CORNWALL RUGBY
REFEREES SOCIETY

CRRS
October 2026 meeting



20th October

at Truro RFC



England Rugby

CORNWALL RUGBY REFEREES SOCIETY

Agenda

- Committee Notices
- WR Law Guidance - “Knee & Hip drop" Tackles.
- Managing the scrum - Will
- Using Just Four Words - members feedback (bring some examples)
- Referee Development and Resources – Simon
- RFU Match OfficialHandbook
- Law 10 Offside and Onside in open play
- General Questions
- Q&A

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Committee members' updates

- Appointments/availabilities
- £20 subs due now
- Travel Expenses to glynCRRSfinance@outlook.com
- Web site / social media
- DBS & Safeguarding

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- Law Guidance - "Knee & Hip Drop" Tackles illegal

- Rare but can have extensive player welfare issues
- Knee drop Law Guideline on Oct 5th
- Hip drop law change from Nov 1st







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- Law Guidance - "Knee & Hip drop" Tackles illegal

- The "*knee drop*" tackle, where a player drops to one or both knees before making a tackle, will be highlighted to players, coaches and match officials as an action already covered in law and can also be sanctioned with a penalty.

- The "*hip drop*" tackle, where a tackler uses their bodyweight to pull a player to ground and drops onto the legs of a ball carrier from behind, will be explicitly added to foul play and will be sanctioned with at least a penalty kick.

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Key Referee Skills

- Managing The Scrum — Will W
- Referee Development & Resources — Simon T

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Key Referee Skills

Managing The Scrum

Will W





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Key Priorities at the Scrum (3 S's) & The Brief:

1. Safe
2. Stable
3. Square

The Brief

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Key Priorities at the Scrum (3 S's): **Safety**

Scrums involve a lot of physical force and can be dangerous if they collapse or are not formed correctly. It is our role as a referee to ensure the setup is correct to avoid incidents.

Question – When do you play away from a collapsed scrum?

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Key Priorities at the Scrum (3 S's): **Stable**

- **Binds -** Making sure players bind correctly and have the right body positions.
- **Cadence -** "Crouch, Bind, Set" should not be rushed.
- **Shoulders above hips -** Checking that players keep their shoulders above hips in a positive position.
- **Timing -** Watch for pushing too early.
- **Reset -** Don't be afraid to reset the scrum if unstable before 'set'.

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Key Priorities at the Scrum (3 S's): **Square**

- **Check head alignment:** Ensure both front rows' heads will set into the gaps and are not head-on-head.
- **Check positioning:** Make sure the scrum is centred and parallel to the touch line.
- **Watch for angles:** Ensure all props' hips aren't at an angle – this will turn the scrum.
- **Monitor during the scrum:** Stop play or penalise offending team if the scrum becomes crooked or unsafe.

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Key Priorities at the Scrum (3 S's): **The Brief**

The brief allows the referee to set expectations, but make sure you don't back yourself into a corner.

The brief is there to <u>benefit</u> you and help you out when a penalising a team.

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Key Priorities at the Scrum (3 S's): **The Brief – Content**

- **Props, hooker, nominated front row**
- **Setting the mark and gap**
- **Cadence (Crouch, Bind, Set)**
- **Square, Stable at all times**
- **Binds**
- **Safety - "If uncomfortable, notify me"**
- **When do we implement Reward?**

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In groups, come up with a universal brief that when can use across all levels / age grade rugby.....

5 minutes

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Example :

“Afternoon, three key priorities at scrum: Safe, Square and Stable. Set an appropriate gap and if you feel uncomfortable please stand up.

If you want to be rewarded, all three square through the mark.”

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Key Referee Skills

Communication in Four Words — Simon T





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Six Communication Principles

(thanks to Christophe Ridley PGMOT & Chris Bartlett Reg1 SW MOT)

- Say a little as possible to effectively manage the game and prevent “white noise”
- **If you have to speak, use no more than 4 words**
- All CRRS referees should try to use the same phrases to gain consistency and player understanding
- Is the communication clear, non-ambiguous and precise ?
- Start with Colour/Number to ensure the correct person is listening/identified
- Maximum say it twice, once preferred - any more will make you sound like you are second guessing yourself

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Scrum "What Four Words" first with Colour/Number

Example :

"Red pack Straight & Stable ?

(no need to say any more as every one's job is defined in law but vary expectations by level of game).

