



# REFEREEING FLAG RUGBY



One of the greatest things about Rookie Rugby is how easy it is to administrate, coach, and referee. In many instances, a Rookie Rugby coach can take on the role of a referee during games. When doing so, it should be noted that referees in Rookie Rugby are more like coaches. Refereeing as a coach means using your words more than your whistle. The number one priority as a referee is maintaining the player's safety. If a player makes a mistake, let them know what they are doing wrong and why you are awarding a penalty or blowing your whistle. This will help coach the athlete so that they do not make the same mistake again.

Always keep in mind the following elements while on the field as a referee:

## SAFETY COMES FIRST

Keeping the game safe should be the top priority to the referee. Rookie Rugby players have not learned the proper techniques for contact yet, therefore the referee should be quick to discourage any unsafe actions.

Use a quick whistle for unsafe actions such as:

- Holding, pushing or shoving
- Blocking and obstructions
- Pulling the ball from the ball carrier
- Players diving on the ball or going to ground

**REMEMBER TO INSTRUCT  
PLAYERS ON WHY YOU ARE  
BLOWING THE WHISTLE!**

## COMMUNICATION

Clearly communicating is a key skill for rugby referees. Remember to help coach the players by talking with them during the game rather than always using your whistle.

- Blow your whistle only when you want to stop play
- Shout "FLAG" when a flag has been pulled
- Shout "PLAY" when you want play to resume
- Signal the team starting play after a penalty by extending your arm towards that team
- Coach / educate players on the rules
- Have a friendly attitude

## MAINTAIN SPACE

Young players will tend to bunch up during play. Establish spacing rules with the players to maintain the continuity of the game.

## ENCOURAGE CONTINUITY

Rookie Rugby is a free flowing and continuous game. Avoid blowing your whistle too many times so players begin understanding the flow of rugby.

- Use the advantage rule. Although harder to understand at first, this helps keep play flowing.

## BE IN POSITION

The key to making good calls is being in a position to see the play. Be sure to keep moving so that you can see the gameplay and ball carrier at all times.

- Be level with the play
- Call what you see
- Blow the whistle only when you want to stop play



# REFEREE CALLS



**PENALTY**



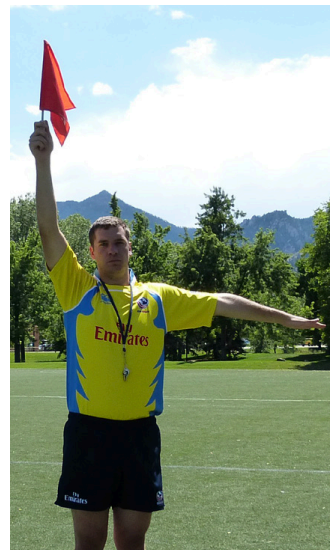
**ADVANTAGE**



**FORWARD  
PASS**



**TRY SCORED**



**LINEOUT**



**KNOCK ON**