

# Refs: Who are they kidding?

**“WELL boys, today I'm going to penalise you if you wave at the girl in the third row in the stand . . .**

“Well boys, today I'm going to penalise you if you blow a raspberry at me . . .

“Well boys, today I'm going to penalise you if you get mud on my shorts . . .”

And so every week it's something different.

Referees.

I'm beginning to wonder why I waste my breath on them.

On Sunday at Kogarah Oval I was in a rage after

## By Johnny Raper

referee Kevin Roberts had spoken to my players before the game and then contradicted himself on the field.

He told my players he wanted to keep a good five yards.

Before my Cronulla

players took the field I told them that they must not break the five-yard rule.

But, much to my complete astonishment, referee Roberts allowed St. George to stand well inside the five and then turns around and penalises my side.

I don't want referees telling my players before a game what they expect from them.

I am the coach of



“Did you get that decision down on the video-disc?”

Cronulla — not the referees.

I tell my players to stick to the rules and if they break them they have to face the consequences.

On no account should a referee be allowed to address players off the field.

His job is to enforce the rules on the field.

Inspections of boots

and hands, etc should be done by touch judges.

Give me one valid reason why a referee

should be allowed to enter a dressing room

before a game.

I was satisfied with Cronulla's form against St. George.

I intend to retain Ken Kearney in my camp.

His tuition of hooker Greg Purcell enabled Cronulla to almost break even in the scrums.

Winning the ball from scrums holds the key to the fourth and fifth spots in the final five.

Cronulla players know that they will wrap up a final five by beating Souths, Manly and Wests.

In the first round we beat Souths 41-11; we lost to Manly 24-18; and we lost to Wests 26-20.

The defeats were by narrow margins and since then our defence has improved 50 per cent.

So it's a matter of getting an even share of the ball.

And the referees keeping both sides back five yards!



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