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TO / À: Referee Society Presidents
FROM / DE: Nathan Abdelnour
CC / CC:
DATE: Thursday, 30 January 2014
SUBJECT/OBJECT: Scrum Cadence – Rugby Canada Recommendations for Referees

The IRB has released a statement concerning the new scrum cadence in implementation this year, removing the requirement for the referee on the day to use “Yes 9” as an indication for the scrum half to put the ball into the scrum. Instead, the referee will use a form of non-verbal and non-physical communication to direct the scrum half to put the ball in when the referee feels the scrum is stable. You can read the release here:

<http://www.irb.com/newsmedia/mediazone/pressrelease/newsid=2069952.html#irb+furter+empowers+referees+scrum>

As such, Rugby Canada is implementing the following protocol for referees to follow:

- 1) When on the non-put in side of the scrum, referees are to initiate eye contact and point to the scrum half as an indication to put the ball in the scrum.
- 2) When on the put-in side of the scrum, referees are to initiate eye contact and point towards the tunnel as an indication to put the ball in the scrum.

It is essential for the referee to begin the management process with the two scrum halves prior to the start of the match. They are to outline the process and ensure that both scrum halves understand the protocol.

We **DO NOT** recommend that referees initiate any physical contact with the scrum half as an indication for the ball to be put in the scrum.

It is imperative that in addition to these changes referees continue to referee all parts of the scrum, including any pushing prior to the introduction of the ball and put-ins that are not straight.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nathan Abdelnour (nabdelnour@rugbycanada.ca)

Sincerely,
RUGBY CANADA

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