

## TECHNICAL ZONE PROTOCOLS – 2023/24 COMPETITION

### 23 PLAYER SQUAD

#### TECHNICAL ZONE:

- Team Manager / Replacements Manager
- 2 Water Carriers – enter field at stoppages in play & after a try has been scored – PK & FK is not a stoppage.
- Water bottles behind dead ball line
- Water to players on touchline – no throwing of water bottles
- 2 Medically-Trained Personnel may roam either side of field
  - Must be certified & practising Medical Doctors or Physiotherapists
- Additional Medical personnel must remain with subs or with the medical personnel (MDD / ICL)

#### BLOOD:

- 15 minutes running time

#### HIA:

- 12 minutes running time
- Players not 19yrs old – Recognise & Remove

#### COMBINED BLOOD & HIA

- Maximum of 17 minutes, with no return before 12 minutes

#### HALF-TIME INTERVAL:

- All fixtures in Regular Season – 12-minutes

#### REPLACEMENTS:

- Seated in the designated replacement seating area
- Teams can warm up behind or in their own in-goal area.
  - ONLY use balls & hit-shields

#### FRONT ROW AGE BANDING:

- Front row players must be 19 turning 20 in the year being played, or older
- U19 front row players who have turned 19 or are turning 19 in year being played
  - Have to be cleared for front-row positions according to WR protocols – provide documented proof
- U18 players CANNOT be considered for front row position

#### WATER BREAKS:

- Teams are permitted up to two dedicated water carriers
- Water carriers cannot be a Director of Rugby or Head Coach
- Water carriers will be able to enter the field of play during a stoppage in play or after a try has been scored
- A person bringing on a kicking tee may carry one bottle for the kicker's use only
- The water/kicking tee carriers must remain in the Technical Zone at all times before entering the field of play as permitted
- Any attempt to field or touch the ball while it is live or in play, including in the technical zone, will be sanctioned with a PK.
- No-one should approach, address, or aim comments at the match officials, save for medics in respect of treatment of a player. Should this happen, the sanction will be a penalty kick.
- If a try occurs within the agreed water break timings, this should signal the beginning of the water break.

#### **Players on the field**

- May access water behind the dead ball line or from within their Technical Zone at any time

### REPLACEMENTS

#### • FRONT ROW PLAYERS:

- Must have LH, TH and Hooker replacements in the match day squad of 23
  - If only 2 front row replacements nominated in squad, the squad size reduced to 22
  - Only declared front row players can replace another front row player
- Team responsible for uncontested scrums will be reduced to 13 when caused by:
  - Injury
  - YC/RC Sanctions
- Team responsible for uncontested scrums is not reduced in numbers when 2<sup>nd</sup> injury is caused by:
  - HIA/Concussion
  - Blood
  - Foul Play – PK and confirmed by referee as foul play injury

#### • HEAD INJURY ASSESSMENT (HIA):

- Mandatory 12 minutes – and cleared by the applicable Doctor
- After 12 minutes the replacement becomes permanent

#### • BLOOD (BL): UNCONTROLLED ACTIVE BLEEDING

- Can return any time before 15 minutes
- After 15 min – the replacement becomes permanent
- HIA + BL simultaneously = will have 17 minutes to return to the field
  - They must complete the mandatory 12 minutes for the HIA

#### • REPLACEMENTS AS A RESULT OF:

- HIA/BL events:
  - May be replaced irrespective if all replacements were used
  - HIA/BL temporary replacements becomes permanent if the injured player cannot return
    - Count as a permanent replacement if a REPLACEMENT PLAYER was used
    - Has no implication if a TACTICAL REPLACED PLAYER was used
- Foul play event:
  - The team does not lose a replacement when a player is injured and replaced resulting from foul play– PROVIDED that the referee awarded a PK for the foul play at the time

#### MEDICS:

- Can provide water to other players when on the field to treat a Player
- Cannot field or touch a ball when it is live in play
- Additional medical personnel must remain with the substitutes or other medical staff
- Appropriately trained and accredited first-aid or immediate (pitch-side) care persons may enter the playing area to attend to injured players at any time it is safe to do so
- Medics may only address Match Officials in relation to the treatment of a Player