



FIRST AID OFFICERS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION SCHEME

On-Field Policy

This policy, approved by the ARL Board in December 2005, consists of two sections: On-Field Personnel and On-Field Identification. The policy has a two year phase-in period and must be operative by the start of the 2008 season.

On-Field Personnel

1. All official personnel over the age of fourteen (14) years, who enter the Field of Play to attend a player, must possess a Leaguesafe Certificate of Attendance or an accredited ARL First Aid Officers Certificate.
2. No person other than an accredited ARL First Aid Officer, or those with appropriate and acceptable qualifications, shall administer first aid or offer advice to an injured/ill player. Personnel with other qualifications must be ratified by the National FAO Coordinator and equate with ARL FAO Certification.
3. All injuries/illnesses and assessment must be recorded in an Injury Report Booklet.
4. The accredited First Aid Officer shall at all times, whilst a game is in progress, be situated on the sideline in a position to respond quickly should an injury/illness occur.
5. The accredited First Aid Officer shall have the final say on whether a player should continue in the game and when to resume playing in that game. If a doctor is in attendance at a game venue, he/she shall make decisions in conjunction with the First Aid Officer. The doctor will make the final decision on a player's welfare. In the event of a serious injury, as defined by the First Aid Officer, a doctor's certificate must be obtained by the player and handed to the First Aid Officer prior to the player resuming playing.
6. A First Aid Officer will be attached to a team. It is advisable that at least two (2) be available in case one is required to attend a player or not be available on game day.
7. It will be the responsibility of the Club and/or Ground Officials to ensure the above policy is adhered to.
8. If the above personnel are not in attendance, the game shall not commence UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES until such persons are available.
9. Each player shall complete a Medical Advice Card before training or playing. This will be the responsibility of the designated First Aid Officer/s to ensure all cards are up to date. All privacy laws must be adhered to.



On-Field Identification

1. General

Each team may engage and use a maximum of three (3) on-field personnel during a game.

In all cases when FAO's/Leaguesafe enter the Field of Play to attend to an injured/ill player, administer water, or deliver messages, they must immediately leave the field once their assigned task has been completed and return to the player's bench.

At all times FAO's/Leaguesafe must enter and leave the field as quickly as possible (i.e. running). Great care must be exhibited when assessing an injured/ill player and removing an injured/ill player from the field. Liaison with the referee in a respectful manner will be of great assistance in these cases.

All on-field personnel must be identified with the following colored shirts:

2. Head Trainer – Orange Shirt

(Qualification is preferably FAO 2, although this may not be possible in all cases. Therefore the most senior and/or experienced FAO would assume this role until FAO 2 status has been attained by a person/s within a Club)

The Head Trainer will be the most senior person within the FAO team and will make the final decision on a player's welfare. Coaches/administrators/players must comply with the decision of the Head Trainer at all times.

If a doctor is present, he/she shall make the final decision on a player's welfare.

(a) Access:

- Unlimited to attend injured/ill players and to administer water
- Must not carry messages
- Must not become involved with the interchange process

3. Trainer/FAO – Blue Shirt

(Minimum qualification is FAO 1)

(a) Access:

- Depends upon numbers/accredited personnel available within the Club structure.

(b) Duties:

- To assist by observing and monitoring players who have been removed from the Field of Play through injury/illness.
- To assist an injured/ill player on and off the Field of Play at training and/or a game
- To assist an injured/ill player on the field in the absence of a Head Trainer or when more than one FAO is needed
- To administer water in extreme climate conditions



(c) Special Conditions:

- Clubs will need to be aware that at this stage of the FAO National Accreditation Scheme, most accredited FAO's are Level 1 and may have to carry out duties other than the above, or may be restricted in following the above. During the phase-in period, clubs are advised to use accredited personnel in a manner that best serves their situation.

4. Leaguesafe – Yellow Shirt

(Minimum qualification is Leaguesafe)

Note – the word LEAGUESAFE is to be printed on the back of the shirt.

(a) Access:

- When his/her team is in possession
- When a try has been scored
- During a time-out called by the referee for an injury
- During technical stoppages in play (except scrums). On-Field personnel are not allowed on the field after the referee has ordered a scrum until the ball has emerged and a team is in possession
- Must enter and leave the Field of Play from an onside position

(b) Duties:

- To convey messages. Note - messages must not be given to the team whilst play is in progress
- To administer water
- To assist in the interchange process

(c) Special Conditions:

- If an FAO is not in attendance at training and/or a game, the Leaguesafe on-Field person may assist an injured/ill player **under the guidelines of Leaguesafe Training** until a person of higher qualification arrives. (This is a 'safety net' approach).

5. Notes

- During the phase-in period, until all Clubs have enough appropriately qualified personnel to conform to the colored shirt system, modifications may need to be made as described above.
- The most important issue is that no on-Field personnel will be allowed on the Field of Play at training and/or a game, nor manage an injured/ill player, nor provide advice, unless trained at one of the above levels.
- In the event of a clash of colored shirts with team jerseys during the phase-in period, on-field personnel may wear another color; HOWEVER it must not equate to a level above what the person is accredited for. Liaison with the match referee will determine this issue if there is a color clash.

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- In the event of an altercation between players on and/or off the Field of Play, FAO/Leaguesafe personnel must not interfere in any way. They must move clear and totally distance themselves from the incident. The control of on-Field behavior is the duty of the match referee. The only exception to the above would be when an injured/ill player needs shielding from possible further harm.
- On-Field personnel must not at any time enter the line of sight of a player when they are attempting a kick for goal, or do anything which may in any way unnecessarily interfere with or distract an opposition player whilst they are participating in the match or constitute some disadvantage to the opposing team.
- If any on-Field personnel abuse their roles or behave in a manner contrary to FAO/Leaguesafe policy, or bring the game of Rugby League and/or their team/club into disrepute, they may be subject to sanctions, up to and including removal from the ARL national FAO database.

Further information on any aspect of the ARL National On-Field Policy may be obtained from:

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