



# NATIONAL SMALL COLLEGE RUGBY ORGANIZATION

The Home of Small College Rugby in America

[www.nscro.org](http://www.nscro.org)

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## Field Preparation and Sideline Policy

Issued: August 2017

### Introduction

One of NSCRO's goals is to promote collegiate rugby as a respected athletic endeavor in this country. To make it happen, we all must work together to provide the best experience and environment for those that play, officiate and watch a match. This NSCRO Policy has been prepared as part of a means to that end. All Conferences and Unions are welcome to utilize this Policy for league matches under their jurisdiction.

All NSCRO playoff matches, as well as all collegiate matches, are expected to be played and conducted in accordance with disciplined and sporting behavior. These principles cannot be upheld solely by the referee or other match and Conference or Union officials but must also be upheld and observed by players and those who manage, administrate, coach or teach the game as well as the spectators who observe a match.

### Field Preparation

The field shall be prepared and lined in accordance with the Laws of the Game - Law 1: The Ground. The specifics can be found at: <http://laws.worldrugby.org/index.php?law=1>.

A handy PDF file is available at: <http://www.markersinc.com/athletic/rugby-field-dimensions.pdf>. Go to <http://www.athleticfieldmarker.com/rugbyfield/> for details on Rugby Field Marking Specifications & Layout Tool.

Field accessories, such as goal posts and padding, sideline markers, etc. should be purchased from an NSCRO sponsor, such as Rhino Rugby. Contact the NSCRO President at [president@nscro.org](mailto:president@nscro.org) for more information.

While Law 1 advises on the maximum dimensions of the rugby field, it does address the minimum acceptable dimensions which we all know is a "key" to rugby being played properly.

The preferred **NSCRO** minimum field size for playoffs matches is:

- The playing area (touchline to touchline and goal-line to goal-line) must be at least 65 yards wide by 100 yards long (91 meters).
- Try line to try line is 100 yards with overall length of 120 yards based on a minimum of a 10 yard in-goal area.

Fourteen (14) sideline flag posts are required (7 per side). Flexible posts shall be used with flags. The posts shall be a minimum height of 4 feet.

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Sideline flag posts (3 per side, 6 total) for the both 22m lines and the single 50m (halfway) line shall be placed 2 meters from the touch line. Posts for the goal and dead ball lines (4 per side, 8 total) shall be positioned at the intersection of touch-in-goal lines and the goal lines and at the intersection of the touch-in-goal lines and the dead ball lines.

## **Goal Posts**

The use of standard goal posts placed on the goal line as defined by the Laws of the Game shall be used. If this is not possible for an NSCRO sanctioned match, the host club must contact the NSCRO President for direction in this matter no less than 10 days before the scheduled match.

## **Sideline Barriers**

A well-constructed (safe and sturdy) barrier (i.e. utilizing rope and supports) shall be installed on **both** sides of the pitch at a minimum of 5 meters from the touch line. **Each barrier shall extend from dead ball line to dead ball line.**

It is suggested that the barrier support at midfield be placed approx. 8 meters from the touch line and reduced to 5 meters as it nears the goal line and kept at 5 meters under it ends at the dead ball line. This will allow all spectators to better see the match from their position.

Non-compliance is to be reported by visiting team, match referee and/or Union official.

Clubs who are unable to comply with these requirements due to specific layout and location of the field may submit a request to NSCRO for special consideration. Requests for this consideration must be made prior to field use.

## **Sideline Set Up**

The NSCRO standard is to have teams on one sideline and spectators on the other. Each team must stay on their side of the half-way line. Coaches who are permitted inside the sideline barrier must likewise stay on their side of the half-way line and may not stand behind the dead ball line. They are not allowed on the spectator's side of the field. If the field arrangement does not permit this set up, then NSCRO must be advised why not before the standard set up is accepted. If the NSCRO standards is not a feasible set up and the teams are on opposite sidelines then team coaches, reserve players and club members must stay on their side of the field.

