



RUGBY CANADA REFEREES SEEKING APPROVAL TO OFFICIATE “ACROSS BORDERS”

Given Rugby Canada’s recent change of insurance companies accompanied by all Rugby nations being required to adhere to legal liability and risk management procedures it is imperative that all referees become aware of Rugby Canada’s procedures and policy expectations.

To Referee in Another Province

Referees who are registered with Rugby Canada do not have to seek additional insurance coverage to referee in another Province of Canada provided that:

- their four-year accreditation remains current;
- they are currently registered with Rugby Canada **AS A REFEREE** (i.e as an “Official”);
- they are a member of a Canadian Referee Society or Provincial Union;
- the fixture where they are officiating in Canada is endorsed by the Provincial Union of the Province being visited;
- the arrangements that are made are made with the full knowledge and endorsement of the referee's regional or Provincial Referee Society or Union and the authority(ies) of the Province being visited;
- there is a "paper trail" (or electronic documentation) that identifies that the above mentioned endorsement was gained and completed before the event (and retained after the event); and,
- documents are filed and retained in the relevant Referee Society files and the office of the Provincial Union.

To Referee in USA

Referees who are registered with Rugby Canada do not have to seek additional insurance coverage for refereeing in USA provided that:

- their four-year accreditation remains current;
- they are currently registered with Rugby Canada **AS A REFEREE** (i.e as an “Official”);
- they are a member of a Canadian Referee Society or Provincial Union;
- the fixture where they are officiating in USA is endorsed by USA Rugby;
- the arrangements that are made are made with the full knowledge and endorsement of the referee's regional or Provincial Referee Society or Union and the relevant USA authority(ies);
- there is a "paper trail" (or electronic documentation) that identifies that the above mentioned endorsement was gained and completed before the event (and retained after the event);
- Rugby Canada’s Referee Development Manager is informed (in writing) of the arrangements; and,

- documents are filed and retained in the relevant Referee Society files and the office of the Provincial Union.

Referees intending to officiate in USA are alerted to the fact that the USA has now introduced new passport regulations and expectations for Canadians visiting USA by certain modes of travel.

To Referee in Another Country

Referees who wish to referee in another country can initiate the organization of their fixtures but will not be endorsed to proceed without full intervention of the Referee Manager of both National Unions. Referees who are registered with Rugby Canada need to be able to prove that:

- their four-year accreditation remains current;
- they are currently registered with Rugby Canada **AS A REFEREE** (i.e as an "Official");
- they are a member of a Canadian Referee Society or Provincial Union;
- the fixture(s) where they are officiating in this country is (are) endorsed by the National Union of that country;
- the arrangements that are made are arranged with the full knowledge and endorsement of the referee's Provincial Referee Society and Rugby Canada's Referee Development Manager as well as the Referee Manager of the nation being visited;
- there is a "paper trail" (or electronic documentation) that identifies that the above mentioned endorsement was gained and completed before the event (and retained after the event); and,
- documents are filed and retained in the relevant Referee Society files and the office of the Rugby Canada's Referee Development Manager.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

If the cross border experience is planned well ahead, referees can officiate in full confidence that Rugby Canada will support their experience.

Insurance: Referees who are registered with Rugby Canada are alerted to the following issues pertaining to insurance.

- i. Rugby Canada's legal liability (3rd Party Claims) would cover the referee for up to \$CDN 5 million.
- ii. The travelling referee would be responsible for his (or her) own medical coverage.
- iii. Referees are often covered by their own personal medical insurance company, their travel insurance or their credit card ticket purchase but this issue remains a referee issue of responsibility.

Documentation: The complete documentation process for some of the above processes can take many weeks to complete. Planning time-lines should take this issue into account. All documentation should be completed and filed in the appropriate office before the event and retained on file in case of any potential enquiries.

Crossing National Borders: Refereeing in another country (other than USA) requires the involvement and endorsement of BOTH the visiting and host nation's Referee Managers.

"Endorsed" Fixtures: It is the referee's responsibility to ensure that the tournament (or game) is "endorsed" by the host National Union. Notice of this endorsement should be lodged with the application to referee across borders. Referees who participate in Canadian events that are not endorsed by the Provincial Union (and therefore liable to not be covered by Rugby Canada's insurance) or events in another nation not endorsed by that National Union place their legal liability insurance coverage at risk.