip tackles, use of the feet, tackles without arms, referee abuse etc.

All conduct between players, officials, spectators and clubs is expected to be positive and respectful, on and off the Pitch.

Referees are expected to maintain and respect the values of the game

UAE Rugby Referees Values for 2016/2017

Tackles Involving the Head

Following on from the directive provided by World Rugby the UAE referees will interpret the guidelines given (and Coach referees accordingly) as follows

If it was done where the tackle hits the head on first contact – red card

If it was done where the player targets below the shoulder line and the tackle slides up - strict liability – minimum yellow card

If the head was contacted in a legitimate tackle which was not aimed at the head - but the tackled player did something that resulted in the head being contacted such as an attempt to duck under the tackle, or the player slipped over as part of the tackle - penalty only

The point was made in the meeting that these guidelines are for UAE referees to follow in domestic tournaments, and are designed to give players, referees, coaches and Clubs an expectation of consistency of interpretation for our competitions.

While we all see the inconsistency of interpretation on how individual referees apply the World Rugby directive globally, it is our intention to seek to have simple guidelines in the interest of player safety and interpretation

Refereeing for Consistency

The UAE Rugby Federations competitions as a TEAM

- Dealing with issues inside a game, and not leave them for the next referee to resolve
- Following the concept of LABS by
 - Looking Like a Referee
 - Acting Like a Referee
 - Being a Referee
 - Standards
- “Socialising” shared experiences with each other and interacting to mutually develop our collective skills
- In all our interactions with each other, we will be respectful and positive
- We will report and share information about abuse received
- Completing our self assessments with 48 hours of our games, for coaches to complete the match review cycle within the next 48 hours