



# THE WHISTLEBLOWER

newsletter of the  
CENTRAL COAST RUGBY UNION REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Edition: 17

Date: 3 August, 2020

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We're off to a good start.

Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this the case. To every member who has already done so much to help out our Association: those who have doubled up on games, those who have helped out with running as ARs when not appointed, those who have gone out of their way to get younger referees to games, training etc, it all helps to make our Association stronger.

To Mal and Gary who have taken on the brunt of the appointments scheduling, again, thank you. Despite not being able to use the Referee Appointments System (RAS) on the Rugby Portal, all seems to have gone smoothly mainly due to Mal's expertise and knowledge in using spreadsheets.

To our referee coaches, what an outstanding start to the season. So far this year, we have had reports submitted on 17 of our members with a total of 26 reports written. While I know that a couple in that figure are 'double up' reports, the actual number is still in excess of 20. These reports include referee coaching reports, Level 1 Referee Accreditation reports and Level 1 Referee Coach Accreditation reports. The next closest NSW Country Zone to us have completed a total of 13 reports written on 11 referees. These reports form a valuable coaching tool and record of a referees' performance and improvement over a season, so this is fantastic to see.

*Tony Rudd*

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## MENTORING PROGRAMS UNDERWAY

In recent weeks we have been able to get our formal mentoring programs underway. These will take two forms: 'coaching for improvement' for our senior referees and then a mentoring partnership for our less experienced referees with one of our senior referees.

One example of this is, thanks to Stuart Formston, who came forward to offer his services to mentor Peter Scholes. As a result of this, Stuart has seen Peter referee on at least four occasions this year, not only submitting coaching reports, but also providing a consistency of coaching, advice around Association organisation and administration, and just being 'on call' for Peter should he need advice.

Other referees and referee coaches will; be contacted in the coming week to gauge their level of interest in becoming involved.

## IT HAPPENED TO ME

Welcome to a new component of our newsletter. This comes as a suggestion from Tony Fisher, as does our first entry. It would be great for similar contributions to come in about 'What happened to you?'. Give the instance, how you dealt with it, was that correct, what you could have done better. Nothing will be judged. It's a learning experience for all of us.

Team A has a dominant Loose Head prop and so after the ball is fed, the scrum wheels as the dominant Loose Head pushes forward while the Team A Tight Head is stationary as it is an even contest on that side of the scrum. Decision is that you penalise the dominant Loose Head prop from Team A as he is going forward but the law requires the whole front row to move forward before the scrum is wheeled. The issue that the referee I coached today had was why am I penalising the dominant Loose Head?

Thoughts?

## NEW COACHING RESOURCE

Our new camera has been out and about in recent weeks. While we are still coming to grips with the actual tracking settings, the quality of video is very good. We did try to link our comms gear for audio, and while this came through, the quality wasn't crash hot due to the poor quality of the microphone being used on that day. As we learn more, I'm sure that both the video and audio outputs will improve. In addition, while the battery life of the tracking device is good, we only get enough battery life out of the camera for one game. Next step, we'll be trying an external battery/power source to see if we get usage time.

As videos are taken, they are uploaded to YouTube on a private setting so that only those with the link can view the video. In the future, we may be able, with permission of the referee, to send out clips from the video as a coaching tool for all referees.

So far, we have used the camera for both Gary Sinclair and Ben Callaway.



**The Rugby Club  
Foundation**

## FUTURE DATES FOR DIARY

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 24 August  | CCRURA Meeting - Format to be advised, on-line or physical |
| 26 October | CCRURA Annual General Meeting                              |

## PHOTOS FROM THE WEEKEND



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