



# 2017 SIDELINES, DISCIPLINE, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES

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## INTRODUCTION

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**“It is through discipline, control and mutual respect that the spirit of the game flourishes and, in the context of a game as physically challenging as rugby, these are the qualities which forge the fellowship and sense of fair play so essential to the game’s ongoing success and survival.”**

- World Rugby: Laws of the Game 2015

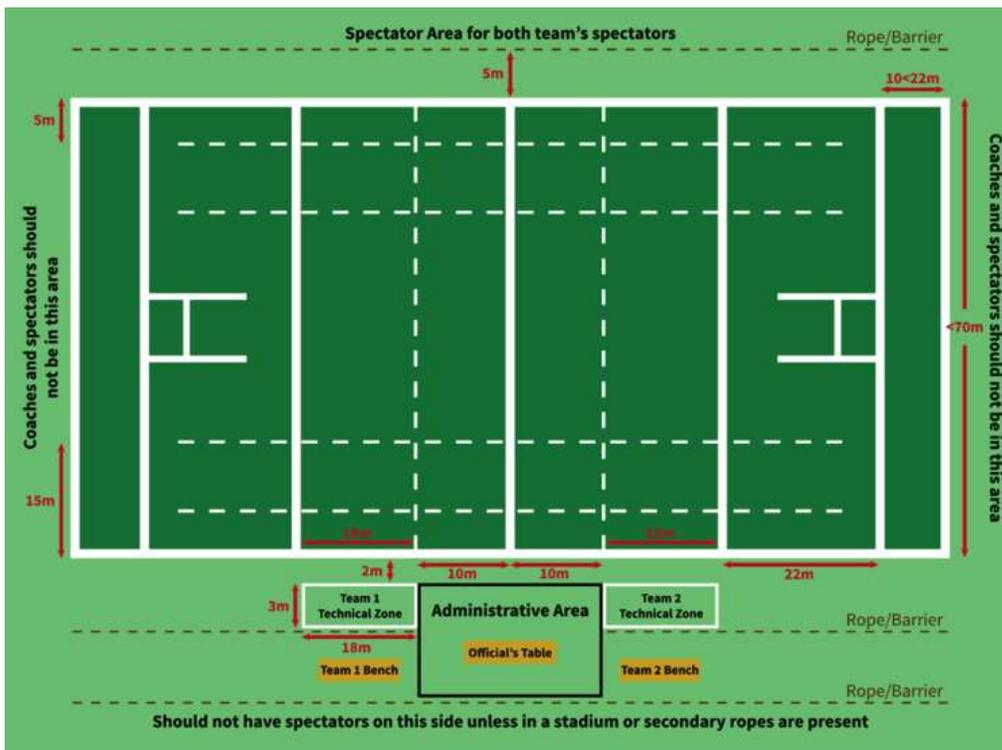
It is important that we, as a community, stand together and work together to develop rugby in the United States. It will be through mutual respect and support that we grow the game.

Match officials, players, team administrators and fans should work together and refrain from verbal abuse toward each other, and derogatory public remarks or comments, including on social media, as this behavior is not beneficial to the development and growth of the game.

It is our responsibility as participants, whether players, coaches, administrators or fans, to uphold the principles of the game, to ensure a safe environment for all.



## TECHNICAL ZONES



1. Technical zone (TZ) is defined as space in front of the rope/barrier between the 10m line and 22m line.
2. TZ ends 2m from the touch line to give room for ARs/touch judges.
3. The TZ may be marked with lines or cones.
4. Both teams shall be on the same side of the field.
5. Coaches may not cross into the other team's TZ or leave their own TZ.
6. No more than 2 coaches are allowed in the TZ.
7. Coaches shall not stand in/near the try zone or anywhere on the field of play.



8. Only certified coaches shall be in the TZ.
9. Team benches shall be between the 10m line and 22m line, but “behind the rope” and not in the TZ.
10. Coaches may not enter the field during the match at any time unless allowed by the referee. They may not huddle with teams on the field after scores.
11. When teams are warming-up while another match is on-going and there is not another suitable place to warm-up, teams must warm-up behind the in-goal area of the side they are attacking into, not the defending side, and they may not be in the in-goal area.
12. Teams warming-up behind and in-goal area may not warm up with balls, cones, or other equipment (e.g. ruck pads).

