



Notice To Team Managers, Coaches, Players & Match Officials

After a brief pause in the action at the end of this opening three-week block of league matches, I would like to address a number of concerns relating to player conduct that have been observed during the first few weeks of action.

I am writing this notice to all teams so that we can progress the league positively with a focus on enjoyable competition, good sportsmanship and a positive spirit for all that play, referee and coach in our sport whilst ensuring a safe environment.

Unfortunately, we have had a number of issues, which collectively we must address to maintain the sporting integrity of our competitions and the standards expected of each and every member of our community.

I will not be addressing or referencing any specific instances in this notice, however, will reference some general observations from the TSG Executive Committee as follows:

Dissent

We have witnessed a high level of incidents regarding player dissent towards both opponents and referees in the opening weeks of the league. This includes back chat, swearing, threatening behaviour, gesticulating and challenging the authority of the match officials.

Such disrespectful occurrences will not be tolerated by the TSG Executive Committee and all instances reported by match officials will be thoroughly investigated. If found in breach of our code of conduct through a judiciary review, individuals will receive strong penalties including suspension from matches or possibly the competition as a whole.

Challenging refereeing decisions is not acceptable in any capacity. However, it is permitted that the team captain (***and only the team captain***) may request clarification of certain in-game calls from the referee at a convenient break in the game. *i.e. During half time so as not to disturb the fluid nature of the match.*

However, this should not be seen as an opportunity to dispute and argue with the referee. Likewise, constant appeal for decisions and poor sportsmanship such as throwing the ball away or preventing fluid play by preventing the quick play of the ball is also not acceptable.

Hard Touches

The rules of Touch Football state that all touches are to be made with the ***minimal force possible***. It has been observed that there is a high level of overly physical touches being made in all levels of the game across men's, women's and mixed categories, some of which have resulted in injuries being sustained by the ball carrier. There have also been instances of swinging arms, leading shoulders and contact with the head/face which is both unnecessary and unacceptable.



For clarity, regardless of your size or shape, it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure that you remain in control of your momentum/speed to make touches with the minimal use of force necessary ensuring the safety of your opponent and not interfering with the play of the ball at the ruck.

The sport of Touch Football is a **minimal contact sport**. If you wish to play a full-contact sport then please join a Rugby club where you can enjoy the physicality of the Union code against players who share your desire for that level of physical contact.

Referees Directive

In response to the increase in the instances mentioned above and in an effort to improve the overall standard of gameplay and officiating, our Referees Director, Darren Whitbourne hosted two online refereeing workshops this week providing a specific directive for referees to strongly penalise and enforce dissent, unsporting behaviour and hard touches immediately on the field of play. The on field sanctions available to referees include forced subs, sin bins, through to sending a player from the field for the remainder of the game. Referees are also instructed to note down the details of any players sin binned or sent from the field on the scoresheets and to report serious misconduct to the referees director for judiciary review.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all individuals to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner according to the rules of the sport and in line with the Touch Singapore Code Of Conduct. We wish for all participants to enjoy playing the sport of touch with maximum fulfilment, without fear of receiving abuse or being unnecessarily injured due to aggressive on-field play.

Please take the responsibility to conduct yourself as a player, coach or match official in a manner that reflects the values of our sport and to ensure that we can leave the fields every Saturday with a smile and in one piece, ready for work, school and college/uni on a Monday morning.

We look forward to welcoming you back to TRC fields on 1st October and enjoying a positive remainder of the season.

Regards,

Chris Hallewell
President