

GENERAL INFORMATION*

Lead Area:	Rugby Operations
Lead Policy Title:	Uncontested Scrum
Policy Reference No:	ROPol 3
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SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- This Policy has been introduced to enable competitive Matches to take place in Grades below Premier and Premier Reserve Grade and in Junior Matches where there is a shortage of qualified front row Players.

STEP BY STEP PROCEDURES

- SA Rugby Uncontested Scrum Policy

Step	Description of action	Responsible
1	It is the responsibility of the Team manager and the Club to ensure that the Referee (or if known prior to the day scheduled for the Match the Union and the Club of the opposing Team) is notified immediately upon the Team manager or the Club become aware that a Team will not be able to field a properly qualified front row of Players prior to or during the conduct of any Match.	Club / Team manager
2	In Premier Grade and Premier Reserve Grade no Match can commence with an Uncontested Scrum.	Referee
3	In any Grade below Reserve Grade (including any Junior Match) if one or both teams are unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players a Match will commence with an Uncontested Scrum and the Match will proceed using Uncontested Scrums.	Referee
4	In Premier Grade and Premier Reserve Grade, at the time scheduled for the start of a Match: a) if neither Team is able to field a properly qualified front row of Players the Match will not proceed and the outcome of the Match will be recorded as a nil all draw; and b) if one Team is unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players the Match will be deemed to have been forfeit by the Team which is unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players and the applicable Rule for dealing with forfeited Matches will apply.	Referee / Union

5	In any Match in a Grade lower than Reserve Grade (including any Junior Match) if one or both teams are unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players the Match will proceed using Uncontested Scrums.	Referee
6	If during any Match in any Grade one or both Teams are unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players the Match will proceed using Uncontested Scrums.	Referee
7	Where a Match proceeds using Uncontested Scrums and only one Team was unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players then: a) if the Team which was unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players commits an infringement which would ordinarily result in a scrum the opposing Team may elect to receive a free kick or proceed with an Uncontested Scrum; b) if the Team which was able to field a properly qualified front row of Players commits an infringement which would ordinarily result in a scrum there will be an Uncontested Scrum.	Referee
8	Where a Match proceeds using Uncontested Scrums and both Teams are unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players then, if there is an infringement which would ordinarily result in a scrum, there will be an Uncontested Scrum.	Referee
9	Where there is an Uncontested Scrum during any Match: a) there must be no impact at the engagement between the Players involved in the Uncontested Scrum; b) the Team which is not feeding the Uncontested Scrum must not contest for the ball; c) the Team feeding the ball must win the ball; d) neither Team may engage in any forward or backward movement from the point indicated by the Referee; e) neither Team may apply any forward pressure on or move backward from the opposing Team; f) the ball must be cleared from the base of the scrum as soon as it is available to the Team who has the feed into the scrum; and g) if either Team does not comply with the above process or any other directions given by the Referee then the Referee may award a penalty against the offending Team and a free kick will be granted to the non-offending Team.	Referee / Players / Club

OTHER INFORMATION

- If the Referee determines at any time during a Match that:
 - one Team is unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players the Referee may proceed to conduct the Match using Uncontested Scrums on the basis that the Team in question had notified the Referee that they were unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players;
 - both Teams are unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players the Referee may proceed to conduct the Match using Uncontested Scrums on the basis that neither Team is able to field a properly qualified front row of Players;
 - the safety of any Player participating in the scrum has been compromised the Referee can direct that the Match will proceed using Uncontested Scrums as if both Teams are from that time forward unable to field a properly qualified front row of Players.