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Scrum "What Four Words" All with Colour/Number

In your groups come up with standard wording to use at each phase of the scrum

In **15 minutes** we will then compare, discuss, and agree on them

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Scrum "What Four Words" All with Colour/Number

"Colour, Number, Use It" – if scrum is stationary after first attempt/actual drive (don't wait too long as you risk a collapse – never say 'use it' on a collapse, always re-set)
"Colour, Number, Stay Bound" – If back row are creeping
"We spoke about……." – when managing front rows about space, square, & stable
"Colour, Number, Tunnel" – if defending 9 creeping
"8 bind on – if 8s are not bound
"Focus on your own picture" – if someone is complaining about an opposite number
"Colour, Number, angle" – not driving straight
"Colour, Number, collapse" – going to floor
"Colour, Number, standing up" – if popping up

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“What Four Words”

To follow :

November – lineout/maul

December – open play

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Referee Development & Resources

Refereeing | Rugby Football Union

englandrugbylearning

RFU GMS

World Rugby Passport – Home

Cornwall Rugby Referees Society

RugbyReferee.net

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Everything within Refereeing

Referee Courses

Learn more about the referee courses on offer →

Why Referee?

Find out why you should take up the whistle and become a referee →

Joining a Society

The various societies you could join up and down the country →

Learning Hub

A dedicated area for referees to find learning support →

Referee Resources

Guidance to support you in your refereeing journey →

Referee Organisations

Read more about referee organisations →

Developing the Developer

Support for you on your development journey →

Booking a Course

Training courses for referees coaches and volunteers →

5 Completions

2.42 Hours

0 Badges

Your topics Edit

Match Officiating

Your language(s)

Your playlists

0	0	0
Created	Followers	Followed

Training record View

0	3	0
OVERDUE	DUE SOON	ASSIGNED / NO DUE DATE

DUE SOON

Active Match Official Badge- Adult
Started Due on 31/01/2027
••• Open curriculum

Active Match Official Badge- U18
Started Due on 31/01/2027
••• Open curriculum

First Responder
Registered Due on 31/01/2027
••• Launch

Hello Simon! What would you like to learn today?

Search for learning



Where did you last stop?



