



TOUCH JUDGE

In Rugby League, touch judges can communicate with the referee verbally or through a number of specific flag and hand signals. These indicate specific breaches of the laws, for example forward pass, knock on and penalty offences, how play should restart and whether the ball was grounded correctly for a try. Touch judges stand behind the posts to confirm success of a penalty kick or the conversion of a try. Two touch judges are used in a rugby league game. They move along each touch line following play. The touch judges cannot stop play but can signal the referee to enable them to assist the referee. Touch judge and referee signals and duties in Rugby League are laid out in the laws of the game.

Changing decision - The Referee judges on matters of fact and shall not subsequently alter those judgments. He may cancel any decision made if prior foul play of which he had no knowledge is reported to him by a Touch Judge.

Accept Touch Judge decision - The Referee shall accept the decision of an official Touch Judge relating to touch and touch in-goal play and to kicks at goal.

Touch Judge - Each Touch Judge shall remain in touch, one on each side of, and near to, the playing field except:

- (a) When judging kicks at goal.
- (b) When reporting a player's misconduct which has escaped the notice of the Referee.

Flag - Each Touch Judge must carry an approved flag.

Judge kicks at goal - Touch Judges shall assist the Referee in judging kicks at goal. If a Referee or Touch Judge is assaulted or unduly harassed by any person arising out of his control of a match, he should submit a report to the appropriate League even though such incident occurs after the match is ended.

Touch Judge under control of Referee - A Touch Judge is at all times under the control of the Referee and may be dismissed and replaced if, in the opinion of the Referee, he can no longer be considered to be neutral. In this case, any decision made by a Touch Judge leading to his dismissal may be disregarded. Any misconduct by a Touch Judge should be reported by the Referee to the appropriate authority.

Report misconduct quickly - If a Touch Judge wishes to report a player's misconduct, he should attract the Referee's attention as quickly as possible in order to avoid an unnecessary continuation of play. Any subsequent penalty is awarded where the offence occurred and not where play is subsequently stopped.

No undue interference - A Touch Judge must not interfere with the Referee's control of the game by reporting incidents which have obviously been seen by the Referee.

National Code of Conduct – Team and Club Officials

Place the safety and welfare of players as the top priority. Always act in a sportsmanlike manner, respecting opposition players, team and club officials and spectators. Uphold the integrity of the game of Rugby League and make decisions in the best interests of the game at all times. Team Staff are bound by the [NRL's On-Field Policy](#) and [Code of Conduct](#).
