

## **FIVE TO SURVIVE**

Below you will find some personal GUIDELINES which you will not find written anywhere, but I have experience in recent games on the field.

1. When you see your partner has a good view of the play, pass on ruling. Whether he or she is right or wrong, live with their call or their decision to pass. If your partner is blocked or screened, then look to help. This is what is meant by “not fishing in your partner’s pond.
2. When it comes to distinguishing between an illegal “push” and an illegal body check from the rear, do not judge based on the severity of the consequence, but judge on the intent and action of the offending player, i.e., did he lower his shoulder, did he come from a distance, was his action accidental or intentional? Just because the offended player survived the check, doesn’t mean the offending player’s penalty should be any less.
3. We have heard it said, “When the ball becomes dead, we come alive. Likewise, there are times when the ball is toward the opposite sideline, we need to come alive, especially in transition. Take for instance when the ball is on the opposite sideline and your partner has been screened or blocked from the play, perhaps you can help by anticipating a need for your help by positioning yourself in the middle of the field, rather than camping out on your own sideline. A good preventative mechanic is to come toward the center of the field when you see play across the field on the opposite sideline, especially when in transition.
4. When performing a stick check, do not select the last player to have scored. Make the opposing coach make that selection. You only ask for trouble because that means if the stick is illegal, the score comes off the board.
5. In that light, I never perform an equipment check when either team is down a man. This can only complicate the situation. If the team who is already down a man, has the illegal stick, now they will be down two and if the team which is up a man has the illegal stick, you may now have created simultaneous penalty time or possibly faced with the team which is down a man looking to run-out their two-minute full time penalty. Remember in Federation even if a team is down a man, they must continue to attack the goal. It seems to me, there are plenty of other times in a game, in which you can do your “equipment check “and avoid complicating the situation.

Your Rules Interpreter,

Jim Bateman