**Red Card Referee Template**

**SET THE SCENE**

I make this report in regard to a Rugby Union game I was appointed to officiate by The Welsh Rugby Union Referee’s Department.

I have not had access to any other material prior to the compilation of this report, and I can confirm this report is made

by myself.

**GIVE YOUR EXPERIENCE & IF WEARING REF CAMERA**

I have been refereeing WRU games at Level 2 since XXXX and was promoted to level 3 in XXXX. Before that I qualified as a junior RFU referee around XXXX. I would class myself as an experienced community level referee.

**YOUR APPOINTMENT – DID ANYONE FROM CLUB CONTACT YOU**

I was appointed to referee XXXXXXXX RFC vs XXXXXXXXX RFC at XXXXXXX, XXXXXXXX in a Division X XXXX League match on XXXXday XXth XXXXX 2023

**WEATHER/CONDITIONS/ PITCH SURROUNDING AREA**

The weather and pitch conditions were good. It was an evening kick off but the pitch was dry, firm and excellently marked. The pitch was one of the biggest I have refereed on, and the conditions were perfect for running open rugby. There were no technical areas and no barrier but spectators, club officials and replacements were kept well back and were well behaved throughout the match. I had no issues at all in that regard.

**DID YOU GET TEAM SHEETS, YOUR TEAM TALKS**

Prior to the game, I was given both team sheets by the team managers which I have retained. I spoke to both teams. In both team talks, the players were informed that tackles had to be kept low and head contact was likely to lead to players leaving the field.

**TIME OF KO/ HOW MANY THERE / TEAM COLOURS**

The game kicked off at XX:XX, with about XXX spectators watching between both teams. XXXXX were playing in all BLUE. XXXXXXXXXXX were playing in PINK and GREEN hoops.

**IF GIVING INFO ON MATCH KEEP FACTUAL AND RELEVANT**

The match was played in a good spirit with no problems regarding foul play or dissent. The players were respectful of each other and refereeing decisions. XXXXXXXX quite obviously the stronger team and ran the ball well, scoring 12 tries in all. The ruck and tackle areas were well disciplined and it was a very open match played at a good pace.

**THE INCIDENT/ WHERE ON BODY/ONCE/TWICE /FORCE/ SWEARING USE WORDS**

On 70 minutes, XXXXXXXXXXX were attacking between the 10m line and 22m within about 10-15m of the left hand touch line. They were running the ball at XXXXXXX. A XXXXXXXXX player was in possession, running fairly upright and at speed when he cut back inside. As he did so, the XXXXXX number X made a full tackle, leading with the shoulder and driving straight through him. His shoulder made contact with the head of the XXXXXXXXX player.

There was some attempt to grasp the XXXXXXXX player, who was stopped immediately in his tracks and went to ground straight away holding his head. The XXXXXXXX player was upright when he started the tackle and was always high – there was little attempt to tackle low. I did not see any significant drop in height by the tackled player, although there was a change of direction. Both players were actually quite tall in height, although the XXXXXX player was taller.

**THE FOUL - YOUR DISTANCE AWAY AND VIEW OF THIS**

My instant reaction was that this was a dangerous tackle and I was concerned for the safety of the player. I had a clear unobstructed view of the incident, was about level with the tackle when it happened and I was between 5-10m away from it.

**WHAT DID YOU DO**

I blew the whistle loudly straight away to stop play, and the players did stop immediately. A number of players approached the XXXXXX player to check on him.

**JUSTIFICATION & ISSUE OF RED CARD HOW YOU IDENTIFIED PLAYER** **THEIR RESPONSE**

I began to consider my options.

To my mind the tackle was reckless and avoidable, rather than intentional, however it was foul play as there was clear contact between the tackler’s shoulder and the tackled player’s head and it was the fault of the tackler. It was direct contact to the head with a high degree of force. My starting point was a red card. I went through the Head Contact Principles

I considered whether there was any mitigation that could be applied. I do not think that the XXXXXXX number X deliberately targeted the XXXXXXXXXXXX player’s head and consider the tackle to be reckless. However, there was no sudden drop in height and I did not feel that there was good enough attempt made to grasp the tackled player. Therefore I did not feel that there was sufficient mitigation to change the sanction from red to yellow.

I called the number X over with the captain. He asked to quickly go over to the XXXXXXXXXXXX player to apologise, which he did so and returned to me after a few seconds. He was apologetic to me and obviously remorseful for the tackle.

I asked for his name, which he gave as XXXXXXXXXX and I noted that on my scorecard. I explained to him that I had to follow the protocols on head contact. I stated that I had seen direct contact with the head by the shoulder, not enough attempt to grasp the player and I had not seen a sudden drop in height. I therefore had no other option but to show him a red card, which I did so. He accepted this politely without any complaint at all, and left the field immediately.

**ANY INJURIES OF OTHER PLAYER – DESCRIBE & RESULT OF THIS**

I checked on the XXXXXXXX player, who was led from the field in a dazed state and took no further part in the match. He sustained a cut and fairly substantial swelling under his eye as a result of the tackle.

This was the only instance of foul play in what was otherwise an open game of rugby, and the game finished 10 minutes later without any

further incident of note.

**CONCLUSION OF GAME – CONFIRMATION OF RED CARDED PLAYER**

Following the final whistle, I spoke to a member of the XXXXXX coaching staff who confirmed the name of the player to be XXXXXXXXX. I have no concerns about the identity of the player.

**IF YOU WENT TO CLUB HOUSE ANY RESPONSE**

I also spoke to the injured player in the clubhouse. The swelling and cut below his eye was starting to grow and although he was lucid when I spoke to him, he could not confirm if he had been concussed or not.

**FINAL RESULT / WHEN YOU COMPLETED REPORT/** **IF MATCH ABANDONED – ANY OTHER ISSUES**

Final result

XXXXXXX RFC XX XXXXXXX RFC XX

This report was made by myself at about 19:00 hours on XXXXXday XXth XXXXXX 2023, as soon as practicable after the incident.

I haven’t viewed any footage prior to compiling this report. XXXXXXX were filming the game via a VEO camera which I assume can be made available on request.