

SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY UNION

LAWS VARIATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL RUGBY 2014

ALL THE LAWS IN THE OFFICIAL LAW BOOK WITH AMENDMENTS BY THE IRB ARE APPLICABLE WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

1. Law 1: The Field

The 5m and 15m lines are replaced with the 3m and 13m lines.

2. Law 2: THE BALL

A number 4-ball will be used for Primary School games.

3. Law 3: NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 3.1 Up to 7 players may be replaced during a game. (**Law 3.4**)
- 3.2 The reserves for Craven week and provincial games must include **three** front row players (**Two Props and a hooker**) – (**Law 3: Under 19 Law Amendments**)
- 3.3 A player that was substituted (tactically) may replace an injured player. – (**Quota system to be adhered to at Craven week and representative teams**).

4. Law 4: PLAYERS CLOTHING

- 4.1 All players will play barefoot.
- 4.2 The use of mouth guards by all players is recommended but compulsory for all players in provincial teams. (**Law 4.1(f)**)

5. Law 5: TIME

- 5.1 Two halves of twenty five (25) minutes running time each will be played for u/13 only.
- 5.2 Two halves of twenty (20) minutes running time each will be played for u/9, u/10, u/11 and u/12.
- 5.3 Injury time will be allowed. A maximum of five (5) minutes injury time will be allowed in a match for u/9, u/10, u/11 and u/12.
- 5.4 No injury time will be allowed for u/13 games. The referee is to use his discretion should a serious injury requires a prolonged period of treatment – in which case this time can be added to the applicable half to a maximum of five (5) minutes per game.
- 5.5 A maximum of 5min will be allowed for the interval (Half-time).

6. **Law 9: METHOD OF SCORING**

For the u/9 to u/11 age group the conversion kick is taken not less than the 13m line from touch should a try be scored between the 13m line and touchline/corner flag.

7 **Law 10: FOUL PLAY**

- 7.1 All incidents of foul play are to be sanctioned by means of a penalty. The referee must also admonish, or caution the player and temporarily suspend, or send off the player.
- 7.1.1 When different players of the same team repeatedly commit the same offence, the referee must give a warning to the team and award a penalty.
- 7.2 In the following cases of foul play and misconduct (**Law 10.4**) the referee must give a yellow card and temporarily suspend the player for five (5) minutes running time:
- 7.2.1 Punching or striking a player, Stamping, Kicking, Tripping, Dangerous Tackles: (Stiff-arm, Playing a player in the air, Dangerous slinging), Dangerous charging, Retaliation and Repeated infringements by a player. (**NB. A player and not a team**) (Repeated infringements by a team are not sanctioned with a yellow card)
- 7.2.2 In extra ordinary circumstances the referee may consider a Red card depending on the grade of the infringement.
- 7.3 In the following cases the referee must give a red card and permanently suspend the player:
- 7.3.1 Intentionally: Head butt, Spitting, racist remarks and a dangerous "tip tackle"
- 7.4 Procedure when suspending a player:
- 7.4.1 When above happens, the referee must call the team's coach onto the field and inform him of the reason for the temporary or permanent suspension of the player. (**There should be no debate as this is informative and not justification.**)
- 7.4.2 A yellow or red card is shown and the suspended player must remain with the team's coach during that period.
- 7.5 No replacement is allowed for the suspended player except when a front row or lock is suspended (temporary or permanent). The coach must remove a back row (loose forward) player so that the team is reduced to fourteen (14) and send a replacement front row player/lock onto the field to replace the suspended player. (**U/19 variations require that at a scrum the front row players and the locks must be suitably trained to play in those positions. If not, uncontested scrums will be ordered by the referee**)
- 7.6 **If a referee gives a player a red card in any school game, the attached form must be completed by the referee and submitted within 48 hours to the Primary School Chairmen (Referees and Union).**
- 7.7 If a player creates the impression at the tackle that he is played in the air, by jumping over a player, **Law 10.4(m)** will be applicable (**acts contrary to good sportsmanship**). **Penalty Kick.**

8 Law 11: OFF SIDE

- 8.1 All sanctions for off side are penalties.
- 8.2 The 5m off side line is applicable to back line players at the scrum and line out.
- 8.3 At a scrum - 5m from the hindmost foot in the scrum.
- 8.4 At the Lineout - 5m from the line of touch.

