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June 2013

SARU Protocol for Medical Personnel Entering the Field of Play

SARU's Protocol for medical staff entering the playing field to attend to an injured player, whilst a match is being played.

1. Referees must give permission to qualified medical staff before they can enter the field of play.
 - a. This can be done beforehand in the change room for example and/or
 - b. By stopping play and calling the medics on.
 - c. If no permission is given beforehand, the medics must clear this with the referee before kick-off, which permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.
2. Qualified medical staff entering the playing area to attend to an injured player whilst play is still going on, must:
 - a. Do so without interfering with play.
 - b. Do so without any danger to players or themselves.
 - c. Consider where play is and not enter the field when there is a possibility of compromising the play, their personal safety or the players' safety.
 - d. Continually make themselves aware of where play is moving, once they have entered the field of play and are attending to the injured player
3. The referee is to stop play when it moves in the direction of players being treated by medical personnel.
 - a. The Assistant referees are to be aware of this and advise the referee accordingly should he be unsighted.
 - b. For reference and consistency sake, a distance away of 10m should be considered as safe. Should the play move to within 10m of the treating medical personnel and injured player, the referee is to stop play according to law 6.A.7.

Law references: Law 6.A.4 (f), Law 6.C.2, Law 6.C.3 and Law 6.A.7 (f)

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