

## GENERAL INFORMATION\*

Lead Area:	Rugby Operations
Lead Policy Title:	Uncontested Scrum
Policy Reference No:	SA9
Authors:	Carl Jones/ Codey Atkinson
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## SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- This policy has been introduced to enable competitive matches to take place in grades below premier, premier grade reserve, division one and in junior matches U14's, U16's and U18's where there is a shortage of qualified front row players. However, U16's to U18's must match numbers in the scrum at all times.
- Note: any matches in U12's and below will not adopt this uncontested scrum policy as they are required to match team numbers at all times.

## STEP BY STEP PROCEDURES

- SA Rugby Uncontested Scrum Policy

Step	Description of action	Responsible
1	It is the responsibility of the team manager and the club to ensure that the referee (or if known prior to the day scheduled for the match, SARU and secretary of the club of the opposing team) is notified immediately upon the team manager or the club becoming aware that a team will not be able to field 3 properly qualified front row players prior to or during the conduct of any match.	Club / Team manager
2	In premier grade, premier grade reserve and division one <u>no match</u> can commence with an uncontested scrum.	Referee
3	In any grade below Premier Grade reserve and division 1, if one team is unable to provide three suitably qualified front row players prior to the start of a fixture, that team will play the whole match with one player short.  Should both teams be unable to provide three suitably qualified front row players prior to the start of a match, the above would not be enforced.	Referee
4	In premier Grade, Premier Reserve and division one, at the time scheduled for the start of a Match: a) If neither team is able to field three properly qualified front row players, the match will not proceed and the outcome of the match will be recorded as a nil all draw; and b) If one Team is unable to field 3 properly qualified front row players, the match will be deemed to have been forfeit by the team which is unable to field a	Referee / Union

	properly qualified front row of players and the applicable Rule for dealing with forfeited matches will apply.	
5	If during any match in any grade one team is unable to field a properly qualified front row of players the match will proceed using uncontested Scrum and the offending team will be required to play the remainder of the match with one player short.	Referee
6	<p>Where there is an uncontested scrum during any match:</p> <p>a) There must be no impact at the engagement between the players involved in the uncontested scrum;</p> <p>b) The team which is not feeding the uncontested scrum must not contest for the ball;</p> <p>c) The team feeding the ball must win the ball;</p> <p>d) Neither team may engage in any forward or backward movement from the point indicated by the referee;</p> <p>e) Neither team may apply any forward pressure on or move backward from the opposing team;</p> <p>f) The ball must be cleared from the base of the scrum as soon as it is available to the team who has the feed into the scrum; and</p> <p>g) If either team does not comply with the above process or any other directions given by the referee, then the referee may award a penalty against the offending team and a free kick will be granted to the non-offending team.</p>	Referee / Players / Club

## OTHER INFORMATION

- If the referee determines at any time during a match that:
  - The safety of any player participating in the scrum has been compromised the referee can direct that the match will proceed using uncontested scrums as if both teams are from that time forward unable to field a properly qualified front row of players.
- A properly qualified and trained front row of players is defined as:
  - Tighthead prop, hooker and loosehead prop.