

2013/14 U10/U11 SCRUM ENGAGEMENT CUES: Referee expectations and verbal cues

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Pre-game: Referee will try to brief front row players ('Are you front row trained?') + scrum half + and team captains to reiterate expectations regarding safe and stepped scrum sequence. **Under the Festival Structure this is the responsibility of the coaches.**

PRE-ENGAGEMENT sequence: Referee will...

1. Make mark > invite hookers to stand left of mark,
2. Ensure safe distance between front rows (*not more than 1 arm's length apart*) and profile (*head and shoulders no lower than hips*)

ENGAGEMENT sequence: On referee verbal cues, front row (props+hooker x3) and 2nd row (locks x2) will...

Ref calls = "CROUCH"	Ref calls = "BIND"	Ref calls = "SET"	Ref calls = "Yes 9"
<p>Referee is looking for...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Looking over glasses > shoulders back > duck's arse > pivot from hips □ Front and second rows: grasp teammate with whole arm at or below armpit □ Heads inter-locked: Ear to ear > shoulder to shoulder > both feet on ground <p><i>Body profile: long flat back, head and shoulders no lower than hips</i></p> <p>Once packs are <u>stable</u>, referee cues...</p>	<p>Referee is looking for...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Loose head (left-side) and tight head (right-side) □ props contest: to bind on jersey back / side (elbows up, no downward force) □ Check pack height (front rows to sweep palm on ground) = to be similar <p>Once packs are <u>square</u> and <u>stable</u>, referee cues...</p>	<p>Referee is looking for...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Small steps forward □ Sink knees a little lower (over cliff's edge) □ As packs walk > engage, can't move off mark <p><i>Middle line of scrum is where shoulders of front row meet</i></p> <p>After scrum is <u>square</u>, <u>stable</u>, and <u>stationary</u>, referee cues...</p>	<p>Referee is looking for...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Invitation for scrum half to feed ball in scrum tunnel □ SH can tap Hooker to enable timing □ SH to stand at and feed straight along middle line of scrum > ball to land beyond width of nearest prop's shoulders □ SH should put ball in immediately after "Yes 9"

If not going to plan, referee to blow whistle > "Reset scrum. Stand up. Not seeing what we agreed. We'll do this again."

- ★ Referee aims to reduce scrum collapses by using consistent, simple, clear **cues** to enable safe and fair **contest**
- ★ U10/U11 scrums are 1) Contested and 2) no-push with ANY player in front row able to compete for possession from feed by pushing.
- ★ No crotch bind for mixed-sex packs