



Matchday Operations Manual

Coaching & Support personnel

E1. Bench Staff

Each Team Shall:

- Ensure that only registered officials occupy the bench area together with players and substitutes.
- The team sheet for each match shall specify which of the Officials in the bench area is responsible for the conduct of that Club's personnel in the bench area. The official should be specified on the team sheet by placing an asterisk next to their name.

All personnel named in the bench area must have a role relative to the actual play

- Ensure that, those of its officials and players in the bench area remain in the technical area at all times, with the exception of substitutes warming up (who should be wearing yellow bibs) and those entitled to enter the field of play as described in Non-Playing Personnel Entering the Field of Play below;
- Ensure that only Club personnel registered with the RFL are allowed access to the bench area.
- Ensure that no person present in the bench area shall step outside the technical area unless undertaking duties complying with the other provisions of the Operational Rules;
- Ensure that all personnel in the bench area do not use foul and abusive language.
- Ensure that no-one under 18 is located in the bench area unless they are a player named on the teamsheet.
- Ensure that players under suspension are not located in the bench area.

E2. Non Playing Personnel Entering the Field of Play

Each club may nominate the following personnel who must wear appropriate accreditation and distinctive clothing listed as follows. Persons who fill these positions must be over 18 years of age and must not be players under suspension. Only registered players and/or registered support or medical staff or other persons subject to the Operational Rules may undertake these roles. The Pantone references for the recommended colours of the shirts are given where relevant, these colours stand out and should prevent any clashes with any team colours.

Electronic devices switched on or otherwise must not be taken outside of the technical area at any time, e.g. when a non-playing person leaves the technical area with a player who is about to be substituted, he must leave any electronic devices within the technical area.

E2.1 Head Trainer (Yellow Top PMS 803 2X FLUORO)

- The Head Trainer may enter the playing field in the following situations:



- When a try has been scored
- While awaiting a Video Referee decision in relation to a try
- During a time out called by the referee for an injury
- To inform a player he is being interchanged (maximum time on the field of play in this situation should not exceed three tackles.)
- The Head Trainer is allowed to assist the Physiotherapist with an injured player, carry water or deliver individual messages in the above situations.
- They must enter and leave the field as quickly as possible (i.e. running) and must not remain on the field of play for longer than three tackles.
- They must leave the field immediately their assigned task has been completed and return to the bench area.
- They must not enter the playing field carrying any electronic device switched on or otherwise and must do so in a manner that does not interfere with play.
- The Head Trainer must not speak to the Match Officials.
- The Head Trainer may enter the field to inform a player that he is being interchanged.
- The Head Trainer is only entitled to communicate with other players whilst carrying out the interchange.
- The new player cannot enter the field of play until the interchanged player reaches the touchline.
- The Fourth Official must report any trainer who breaches this rule to the match Referee immediately.
- In the case of a breach, the Referee will stop the game and send the Trainer to the stand. The Club will not be allowed to use a member of staff for interchanges for the remainder of the game.
- The Head Coach cannot act as a trainer.

E2.2 Physiotherapist (Orange Top - PMS 804 2X FLUORO)

- The Physiotherapist must be in the bench area during the game.
- The Physiotherapist is allowed unlimited access to the playing field to render assistance to injured players.
- They are to go directly to the Player concerned and in instances of severe injury may indicate to the referee that the game should be stopped.
- They are not allowed to pass on messages at any time.



- They must enter and leave the field as quickly as possible (i.e. running).
- They can only be involved in the on-field interchange process in as far as when they go on to treat a player they can bring that player off i.e. escort him to the touchline. He/she can have no further involvement.

E2.3 Water Carrier (Blue Top - PMS 801 2X FLUORO)

- Two Water Carriers are permitted to enter the field of play in the following circumstances:
- After a try has been scored
- After the Referee has stopped play for an injury
- After the Referee has referred a decision to the Video Referee.
- They must carry an approved water carrying device or unit and must leave the field before play has recommenced.
- They must enter and leave the field as quickly as possible (i.e. running).
- The Head Coach cannot act as a Water Carrier

E2.4 Doctor (Red Top)

- The Doctor can enter the field of play when he/she is medically required to do so.
- The Doctor must be in the bench area during the game.

E2.5 General Points

Shot clock - In the event of a player suffering an injury after the 'shot clock' has commenced, and the player is unable to re-join play, or is preventing play from restarting. Then, after the 'shot clock' has counted down to zero seconds, (indicated by a buzzer sounding), the player will be required to leave the field of play and either:

- a) Be interchanged; or
- b) Leave the field of play and return once an interchange card is handed over; or
- c) Not return to the field of play until the earlier of the next stoppage (scrum, drop out, 20m restart or handover) or when their team regains possession - *In this situation, the player and non-playing personnel do not have to return to the designated bench area*

It is the clubs' non-playing personnel who have responsibility to ensure that the injured player returns at the correct time and from an onside position.



All non-playing personnel must enter the field from the designated bench area and return to that area after coming from the field. They are not permitted to station themselves around the field and are subject at all times to the control of the Match Referee and his officials.

In hot conditions water may be stationed safely around the perimeter of the field.

In any match a player may come to the touchline to receive water.

It is permissible to have a further person over and above those listed to take onto the field a kicking tee for penalty kicks at goal, conversions and halfway restarts. This person must wear a blue top.

Clubs must instruct their non-playing personnel to refrain from involving themselves in any conflict between players. Match Officials are to deal with any problems. This includes making comments to opposition players.

Suspended players may not have any of the above roles while under suspension.

When entering the field of play non-playing personnel should be aware of the location of all other personnel including players, match officials and broadcast staff.