Online Course
Introduction to Coaching
Started
••• Launch



Curriculum
Active Match Official Badge- Adult
Started
••• Open curriculum



Curriculum
Active Match Official Badge- U18
Started
••• Open curriculum

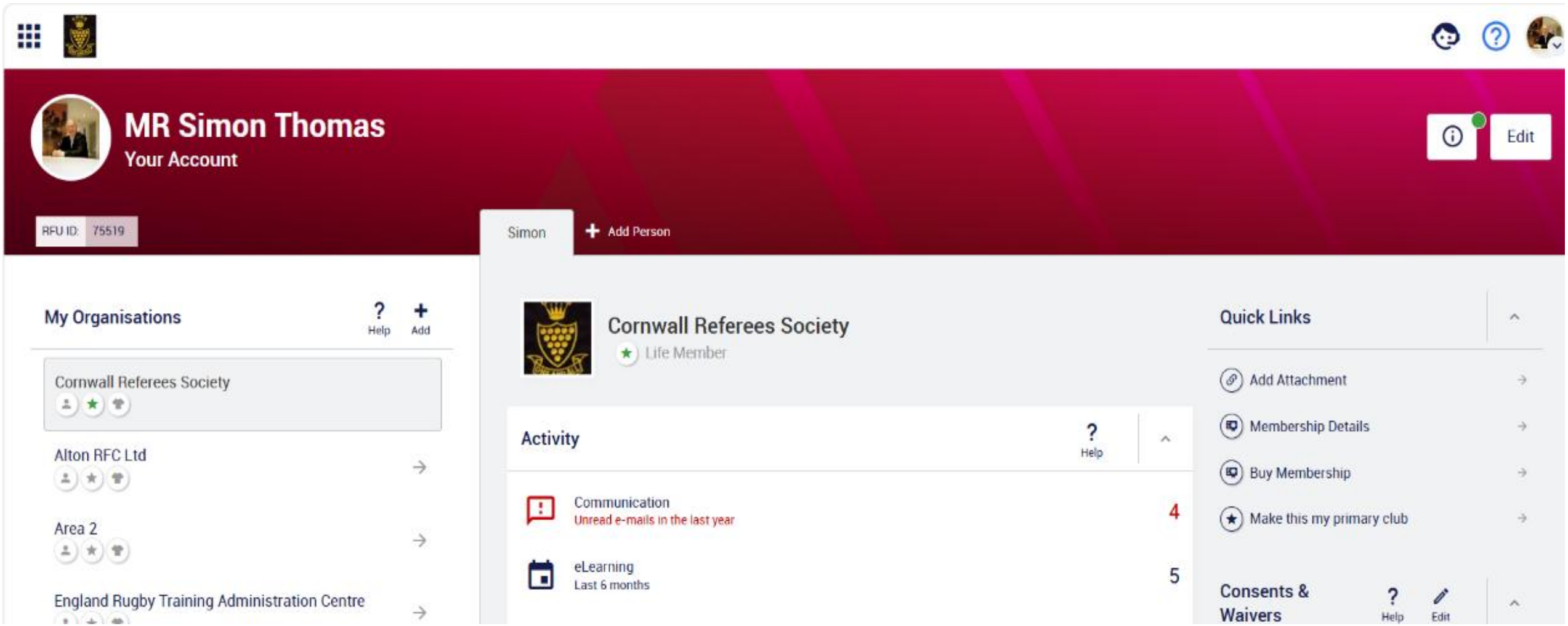


Online Course
First Responder
Registered
••• Launch

You've marked that for later!



Curriculum


MR Simon Thomas
Your Account
Edit
RFU ID: 75519
Simon
Add Person
My Organisations
Help
Add
Cornwall Referees Society
Alton RFC Ltd
Area 2
England Rugby Training Administration Centre
Cornwall Referees Society
Life Member
Activity
Help
Communication
Unread e-mails in the last year
4
eLearning
Last 6 months
5
Quick Links
Add Attachment
Membership Details
Buy Membership
Make this my primary club
Consents & Waivers
Help
Edit

WORLD RUGBY PASSPORT STRANDS

Passport - World Rugby's Home of online learning

Welcome to our online learning hub.

Registering for World Rugby Passport gets you access to our full suite of online learning modules across a wide range of topics.

Whether you are a Player, Parent, Coach, Match Official, Medic/First Aider or Administrator, there are programmes specifically designed to help you to learn and develop in your role.

Here you will find over 32 online modules in multiple languages, all free of charge. Once registered you will be able to access all modules.

Online modules support our face-to-face learning programmes and some must be completed before attending certain face-to-face courses.

Our courses are grouped by strand - click on the strand below to access the online modules.

All modules should be available in English, French and Spanish with many available in multiple other languages. Should a module not be available in your language, then please use the accessibility tool to translate.

Upon successful completion of a module, the system will send you a certificate of completion by email.



News and Updates



Player Welfare / Medical



Injury Prevention and Risk Management



Coaching



Officiating



Laws of the Game



Conditioning for Rugby



Match Day Staff



Protect the Game



Player Eligibility



Training and Education Workforce Information



Administrators Academy

WORLD RUGBY PASSPORT OFFICIATING STRANDS English (en)

Officiating

Welcome to the Officiating strand.

The online modules in this strand aim to:

- Introduce you to officiating
- develop your analytical skills – helping you to observe matches (and match officials) more objectively
- provide the side-line personnel responsible for the technical zone with an overview of the required protocols.

We recommend that all Match Officials complete the Introductory module prior to attending our Face-to-face officiation courses.

T1 Rugby Match Officiating

Whether you are a T1 Rugby game manager/facilitator, helping new players to get to grips with the game, or more traditional Referee, where participants are experienced playing T1 Rugby, this module provides an overview of the Laws of T1 Rugby and useful 'How to' Referee tips.

Introduction to Match Officiating (Pre-Level 1)

This module aims to provide learners who have an interest in becoming a match official, with a basic level of understanding of how to referee. Upon completion of this module you should be ready to undertake the face-to-face Introduction to Match Officiating (L1) course delivered by Licenced World Rugby Educators.

Conditioning for Match Officials

This module aims to guide Match Officials through the key pillars of effective physical preparation, including; speed, strength, endurance, match preparation, and recovery. By the end of this module, Match Officials should have a foundational knowledge and tools to design and follow a conditioning program, helping them maintain optimal positioning throughout a match, support better decision-making under fatigue, and reduce the risk factors associated with injury across the season.

Introduction to Assistant Refereeing

This module is designed to introduce the role and responsibilities of the Assistant Referee.

Sideline Officials

This course is designed to give you a clear and practical understanding of the vital role Sideline Officials play in rugby. Each role contributes to the smooth, fair, and efficient running of a match.

