



**RUGBYWA**

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Dear Players, Coaches, Managers and Spectators of Junior Rugby,

In recent weeks I have become increasingly concerned with the amount of referee abuse occurring at the Britannia playing fields. This has led to RugbyWA being forced to cite a number of Coaches and spectators. RugbyWA considers Referee abuse as a very serious matter and people who choose to abuse Referees will be severely dealt with.

Like all people involved in Rugby, Referees are also volunteers who give their time to ensure that your children are able to play the sport we love. Recruiting and retaining Referees in recent times has become increasingly difficult, and adding to this difficulty is the extremely inappropriate behaviour exhibited by some people on the sidelines. Furthermore, some of the abuse has been directed at Referees who are as young as 14 years of age.

The Western Australian Junior Rugby Union operates a Referee Bonus Point System where the appointed Referee is able to award up to 2 bonus points to reward player, coach and spectator behaviour. Comments made to a Referee can jeopardise the awarding of these points which may in turn affect the chance of your team making the Finals series.

Please take this note as an official warning. If you choose to swear at, abuse or constantly question a Referee, you will not be welcome in our game.

Yours sincerely

**Matt Tink**  
Manager Community Rugby