

Briefing – Possible Script.

Introduction:

Can I thank you both for being here today. I've worked with you both before so I'm looking forward to the match and to continue the good interaction that we had last time we met. Minor housekeeping first, John will you keep running time, Dave stop start please and John could you keep an eye out for trends from Dings and Dave Taunton.

First of all this is an important match for both teams even though it is early in the season. Dings have yet to win and Taunton has had a slow start with mixed results. I have seen some video footage of Dings but have seen nothing of Taunton. Dings appeared to have a problem with back foot off side and their captain, who plays at 4 is always a challenge, they perform well at set play but penalties seem to build up when they are under pressure. Have either of you seen either team this season?

Thank-you for that so it looks like we, as a team of 3, are going to have to be aware off today.

Is everyone happy so far or do either of you have anything else to put in?

Right I'd now like to go through the match in more detail. I will give you both opportunities to have an input but could I ask you that you do this at the end of each section. During the game I only want what is clear and obvious and that way we can make sure it's the players that decide the game. Can I say here that I may or may not take your advice today, but will always endeavour to acknowledge your input. Please do take offence if I chose not to take advice it's nothing personal.

Scrum: There are things you can help me with here. Let's look for front row height at the crouch and make sure shoulders are above hips, look for 8 slingshotting and flankers binding. A word here at down time would be great but you can encourage flankers verbally if you are close. Please help me with not straight first of all at down time but if it is absolutely ridiculous then please put in down the mic. Any offence after the strike on the opposite side from me then please put it in with the usual "Red, Red, Red. I will then go for the penalty and we will get the reason after that.

Any questions?

Lineout: I'll take high and if you can monitor low that would be a help. Please check hookers are 2 and 2 and monitor backs at 10m. Put it in if they advance when my arm is up. I'll take not straight but if it's a howler then put it in. Let's think about safety and have a particular look for across the line offences and taking out of supporters.

Everything OK here?

Tackle and Post Tackle: Let's get in a position where between us we can get as much as possible correct. If it's on my blind side and match effecting please put it in, otherwise please talk at down time if there's a trend. One thing I will ask that might be different from what you have been told before, if you think an offence merits a card then put it in followed by "and stop the game". That will be a trigger for me to come and talk, and we'll get it sorted. Going back to what I said earlier, then let's be proactive with the guards, if you can help verbally then great, match effective please put it in.

All OK here?

General Play: Our job today is to ensure that the teams have space to play and we can do this in several ways. First let's be hard on the back foot and general off side. You can help here by

encouraging plays to stay on side. Use the near side winger at set piece to set distances and use your voice to get guards back if you are nearest. I do not want lots of input down the radio if things are getting tight but would appreciate a word at down time. If there is a match affecting offside then please put that in and I will always take that so let's make sure it's 100%. Can you please make sure that your choice of words is accurate. I like phrases like "blue 6 off side – in front of back foot" or "5 red – never on side" Please remind me to keep looking if I get stuck concentrating on the break down but please do this a down time, I do not like words like "Scan" during play.

If at any time I make clear eye contact with you during play it's a signal that I'm not sure and here a simple hand signal will do for things like knock on or forward pass.

Anything to add or anything you are not sure about?

Kicks in Open Play: Let's do everything we can as a team to monitor players in front of the kicker. If you can dwell just a fraction and use your voice to keep people on side then great but if they do not listen then please put it in down the mic. I will then take it if I think it's match affecting. I would appreciate help if we have to come back by making note of the mark.

Anything here?

In Goal: I want us to get these important decisions right today rather than it looking right. If I am unsure I will call "Time off" and ask one of 2 questions, "Try yes or no" or "Any reason I cannot award a try". If you do not know the answer then say so otherwise give me a recommendation. If I make eye contact all I need is a simple confirmation so a discreet thumbs up will do or call me over.

Any questions?

And Finally Foul Play: Please follow the Panel protocol for foul play. Can I ask that you always signal foul play even if you think I've seen it, I may have missed it or seen something differently from you. When play has stopped or been stopped I will say one of two things, "I've seen nothing what have you got for me" or "I've seen have you anything to add". I will check I've got it right and then may ask for a recommendation and will go with that. If I make a recommendation and you think I've got it wrong then say "can I repeat – so and so has done..."

Are you both happy with that.

That's it from me so finally let's enjoy it and get out of here with our heads held high. Any final questions or thoughts.