

EAST PENN RUGBY UNION

Referee Guidelines

As Advised By Pete Hesler and Terry Haas
Training Officers, East Penn Rugby Referees Society
Issued February 2002

1. "**Squeezeball**", the act by a **tackled player** of putting the ball between their legs and pushing it backwards, **is not illegal unto itself, if it is done immediately**. However, if this is not done immediately or done while an opposition player, on his feet and on-side, is trying to gain possession of the ball, it is liable for a penalty to be called (against the tackled player). It is the same concept as holding onto a ball after being tackled when opposition players on their feet are trying to gain possession. However, it is illegal in all instances in 'Under 19' rugby.

2. **Pre-gripping of the shorts in a lineout, prior to the ball being thrown in, is allowed in the EPRU**. The preferred word is waistline and the shorts 'are the waistline'. Please realize that referees in other Unions may 'frown' on any pre-gripping; so be careful when playing a match not refereed by one of our own....it is a good idea to always check with the referee BEFORE the match in this matter.

3. All referees are requested to have a **pre-game chat with front rows for scrum engagement purposes**. The words that will be used will be "crouch and hold", then when the referee says "engage", both teams are to go at the same time. There will be no cadence allowed between "engage" and the actual engagement. In effect, the ref is engaging the scrums. However: in 'Under 19' rugby, the "crouch - touch - pause" sequence will be done by the team with the put-in, and the ref will then say "engage". Any problems at any level with scrum engagement can be handled with varying degrees of uncontested scrums, including:

- a. Uncontested engagement, with contest beginning at put-in
- b. Completely uncontested scrums, where the team putting-in WILL win the ball and the contest for the ball begins when the scrum ends.

4. It is **legal to wheel a scrum to gain possession**, as long as it is not dangerous and one prop is not pulling back on his opposition. If there is any form of pulling, that team will be penalized. The scrum must go PAST 90 degrees for a turnover (scrum to opponents). Referees will encourage ending a scrum stalled at any angle by getting the ball out.

<p>All questions on the above or on any interpretation of the Laws, especially as called by East Penn referees, shall be addressed to Pete Hesler at: <i>phrugby@comcast.net</i></p>
--