Match Observation Programme

The purpose of this online resource is to help various Rugby stakeholders to observe matches and match officials (MOs) more objectively. The resource can be used as an individual learning tool and it also acts as a prerequisite for the World Rugby

CORNWALL

C-R-R-S

ONE AND ALL

REFEREES SOCIETY

CORNWALL RUGBY REFEREES SOCIETY

Rugby info, referee guidance, coaching tips, event news, and much more.

CONTACT US

WHERE YOU CAN FIND OUT ABOUT ALL THINGS RUGBY IN CORNWALL

Welcome to the Cornwall Rugby Referees Society, a hub for all things rugby in Cornwall. Whether you've a member, rugby enthusiast or prospective referee, we have everything you need to stay informed and involved.

From referees to coaches, fans to former players, our members come from all walks of life, united by a shared passion for the game.

Essential documents can be downloaded from the site, and while we don't sell directly, we provide links to our kit and society suppliers.

MORE ABOUT US





NEWS AND EVENTS

Stay up-to-date with the latest news and events from our society and the wider rugby world. From monthly meetings to match updates, here's where you'll find all the information you need.

Cornwall rugby refs aka pantone!

DOWNLOADS 26/27

England Rugby Learning - our new course & resource platform

Modified on: Thu, 26 Jul at 10:03 AM

Print

England Rugby Course & Resource Platform Update

England Rugby has introduced a major upgrade to how we support coaches, match officials and volunteers to complete essential training, access resources, and continually reflect their knowledge and skills. These changes take into consideration feedback from the game and our community rugby digital user surveys. The new offer is designed to make learning simpler, more personalised, and easier to complete, especially on mobile devices.

What has changed?

England Rugby has launched a new platform called England Rugby Learning, which will replace the current course booking processes on the existing Game Management System (GMS) and create app-based learning. You can find out more here

The new England Rugby Learning Platform will provide:

- Mobile-first, app-based access, so learning can be completed anytime, anywhere
- A modern, intuitive interface with personalised and role-specific content recommendations
- Easier navigation and clearer connection between learning, qualifications and next steps
- Access to communities where volunteers can share experiences and support each other
- Automated tracking of qualifications and compliance
- Direct integration with GMS, reducing admin and improving data accuracy
- The ability for clubs, CBs and referee societies to better understand who is active, who is not, and ready to re-pursue the game
- Free essential learning for all volunteers (e.g., Inclusion, Safeguarding)
- New digital resources and subscription options

This change is about supporting clubs, reducing admin, and giving people the learning and development they need to feel confident in their roles.

Please see How do I register for England Rugby Learning? for guidance on how to get started.

CRRS Training September 2026 (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

CRRS Pre-season Training Meeting 26.07.2026 (xls)

DOWNLOAD

BRENCH-FIXTURES-PROGRAMME-23-24-1 (2) (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

safeguardingpolicybooklet (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

Master Fixtures 2026 2027 (xlsx)

DOWNLOAD

Match-Official-Development-Review-Form-2 (2) (pdf)

DOWNLOAD

match-official-development-review-form-2 (1) (pdf)

rfu-safeguarding-referral-for (pdf)

UK Grassroots Sport Concussion Guidelines April (pdf)

RugbyReferee.net

RUGBY PEOPLE. WHO REFEREE. MAKING RUGBY BETTER BY SUPPORTING AND GROWING REFEREEING



15-18 Oct: WXV, Bledisloe, EPCR, Super Cup and other match official appointments

15/10/2026 Ref 0

Àll your weekend international women's and men's rugby referees plus appointments for cross border competitions in Europe and domestic action around the globe [...]



CORNWALL RUGBY REFEREES SOCIETY

Laws Focus
Law 10 Offside and Onside in open play

Must be onside to play the ball behind team-mate carrying or last played the ball.

Four ways to illegally interfere with play ????

On kicks retreat, respect 10 metre law, or be put onside

“Never put himself onside” – 10.9 at ruck, maul, scrum, or lineout.

Sanctions for offside in open play ?

What is accidental offside ?

Sanction for that ?



