

SCOTTISH RUGBY – MATCHDAY PROTOCOLS

Applicable to Clubs, Coaches, Players, Match Officials and Matchday Personnel

PURPOSE

These Protocols set out the expected standards of behaviour and operational requirements for all individuals involved in Scottish Rugby matches.

All participants are expected to comply with both the letter and spirit of these Protocols at all times.

TECHNICAL AREAS & MATCHDAY ZONES

2.1 Technical Zones

- Two technical zones (one per team) must be provided
- Both must be on the same side of the pitch
- Positioned either side of the halfway line
- Must begin at least 5 metres from the halfway line
- Must be set back at least 2 metres from the touchline

2.2 Personnel in Technical Zones

- Maximum of six personnel per team, comprising:
 - Coaches
 - Medical staff
 - Water carriers
- All personnel must:
 - Remain within the technical area during play
 - Behave appropriately at all times
 - Not obstruct, interfere with, or direct comments toward Match Officials

2.3 Replacements & Squad Members

- Must remain outside the Playing Enclosure
- May only enter:
 - To warm up
 - When entering the field as a replacement

2.4 Sin Bin Areas

- Two sin bin areas (one per team) must be provided
- Must be:
 - Clearly designated
 - At least 10 metres apart

- Positioned to allow a clear view of the Playing Enclosure
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PERSONS ENTERING THE PLAYING AREA

3.1 Medical Staff

- Maximum of two medical staff per team may enter the field
- Entry only to attend injured players
- Must leave the field immediately after treatment is complete

3.2 Water Carriers

- Maximum of two water carriers per team
- May enter the field:
 - During breaks in play
 - After tries have been scored
- Must not:
 - Enter during penalty kicks
 - Distract a goal kicker
- Must return to the technical area before play restarts

3.3 General Conduct

- Players must go to the technical area to take water outside permitted breaks
 - Bottles must not be thrown onto or off the field
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CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Pre-Match Communication

- Visiting clubs must notify the home club of playing colours
- Home club must notify Match Officials of:
 - Date
 - Venue
 - Kick-off time
 - Team colours
- Notification must be made at least 72 hours prior to kick-off
- Contact must be made directly (voicemail is not sufficient)

4.2 Match Officials

- Home club is responsible for:
 - Match Official safety and welfare
 - Appointing a referee liaison officer (where possible)
 - Communicating with the Match Official(s) in the event of a postponement

4.3 Matchday Setup

- Home club must ensure:
 - Technical areas are correctly marked
 - Sin bin areas are in place
 - Pitch is appropriately roped off

4.4 Matchday Administration

- Clubs must:
 - Submit team sheets in accordance with Competition Rules
 - Provide match footage where available
 - Ensure compliance with all matchday protocols
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BEHAVIOUR & CONDUCT

5.1 Coaches & Technical Staff

- Must remain within the technical area during play
- Must not engage in:
 - Abuse
 - Dissent
 - Interference with Match Officials

5.2 Players

- Must comply with all Laws and Regulations
- Must not receive local anaesthetic on match day, except:
 - Stitching of wounds
 - Dental treatment by qualified practitioners

5.3 Interaction with Match Officials

- No discussion of contentious issues until at least 20 minutes after the match
- Respectful discussion is encouraged thereafter

5.4 Complaints

- Complaints regarding Match Officials must be submitted using the appropriate formal process
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MATCH OFFICIAL PROTOCOLS

6.1 Pre-Match

- Match Officials must:
 - Confirm arrangements with the home club (minimum 48 hours prior if not contacted)
 - Be physically prepared and fit to officiate

6.2 Conduct During Matches

- Match Officials must:

- Apply the Laws and approved guidelines
- Act professionally at all times
- Maintain appropriate appearance and behaviour

6.3 Misconduct

- In cases of serious misconduct by coaches or officials:
 - The referee may remove the individual from the Playing Enclosure
 - A report must be submitted for disciplinary review

6.4 Post-Match Responsibilities

- Match Officials must:
 - Submit match reports (scores, cards) within required timeframes
 - Make reasonable efforts to attend post-match functions
 - Maintain up-to-date contact details

6.5 Professional Standards

- Match Officials must not:
 - Engage in behaviour bringing the game into disrepute
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MATCHDAY CONTROL

- A fourth official (or designated home club official) is responsible for:
 - Managing technical areas
 - Overseeing substitutions
 - Supporting match administration
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GENERAL PRINCIPLE

All individuals involved in the game are expected to:

Respect the Game, Respect Match Officials, and Act in the Best Interests of Rugby.

Failure to comply with these Protocols may result in disciplinary action.