9 Law 15.3 Tackle

- 9.1 All players entering or approaching the tackle area must do so through 'the gate'.
- 9.2 All infringements at the tackle are sanctioned by means of penalty kicks.
- 9.3 If the ball becomes unplayable, a scrum is awarded to the team moving forward before the referee blew his whistle.

"Squeeze ball"

IRB Action 1

- On 8 November 2001, the International Rugby Board (IRB) issued the following Note on Interpretation of Law 15.5(d) – the tackled player.
- Law 15.5(d) states: "A tackled player may release the ball by pushing it along the ground in any direction except forward, providing this is done immediately."
- In recent times players having been tackled or who go to ground have done so ensuring that the ball is underneath them, they then push the ball along the ground and through their legs (a practice known as a squeeze ball).
- On most occasions when players attempt to push the ball along the ground under their bodies they are not making the ball available immediately and they are in contravention of Law 14.1 and Law 15.5. Players who attempt the action are liable to a penalty unless the ball is immediately available.
- With the emphasis on "immediately", Referees have been instructed to enforce the above strictly.
- **This in short: the "squeeze ball" will no longer be allowed.**

10. Law 16: Ruck

- 10.1 Players may use their feet and not their hands to gain possession of the ball, provided they are on their feet and part of the ruck. (**In other words, they came through the gate and joined the ruck – or have been part of the tackle, on their feet and caught up in the ruck**).
- 10.2 It is illegal to step on players (Penalty).
- 10.3 All infringements at the ruck are sanctioned by penalty kicks
- 10.4 If the ball becomes unplayable, a scrum is awarded to the team moving forward before the referee blew his whistle.

11. Law 17: Maul

- 11.1 The maul may not be pulled down by any action of a player. **This is a safety matter!**
- 11.2 A maul needs to move forward in order to be allowed. A maul that moves sideways or backwards should be ruled as stationary and refereed accordingly.
- 11.3 If the ball becomes unplayable, a scrum is awarded to the team that did not take the ball into the maul.

12. Law 19: TOUCH AND LINE OUT

- 12.1 Any player may throw the ball in at a line out, provided that 7 players of each team form the line out. Short Lineouts are not allowed in Primary School Rugby.
- 12.2 Only on account of injury, may a team form a lineout with less than 7 players. The opposing team must still have 7 players in the line out (**This is only applicable to the forwards – positions 1 to 8**)
- 12.3 The exception of Law 19.8(i) is applicable where the receiver will be allowed to move into a gap in the lineout, **after** the lineout has started, to either support or gain possession of the ball. The same is applicable to the opposing team. NB. The receiver may not change positions with a player in the lineout **before** the lineout has started.
- 12.4 Only a backline player may take the position of the receiver at the forming of the lineout.
- 12.5 Any player forming part of the lineout may take the position of the receiver after the lineout has started.
- 12.6 When the ball is caught in the line out and held, all the players in the lineout must join the formed ruck or maul until it ends, except the lineout player that has taken the position of the receiver. (**This excludes the player throwing in the ball and his immediate opponent in the 3m area who has four options as per the IRB law book – see law 19.11 (a), (b) (c) and (d)**).
- 12.7 The immediate opponent of the player throwing the ball in at a line out may not support a player in the lineout. He must take up position 2m from the 3m line or take a position in the 3m area anywhere from the line of touch and his team's 5m off side line (Manage and re-form line out).
- 12.8 The off side line for players not in the lineout (backline players) is 5m from the line of touch until the line out ends.
- 12.9 The line out is formed from 3m to 13m from the touch line.
- 12.10 Penalties and Free kicks for infringements in the line out are awarded on the 13m line on the line of touch.
- 12.11 If the ball is not thrown in straight, the old rule is still applicable; i.e. the team who did not throw in has a choice of either a lineout or a scrum on the 13m line.