World Rugby Passport - Laws of the Game

LAW 10 Offside and onside in open play

PRINCIPLE

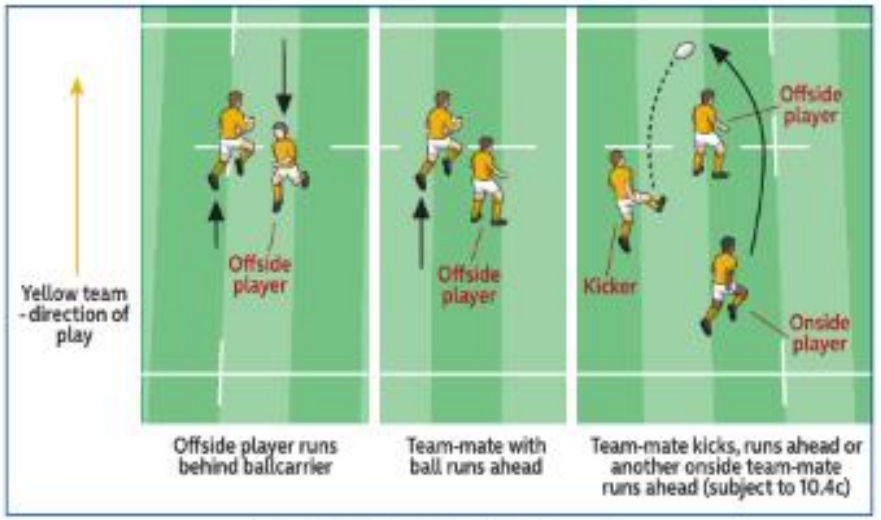
The game is played only by players who are onside.

OFFSIDE AND ONSIDE IN OPEN PLAY

1. A player is offside in open play if that player is in front of a team-mate who is carrying the ball or who last played it. When the last action is a kick, the foot kicking the ball determines the offside line. An offside player must not interfere with play. This includes:
   a. Playing the ball.
   b. Tackling the ball-carrier.
   c. Preventing the opposition from playing as they wish.
   d. Loitering in an offside position
2. A player can be offside anywhere in the playing area.
3. A player who receives an unintentional throw forward is not offside.
4. An offside player may be penalised, if that player:
   a. Does not make an effort to retreat and interferes with play; or
   b. Moves towards the ball; or
   c. Was in front of a team-mate who kicked the ball and fails to retire immediately behind an onside team-mate or an imaginary line across the field 10 metres on that player's side from where the ball is caught or lands, even if it hits a goal post or crossbar first. If this involves more than one player, then the player closest to where the ball lands or is caught is the one penalised. This is known as the 10-metre law. It does not apply when the kick is charged down, or is touched in an attempted charge down. **Sanction:** The non-offending team can choose either:
      i. Penalty at the place of infringement; or
      ii. Scrum where the offending team last played the ball.
5. A player is accidentally offside if the player cannot avoid being touched by the ball or by a team-mate who is carrying the ball. Only if the offending team gains an advantage should play stop. **Sanction:** Scrum.

LAW 10 Offside and onside in open play

6. Any offside player can be put onside when that player:
   a. Moves behind a team-mate who last played the ball; or
   b. Moves behind a team-mate who is onside.



Player made onside by team-mate

7. Other than under Law 10.4c, an offside player can be put onside when:
   a. An onside team-mate of that player moves past the offside player and is within or has re-entered the playing area.
   b. An opponent of that player:
      i. Kicks the ball; or
      ii. Intentionally touches the ball without gaining possession of it.
   c. The ball has gone into touch, providing the player was complying with law until that point.
8. A player offside under Law 10.4c cannot be put onside by any action of an opponent, apart from a charge down.

LAW 10 Offside and onside in open play

RETIRING FROM A RUCK, MAUL, SCRUM OR LINEOUT

9. A player who is offside at a ruck, maul, scrum or lineout remains offside, even after the ruck, maul, scrum or lineout has ended.

10. The player can be put onside only if:
    a. That player immediately retires behind the applicable offside line; or
    b. An opposition player carries the ball five metres in any direction; or
    c. An opposition player kicks the ball.

11. An offside player may be penalised if that player:
    a. Fails to retire without undue delay and benefits from being put onside in a more advantageous position; or
    b. Interferes with play; or
    c. Moves towards the ball.

Sanction: Penalty.

CORNWALL RUGBY REFEREES SOCIETY

Working with CRFU on Referee Recruitment, & Retention

- Recruit an ex-team-mate
- Talent spot potential referees
- Ready2Ref courses with RFU and CRFU need better support
- RFU, CRFU, & CRRS will deal with Match Official Abuse and poor touchline behaviours - #1 reason refs stop



CORNWALL RUGBY
REFEREES SOCIETY

Who's The Ref & the Society ?



CORNWALL RUGBY REFEREES SOCIETY

Next venues

- **17.11.26 Bodmin RFC**
- 15.12.26 Truro Golf Club

- 19.01.27 tba
- 16.02.27 tba
- 16.03.27 tba
- 20.04.27 tba