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#### **WATER CARRIERS**

1. Each team is allowed 2 water carriers. A third water carrier may be allowed dependent on weather conditions.
2. Only substitute players may be water carriers, and need to wear identification that separates them from players on the field (i.e. pinnies, jersey inside out, etc.).
3. Coaches may not serve as water carriers.
4. Water carriers may not enter the field when the opposition team is kicking at goal during a Penalty Kick.
5. Players may come to the touchline at any time to get water.

**Commented [WLS1]:** What is the rationale for limiting water carriers to 2-3? Has this been a problem in the past?

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#### **MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS**

1. Teams may have two medical professionals.
2. Medical professionals may roam either sideline and are not confined to the TZ.
3. Only one medical professional per team is allowed per side of the field.
4. Coaches are not allowed onto the field with medical personnel unless explicitly allowed by the match official.
5. Medical personnel should always introduce themselves to the match official(s) before the match begins.
6. Medical professionals should not make comments to the match officials regarding decisions.
7. Medical professionals may only enter the field with the referee’s permission, unless they determine that a player is prone or obviously in distress.



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**ADMINISTRATIVE AREA: if applicable**

1. #4 (Fourth Official) or Match Manager (data tracker) occupies the space between the 10m lines.
2. Chairs may be set up in the Administrative Area for disciplinary/sin bin purposes.
3. No coach or player is allowed in the Administrative Area except when petitioning for a substitution.

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**SPECTATOR AREA**

1. All fields should be cordoned off with ropes to provide a clearly marked area for spectators, on the opposite side to the technical zone.
2. Spectators must remain behind the ropes.
3. Ropes must be at least 5m from the touchline.



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#### REFEREE ABUSE: Team Coaches, Team Staff or Team Substitutes

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1. Verbal abuse directed at match officials or players will not be tolerated and the following process should be followed:
  - a. The referee will walk to the sideline on the halfway line, call the head coach to the halfway line, and instruct him/her to ask the identified person to refrain from their behavior. If the identified person is the head coach the referee addresses him/her directly or may ask the team captain to assist.
  - b. On the second occurrence the referee will EJECT the offending person from the grounds.
  - c. A zero tolerance approach will be applied and if the person refuses to leave the referee will request that team's captain to assist.
  - d. Failing compliance the referee will abandon the match.
  - e. **NOTE: The referee restarts the game according to the latest stoppage and does NOT award a penalty due to the sideline behavior.**

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#### REFEREE ABUSE: SPECTATORS

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2. Verbal abuse directed at match officials or players will not be tolerated and the following process should be followed:
  - a. The referee will walk to the sideline on the halfway line, call the home team head coach to the halfway line, and instruct him/her to ask the identified person to refrain from their behavior.
  - b. On the second occasion, the referee will instruct the coach to EJECT the person from the grounds.
  - c. A zero tolerance approach will be applied and if the person refuses to leave the referee shall request that team's captain to assist.
  - d. Failing compliance, the referee will abandon the match.
  - e. **NOTE: The referee restarts the game according to the latest stoppage and does NOT award a penalty due to the sideline behavior.**



## DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & PROCEDURES

USA Rugby has a policy of zero tolerance regarding sideline misconduct. Any behavior that might constitute misconduct on the part of player substitutes, coaches, and spectators will be reported to the appropriate disciplinary body and be reviewed and adjudicated pursuant to USA Rugby Disciplinary Procedures.

USA Rugby Disciplinary Procedures are established to secure and maintain consistency with which discipline is administered and uniformity with which Foul Play and Misconduct are dealt with at all levels of play of the sport of Rugby within the United States of America as intended by World Rugby in the promulgation of World Rugby Regulations 17, 18, and 20.

While Foul Play and Misconduct are defined by World Rugby regulations, the initial responsibility and jurisdiction for the administration of these Disciplinary Procedures and for the initial adjudication and determination of appropriate disciplinary sanctions (if any) is held by the local organizing body most immediately responsible for sanctioning a competition (which currently includes LAUs, GUs, College Conferences, and SBOs.) Every local organizing body should familiarize itself with these procedures, and have in place systems, such as Foul Play and Misconduct reporting, that ensure proper and effective administration.

USA Rugby Disciplinary Procedures are found here:  
<https://assets.usarugby.org/docs/membership/disciplinary-procedures-safesport-approved.pdf>

World Rugby Regulation 20.4(b) defines Misconduct to include:

**Acting in an abusive, insulting, intimidating or offensive manner towards referees, assistant referees, Citing Commissioners, members of Disciplinary Tribunals or other officials or any person associated with the Host Union, the Rugby Body or the Unions participating in the Match or spectators;**