

PILOT: Expedited Disciplinary Process for Team Officials within the Playing Enclosure

Implementation Webinar

1 June 2026

RUGBY
AU

Provide clarity on...



Where and when the Referee has jurisdiction of the match



Where and when a Player may be subject to Foul Play processes



Who an “Additional Person” is, as defined in Law and the Pilot



Conduct specific to, and expedited process when, there is a breach per this Pilot

What doesn't change



Rugby Australia's Disciplinary Rules (the Rules)



Rugby Australia's Code of Conduct (the Code)



Expected standards of behaviour in/around Rugby

Pilot Competitions (2026)

Rugby WA

- WA Junior Competitions (U13 and above)
- WA Senior Competitions



NSW Rugby Union

- Sydney Junior Competitions (U13 and above)
- Sydney Rugby Union Senior Competitions
- NSW Suburban Senior Competitions
- NSW Country Senior Competitions (inc. Colts)



Tasmanian Rugby

- TAS Senior Competitions



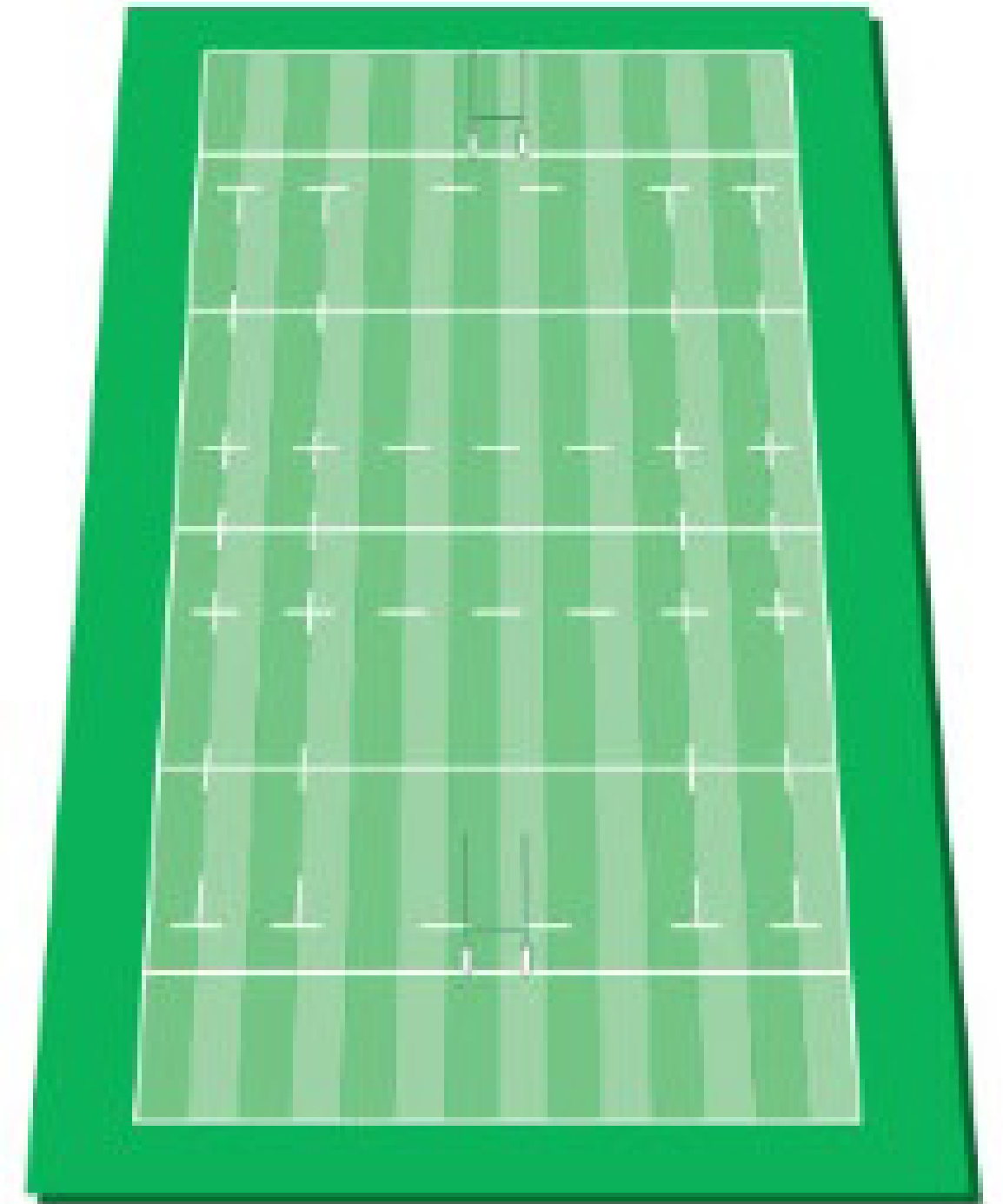
The Playing Enclosure

The area within the perimeter fence surrounding a rugby field(s)

Perimeter fence typically has a physical barrier (e.g. fence, rope etc)

Perimeter fence is usually 5m (where practicable) from any line of the Playing Area

If you are a participant within the Playing Enclosure, the Pilot will apply.



