

Aspects of Pro-active Officiating

It has been well documented that the Givens in officiating are Knowledge and Fitness. However being an expert on Law doesn't necessarily mean one will be a top referee. There is a definite need to exhibit that quality which separates one referee from another, namely a feel for the game.

It has often been stated that *'he had the shots but did he have the game?'*

So what is required by a match official to *'have the game?'* The following aspects if adhered to, through diligence and application will put you on the path to success.

Credibility

The height of the bar in this domain is established by the referee through his decisions and outcomes in the context of the game. Soft calls can impact on the game, create player tension and bring unwanted attention to the referee for all the wrong reasons.

Positioning

In all aspects of play whether it be the kick off, play the ball or positioning when attacking the line, a referee's ability to read the play will have a major influence on the outcome of the game and determine his standing in the game.

Communication

Some referees talk a lot for little result whilst others say little and yet are effective. Being selective in directions and setting the standard early in the game are yet other attributes to be mastered by all.

Awareness

To be in control of situations there is a need to *'smell the dencorub'*. There is nothing better than being in the right place at the right time. Presence can be a great deterrent for negative actions and a credibility enhancer when and where the right decision is required.

Let us all work on these aspects to ensure we can say, we do in fact *'have the game!'* The following skill related drills can assist in enhancing on-field performance.

- Review an NRL game focusing on the following - mandatory v discretionary penalties - consistency of decisions - impact calls
- Practise positions in relation to play eg. Yardage, Guts and Urgency
- Review DVI) on Tackle Identification and Delaying Tactics
- Practise visualization drills for repeat sets of 6.