

# THE REFEREE SPOTLIGHT

**TARGET:  
ZERO  
ILLEGAL  
TACKLES  
MISSED!**



**BE CONSISTENT  
ZERO  
TOLERANCE  
OF DANGEROUS  
PLAY**

## PRE-MATCH CHECKS

1. A field safety inspection
2. Assess crowd control measures
3. Check for the minimum emergency medical equipment and qualified first aid personnel
4. Request to see the hosting club or school's emergency action plan
5. Check for BokSmart certification of coaches and match officials
6. Must review Team Sheets for age-appropriate players
7. Review any age-banding clearance documentation where applicable
8. A clothing and boots inspection of the teams participating in the match

## GAME MANAGEMENT

### 1. MANAGE SERIOUS INJURIES

- Clear communication between Referee and Medical staff
- Don't use safety as a licence to cheat

### 2. SCRUM CADENCE

- Crouch-Bind-Scrum (U16 and younger)
- Crouch-Bind-Set (U18 and older)

### 3. CONTROLLING THE SCRUM CONTEST

- Binds, scrum straight, elbows up, earn the turn

### 4. ROLLING REPLACEMENTS

- 12 max using  
7 bench players only

### 6. DANGEROUS CLEANOUTS

- Neck rolls
- Sharp shoulder

### 5. DANGEROUS TACKLES:

- High tackles
- No-arm tackles
- Tip tackles
- Chop tackles

### 7. COLLISION IN THE AIR

- Foul play?
- Realistic opportunity to catch the ball  
AT POINT OF CONTACT?

Yes – Play on No – Yellow card/Red Card

It is irrelevant whether or not the chaser or catcher has their eyes on the ball, and it is irrelevant whether or not it was accidental

### 8. NO KICKING THE BALL OUT OF RUCKS OR PLAYERS' HANDS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO GROUND THE BALL

ALMOST  
**60%** OF ILLEGAL  
TACKLES  
WERE NOT SANCTIONED  
BY THE REFEREES

**67** DANGEROUS  
TACKLE EVENTS  
LEFT UNSANCTIONED

THE  
**HEAD  
& NECK  
AREA IS A  
STRICT  
NO-GO  
ZONE!**