**SRRS Basic Pre-Match Brief**

When you arrive at the club find team captains / coaches & ask them what time they would like their brief. You can introduce yourself then, no requirement after that unless Captain not present.

**Who to Brief?**

You can brief all players together but, after your pre-game stud check, we recommend you only brief in this order:

Fly Half;

Scrum Half;

Front Row (& FR replacements);

With Captain present.

NB It is suggested that you brief all players at the start of the season when there have been law changes but only for the first couple of games. Always brief all players at Age Grade.

**Individual Briefs.**

Ask for Front Rows 9s and 10s plus the Captain.

**Fly Half Brief**:

*Manage the O/S lines for me please.*

Scrum time: *Maintain 5m behind your backfoot throughout the scrum until the ball leaves the scrum.*

Line Out: *remain 10m from the mark of touch until my arm(s) come down or the ball is played off the top.*

*Are we agreed?*

*Thank You!* Unless they are the Capt, the 10 can leave.

**Scrum Half Brief**:

*When the scrum is square and stable, please put the ball in.*

Ask the SH ‘*How do you put the ball in?*’ They should say ‘*straight*’. This puts the emphasis on them. Your answer should be ‘*Good, we both agree on that’*.

*On their put-in, start at the tunnel; you cannot come pass the tunnel until the ball is out. You can go back to your No8 or a line across the pitch in line with your No8 or retreat 5m into defensive line.*

*Ball is out when it is lifted, or a seagull can shit on it.*

*Quick taps: Happy for you to go quick, but make sure you are on or behind the mark. Make sure I am looking, if not shout to me so I see the tap leave the hands.*

*If I call ‘USE IT’ at scrums/rucks/mauls then please respond quickly.*

*Are Agreed?*

*Thank You – they can disappear unless they are the Captain.*

**Front Row**:

**To the Hooker** – *at scrum time I will make a mark (describe the mark). You know the gap so set it for me making sure heads and shoulders are in the correct space, please.*

**To whole Front Row**: *After you have bound up, I want to see 6 shoulders before we start the set-up. I will call Crouch, Bind, Set – I won’t take you past any call until both teams are strong stable and still.*

*On ‘Set’, please ensure you do not drive through the mark or step back.*

*When the ball comes in, drive straight or go back straight. Good pictures may bring rewards if any are coming. Are we agreed on scrums? Thank you!*

Line Outs – *who is at the front, please? I mark the defensive mark; make sure your inside foot is on the mark and keep your players there. On your throw, set the metre gap.*

*Are we agreed?*

*Thank you!*

(2 minutes maximum). As you go up the levels the brief will change and get shorter.

Captain:

If you have not already introduced yourself, then do that now and ask their name and position – add this info to your notebook.

If it is the first team you chat to just say: Once I have briefed the opposition, I will call you across to conduct the toss. Happy? Thank you.

After introductions / notebook completion and the end of the opposition team chat, say, ‘let’s do the toss now’. Walk to halfway and call the other Captain across. Introduce them to each other if they don’t (especially relevant to age grade)

**Coin Toss (no rock, paper, scissors)**

Officially referee is supposed to toss the coin with away team calling.

Toss the coin and ensure they call whilst it is in the air.

Based on who wins they choose whether to kick off or choose ends. The loser gets to choose the opposite i.e. the winner chooses to KO, the loser gets to choose ends, or vice versa. **Law 6.3**

Add the decisions to your notebook

**Chat**

*All communications to come through you and from me out through to your team. We can chat in downtime, this is not after penalties / free-kicks; please just retreat 10m and I will tell you the decision.*

*Let’s work together to manage discipline and core values; I do ask you to please manage your players before I need to get involved. I do not want to hear excessive appealing and constant back chat, so please ensure your players are aware of this, thank you.*

(Enforce this throughout the game through ask, tell, penalise, sanction – the escalation process)

*Please can you both get someone competent to run touch for me? I have flags which I will give to you when you come in before kick off.*

*We will kick off (state the correct time) so please make sure you are both out on the pitch ready to start 1 minute before then. Are you going back in? I’ll give you a 5min and 2min to Kick-Off warning then get you out.*

*Are we agreed?* Thank you (1 min max)

DON’T INVITE QUESTIONS but do listen if they ask. Don’t get into law discussions.

For example, if they ask *How are you going referee the tackle / ruck?* Just say ‘according to the laws’. Shut it down quickly but in a friendly manner.

**DIFFERENCES**

**Age Grade Rugby U13 – U18**

After studs check confirm a number of actions with all players.

I will ask (we should always ask at Age Grade to assist their learning):

Confirm the age grade laws / regs with the team – not necessary with U18s.

*Where is the Tackle Height?* I then nominate a player to show / tell me.

When correct, I say, *Well Done!* *Thank you!*

I then say *‘Let me manage the tackle height, all I ask you to do as the tackler is to ensure you are bent over and not upright. The better picture you present makes it easier to referee and is less likely to be penalised.*

I will also ask questions about the tackle / ruck area.

*When tackled to ground, what should the ball carrier do?* You should get an answer, ‘*present the ball’.*

*‘What do I want to see the tackler do?’* Answer: *Roll Away*

*‘Which way should they roll?’* Answer: *East / West or back over their own side.*

*‘I will talk to you all to assist you, so if I ask you to do something, please do it, if I ask not to do something, please don’t do it even if you think you are right; your view of the game and mine may be slightly different’.*

*‘Are we all agreed on everything we have discussed?*

*Great – Thank You, can I speak to 9, 10, Front Row, Captain and any replacements for those positions please?*

Then go into your brief from above with the following differences:

**Scrum Time Includes U18:** *Your safety is paramount to me so Remember it is a 1.5m push and 45 degree wheel. If I call hold, or there is a collapse, everyone is to stop pushing until the ball is out. Let’s just get the ball out into play, please.*

Enforce this on the pitch especially if there is one dominant scrum. Safety is paramount.

**Line-Out:** It is just confirmation of the different regs:

U13 – free pass no tap 5m in from touch.

U14 – Uncontested jump only (remember the not straight procedure). Emphasise when the opposition can leave come through the line out.

U15 – Uncontested lift

U16 – Contested lift for the first time – different teams will be at different levels.

U18 – no requirement – stick with adult rugby brief.

**Restarts**

U13 – ‘Kick or Receive’ option for the defending team after a try is scored

This has been put together in consultation by the Society’s RADO