



VERULAMIANS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB TOUCHLINE POLICY 2023-24

TOUCHLINE PROTOCOL

This protocol conforms to RFU regulation 13.7 and must be adhered to by all clubs at all levels in RFU Competitions. These regulations are written to enable the referee to officiate at the match safely and to be able to carry out his duties efficiently and the players to play without risk of injury. Barriers are defined as permanent steel fabrications covered in adverts down to cordoned off areas as long as they keep spectators away from the playing area.

- All clubs in RFU Competitions (League and Cup) must have all spectators behind barriers
- Technical areas must be provided, both on the same side of the pitch
- Only permitted personnel are allowed in the technical area and they must stay there for the duration of the match except:
 - When medical personnel are treating injured players
 - When water carriers (with permission of the referee) are carrying out their duties
 - Replacements are warming up.
 - At half time
- Coaches cannot be water carriers, touch judges or kicking T carriers
- Replacements cannot run the touch. If they do they forfeit their right to be replacements or substitutes.

- If these permitted personnel do not want to take up their place in the technical area they must be behind the barriers
- Replacements and substitutions can only take place from the technical area.
- If there are no barriers provided then the referee may ask the spectators to stand behind the dead ball lines or if there is a continuing safety issue then the referee is within his rights to refuse to referee the match.

In all other matches teams must do their best to conform to the above regulations but it is recognised that there are practical issues such as:

- Matches played alongside other more senior matches with common touchlines
- Matches played alongside pitches used by other sports
- Matches moved to other pitches due to ground conditions

In these cases the club must do everything they can to minimise any risk involved in not having pitches barriered, including:

- Ensure that the opposite side of the pitch has a barrier and that all spectators for that match are behind that barrier
- Technical areas should be on the non-adjointing touchlines.
- The club should ensure that spectators of the senior match are not causing safety issues on the adjoining pitch.

Other matches that must have barriers, without any leeway, are:

- All cup matches played in Hertfordshire
- All U17 matches
- All Colts matches
- All representative matches at every age group.

THE CLUB'S ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Note:

It should be recognised that referee match observers and referee coaches should where possible remain behind the barriers so as not to obscure the view of spectators.

Failure to conform or spectators / players or coaches who do not respect the barrier will be subject to sanctions from the disciplinary committee, the most severe of which can be rescinding or refusal of club membership.