

Match Commissioner Role Description

Role overview

A match commissioner in rugby union is the senior official responsible for the overall conduct and governance of the match event, not the on-field refereeing decisions. The role focuses on compliance, safety and administration before, during and after the game.

Overall authority

The match commissioner is the senior regulatory official at the venue, with authority over matters related to the playing enclosure, team organisation and match conduct. This person represents the competition organiser (World Rugby, union, or league) and ensures matches are run according to tournament regulations and terms of participation.

Pre-match responsibilities

Before the game, the match commissioner verifies that the venue, playing surface, technical zones and match infrastructure comply with competition standards and safety requirements. The commissioner also confirms team registrations, player eligibility, match documentation and adherence to match protocols such as kick-off time, accreditation and access control.

Match day compliance and logistics

On match day, the commissioner ensures both teams comply with competition rules on kit (jerseys, shorts, numbering, sponsor marks) and technical zone protocols. The role includes coordinating with team managers, match manager and stadium operations so that timings (warm-up, entry, half-time, full-time procedures) follow the official run sheet.

Interaction with match officials

The match commissioner works closely with the referee team but does not interfere with laws-of-the-game decisions. Instead, the commissioner supports implementation of competition policies such as delay, postponement, or abandonment of matches, and the procedure for extra time or kicking competitions in knockout games.

Safety and disciplinary oversight

The commissioner oversees application of competition-specific player-welfare and safety procedures (e.g. protocols connected to head injury processes and access to the playing area for medical staff, as set by the tournament rules). The role also includes recording and escalating reportable incidents, crowd issues, or serious misconduct to the relevant disciplinary and judicial bodies.

Disputes and complaints

Where appropriate, the match commissioner adjudicates on disputes raised by team managers that relate to match-day organisation, run-sheet compliance, field-of-play conditions, or terms of participation (not referee law decisions). The commissioner may also help manage formal complaints or protests by gathering statements from match officials and other stakeholders for judicial processes.

Post-match duties

After the match, the commissioner confirms and signs off the official match report, including score, cards, replacements and any notable incidents. The commissioner then submits required reports to the organising body, covering compliance issues, disciplinary referrals, delays, or operational problems that occurred during the event.

Training

The Cyprus Rugby Federation will provide full training for this voluntary role.

For more information or to express your interest in becoming a match commissioner, please email marketing@cyprus-rugby.com.