For NSCRO playoff matches, the "USA Rugby Technical Zone and Sideline Management Guidelines" shall be in effect. Refer to "NSCRO Regulations for Playoff Matches" for additional information.

Whatever set up is used, a small table (card table size) and a chair is to be provided in the area where the No. 4 referee is located. The No. 4 does not have to be a certified referee, just someone who is reliable that will monitor the match and replacement players utilizing the attached NSCRO Player Movement form. It is recommended that the host provide such a person who will report to the NSCRO Representative.

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## **Persons Allowed Inside Barrier**

- Touch judges / assistant referees.
- A maximum of two (2) USAR certified coaches per team.
- League officials.
- Referee "assessors".
- Medical personnel. As appointed by the host club. In addition, each team is allowed no more than 2 of its own medical persons inside the barrier.  
Note: At any time during the match if a player goes down, medical personnel will be allowed on the field during play to attend to a fallen player. Based on pre-match direction from the referee, they may not need the referee's permission to enter the field, but it is their responsibility to avoid interfering with play.
- Professional or team photographer or videographer - one per team. The use of tripods is not permitted inside the barrier unless permission is granted by the match referee.
- Field Monitor and/or ball boys, if utilized.

All persons inside the barrier **must** not interfere with the duties of the touch judge. Coaches, photographer and medical personnel must not advance inside the 22m / 50m flag posts while the match is in progress. Persons who interfere with the touch judge may be asked to move outside the barrier by the referee, touch judge or Union official and must do so at once.

## **Replacement Players**

All players not participating in the match shall remain outside of the barrier on their team's side of the pitch. When a replacement player is ready to enter a match, they shall step inside the barrier and report to the touch judge (or assistant referee). The touch judge will then notify the referee at the next opportunity and the replacement will be made. The assistant referee or touch judge (as communicated with the referee) shall advise the player when they shall enter the playing area. If a No. 4 Official is present, the replacement player reports to them and will be advised when to report to the touch judge.

## **Water Personnel**

'Water personnel' will only be allowed on the field with the referee's permission. When a try is scored, the non-scoring team's 'water personnel' should enter the playing area without adversely affecting the scoring team's kicker who is attempting the conversion. The referee has the discretion to allow a re-kick if the kick is missed due to any unfair disruption by the opponents. 'Water personnel' from the scoring team may enter by the shortest means available after a try is awarded.

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## **Conduct of Players, Coaches and Spectators**

**All players and coaches must abide by the following Code of Conduct:**

Collegiate rugby players and coaches represent their colleges and are ambassadors of collegiate rugby in the United States. As such, collegiate rugby players and coaches are expected to behave with dignity both on and off the field. Collegiate rugby players and coaches should not tolerate rude or anti-social behavior of any sort which would reflect negatively on the image of NSCRO, USA Rugby or the student athlete's college/university, or the image of collegiate rugby as a serious and disciplined athletic endeavor. Any breach of this Code of Conduct will be forwarded to the appropriate disciplinary committee for action.

**Players, coaches and spectators are not to use foul language or make threatening remarks before, during or after the match.** Such behavior whether directed at a teammates, opponents, match officials, spectator or even part of a pre-match "chant" or play call (such as for a line out) is unacceptable. Doing so will be considered a violation of the Code of Conduct and disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate by the appropriate Organization.

Coaches and reserve players are not permitted on the field of play once the match has commenced, except at half-time and full-time. Non-match participants (i.e. spectators) may not enter the field-of-play once the match has commenced until full-time.

Coaches must not seek to communicate with match officials during any stoppage in play, including the halftime interval, unless to communicate with a touch judge or referee regarding the substitution and replacement of players unless the referee gives them permission to do so. Other team management members are also not permitted to communicate with the match officials at half time. This does not preclude normal communication between the team captain and the referee.

## **Violations**

All reported violations of this Policy are subject to review by NSCRO for appropriate disciplinary actions, as well as the club's governing Conference or Union.