

Gambling Reform Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I write to you as both a person who played Rugby Union and League for over 23 years and also as a person who has suffered from problem gambling over the years and still struggles at times.

The invasion of sports gambling that has taken place over the years has polluted all codes with a sense of having to gamble on the game to enjoy it. For many years Rugby and Rugby league were free of sports betting and it was great to watch. There were no half time or mid game spruikers pumping the odds up in favour of either team or telling you, you should place a bet on Team A or Team B

I vehemently object to the IN YOUR FACE gambling advertorials that are being put on every game of rugby league that is being broadcast by channel 9. Its sickening. Whats even worse is that Tom Waterhouse, Peter Sterling, Brad Fitler are engaging as experts on the game and encouraging people to gamble and bet like some sort of sure thing.

What is Tom Waterhouse who is a bookie got anything to do with Rugby League apart from trying to desperately fleece punters of their hard earned cash. Tom Waterhouse is presenting himself as some sort of Rugby League Expert when he has never even played the game. Don't you think that it is alarming that he is engaging in expert dialogue about a subject which he knows nothing and thereby tainting any objective expert commentary with the gambling brush.

Channel 9 has a responsibility as a broadcaster to ensure that cash for comment is clearly and legibly marked and the delineation lines clearly marked. Its like Channel 9 have given Tom Waterhouse carte blanche use of the airtime and broadcast. Its wrong and MUST BE STOPPED.

As a lover of the game, its bad enough that you being shown Tom Waterhouse ads every 5 mins then to have him come on and tell me that I gotta put a bet on.

Please stop the pollution of a great game by desperate people who are preying on the insecurities of the many and more importantly those who suffer from problem gambling. And finally bring to account broadcasters like Channel 9 in ensuring that bookies don't get involved in expert commentary on the game suggesting outcomes either way like sure things.