

# The Referee's Hand Signals

A brief meaning of the Referee's hand signals. The use of referee signals is recommended in order to help the referee communicate with the players and of course us the spectators.

## 1. Penalty Kick

Shoulders parallel with touch-line. Arm angled up, pointing towards non-offending team.



## 2. Free Kick

Shoulders parallel with touch-line. Arm bent square at elbow, upper arm pointing towards non-offending team.



## 3. Try & Penalty Try.

Referee's back to dead ball line. Arm raised vertically.



## 4. Advantage

Arm outstretched, waist high, towards non-offending team, for a period of approximately five seconds.



## 5. Scrum Awarded

Shoulders parallel with touch-line. Arm horizontal pointing towards team to throw in the ball.



## 6. Forming a scrum.

Elbows bent, hands above head fingers touching.



## 7. Throw-forward / forward pass

Hand gesture as if passing an imaginary ball forward.



## 8. Knock-on

Arm out-stretched with open hand above head, & moves backwards & forwards.



## 9. Not Releasing the ball immediately in a tackle.

Both hands are close to the chest, as if holding an imaginary ball.



## 10. Tackler not releasing tackled player.

Arms brought together as if grasping a player and then opening as if releasing a player.



## 11. Tackler or tackled player not rolling away.

A circular movement with the finger & arm moving away from the body.



## 12. Entering tackle from wrong direction

Arm held horizontal then sweep of the arm in a semi-circle



## 13. Intentionally falling over the player.

Curved arm makes gesture to imitate action of falling player. Signal is made in direction in which offending



## 14. Diving to the ground near tackle.

Straight arm gesture, pointing downwards to imitate diving action.



## 15. Unplayable ball at ruck or tackle.

Award of scrum to team moving forward at the time of stoppage. Shoulders parallel with the touch-line, arm horizontal pointing towards the team to throw in the ball, then pointing the arm & hand towards the other team's goal-line whilst moving it backwards & forwards.



## 16. Unplayable ball in maul.

Arm out to award scrummage to side not in possession at maul commencement. Other arm out as if signalling advantage and then swing it across the body with hand ending on opposite shoulder.



## 17. Joining a ruck or maul in front of the back foot and from the side.

The hand & arm are held horizontally moving sideways.



## 18. Intentionally collapsing ruck or maul.

Both arms at shoulder height as if bound around opponent. Upper body is lowered and twisted as if pulling down opponent who is on top.



## 19. Prop pulling down opponent.

Clenched fist, and arm bent. Gesture imitates pulling opponent down.