Playing enclosure

The Time Period of a Match

The period shortly before kick off - as teams and referee are entering the playing enclosure for the match

The period shortly after the final whistle - as teams and referee are leaving the playing enclosure at the end of the match

The Time Period includes breaks in play and half time

**Every match is under the control of a Referee.
The Referee is the sole judge of fact and law
during a match.**



Player Foul Play Process

Fundamentally, no change to how Player Foul Play is dealt with, as described in World Rugby Law, via penalty, yellow card or red card.

However, the Pilot provides clarity on:

1. Where the referee may deal with foul play:
Within the Playing Enclosure
2. When the referee may deal with foul play:
During the Time Period of a match



Additional Person / Team Official

World Rugby has a Global Law Trial (Law 6.30) which specifies:

Any additional person who fails to adhere to the Laws may be cautioned or sent off and misconduct charges may be issued by the Match Organiser.

Law 6.30 No additional persons should approach, address or aim comments at the match officials, except for medical staff in relation to the treatment of their own player.

For the purposes of the Pilot, an Additional Person is described as a “Team Official”, which includes:

Coaches

Team Managers

Club-appointed Match Officials

Water Runners

Team Medical Staff

Team Photographers

Any other team-related role inside the Player Enclosure



Conduct Specific to this Pilot

A Team Official who exhibits any of these prohibited conduct towards an appointed Match Official:

- 1. Physical abuse toward a Match Official**
- 2. Verbal abuse or threatening language directed at a Match Official**
- 3. Intimidating or threatening behaviour toward a Match Official**

For the avoidance of doubt, prohibited conduct between players and other participants that does not involve a Match Official is outside the scope of the Pilot.



Team Official Prohibited Conduct

Pilot Expedited Process (aligned with the Code) summary:

- 1. Referee is permitted to remove a Team Official from the Playing Enclosure at any time during the Time Period of the Match.**
Usual escalation mechanisms are to be used first (where appropriate)
- 2. Referee will complete a “Team Official Prohibited Conduct Report” (TOPCR)**
Like a send off report, but for non-players
- 3. Referee Association Lead will review, and then send TOPCR to Competition Manager**
- 4. Competition Manager (or delegate) assess TOPCR and investigate (as required)**
Maximum 5 days to notify outcome of assessment to Team Official and Club



Team Official Prohibited Conduct

Pilot Expedited Process (aligned with the Code) summary (cont):

5. If Prohibited Conduct has occurred on the balance of probabilities, then **Breach Notice** (per the Code) is sent to alleged offender
6. Response required from alleged offender within **48 hours**
Usual response time period in the Code is **14 days**
Response is to either:
 - Accept the alleged breach(es) and proposed sanction; or
 - Elect to attend a **Code of Conduct Hearing**.
7. Remaining process is per the Code



Team Official Provisional Suspension

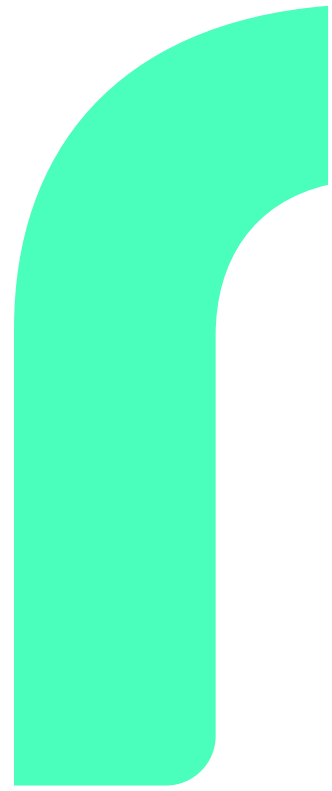
Provisional Suspension means:

- Team Official not permitted to occupy or perform any Team Official role for any match while provisionally suspended.

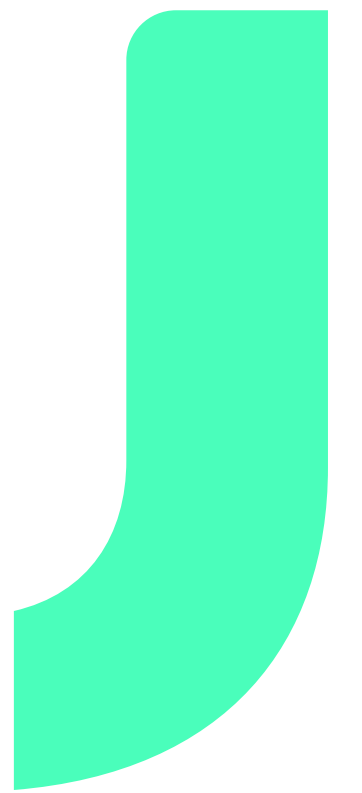
A Team Official is provisionally suspended until:

- Confirmed no Breach Notice will be issued; or
- Breach Notice issued and proposed sanction accepted and served; or
- Matter is heard at a Code of Conduct Hearing (and sanction, if any, is determined).





Questions?





thank you!