13. LAW 19.1: KICKING FROM WITHIN THE 22M AREA

- 13.1 If the ball is carried over by a team from outside the 22m area to within the 22m area and subsequently kicked directly into touch – no gain in ground will be allowed (**i.e. the ensuing line out will be opposite the place here the kick was made**)
- 13.2 If in above, the kick lands in the field off play and then rolls or bounces out – the ensuing line out will be where the ball crossed the touch line.
- 13.3 'Carried over' means that the ball crossed the 22m line after it was touched or played by a defending player outside the 22m area.
- 13.4 If the ball is carried over the 22m line and a tackle, ruck, maul ensues, then the ball may be kicked out directly and ground gained (**i.e. The mentioned phases that took place inside the 22m area, 'nullifies' the carryover**).

14. LAW 19.2 QUICK THROW IN

- 14.1 At a quick throw in, the ball may be thrown in the direction of the team's own goal line.
- 14.2 The ball must reach the 3m line and may be thrown straight (parallel with the goal lines) or in the direction of the thrower's own goal line.
- 14.3 The ball may not be thrown in the direction (forward) of the opposition's goal line.
 - 14.3.1 If above happens, a choice of a line out or scrum is awarded to the non-throwing team in line with the place of the throw in.
- 14.4 It is imperative that all conditions for the quick throw is adhered to, namely:
 - 14.4.1 Only the player that catches or retrieves the ball may affect a quick throw in. He may not pass or give the ball to a team mate to throw in quickly.
 - 14.4.2 Only the ball that was in play may be used for a quick throw in. The ball may not have been touched, outside the playing area, by any players or spectators.

15. Law 20: SCRUM

- 15.1 All players (8) in the scrum must comply with the 3-4-1 formation. The number 8 must be bound between two locks (Only due to injury may a team have less than 8 players in the scrum in which case the formation is adjusted to 3-4 and if more than one injury to 3-2-1. **This is only applicable to the forwards – positions 1 to 8**). The locks must pack with their heads on either side of the hooker.
- 15.2 There may never be fewer than 5 players in a scrum (**The opposing team must conform in order to have the same number of players in the scrum as per the u/19 rules**).
- 15.3 The number 8 may pick up the ball and play it when the ball is at his feet and still in the scrum.
- 15.4 All players must remain bound in the scrum until the scrum ends. The defending number 8 may pull his head out of the scrum, provided he is still bound as per law (**that is: one shoulder and arm bound onto a lock**).

- 15.5 All the back line players except for the two scrum halves, must remain behind the off side line which is 5m behind the hindmost foot in the scrum until the scrum ends.
- 15.6 The off side line for both scrum halves is the middle of the scrum and **not the ball**.
- 15.7 If the scrumhalves decide to take up position alongside the scrum, they must remain within 1m of the scrum. The defending scrumhalf may move back to the hindmost foot in the scrum which now becomes his off side line. If he decides to do so, he may move beyond 1m from the scrum, providing he stays behind that off side line.
- 15.8 The defending scrumhalf may stay behind the 5 meter offside line as for all other backline players. He may not advance over the off side line before the scrum has ended. If his team wins a heel against the head he must remain behind the 5m off-side line.
- 15.9 If the place of infringement for a scrum is nearer than 5m from the goal line, the scrum will be awarded 5m from the goal line, opposite the place of infringement. The off side line for the defensive team is the goal line.
- 15.10 It is illegal to push more than 1.5m in a scrum in the direction of the opponent's goal line. The number 8 may not keep the ball under his feet (**He has two options namely; pick up and play or hook the ball to the scrum half – Sanction: Free kick**).
- 15.11 The scrum may not wheel more than 45° degrees.
- 15.12 When a scrum is wheeled through 45° degrees, or it collapses or **front row players stand up**, and no penalty or free kick is awarded, the ball will be thrown in by team that originally threw in the ball.

Summary

All sanctions as per the Law book are applicable, e.g.

- i. Collapsing of the scrum (Penalty)
- ii. Pushing up in the scrum (Penalty)
- iii. Foul Play (Penalty)
- iv. Off side (Penalty)
- v. Early engagement and shoving more than 1.5 meters (Free Kick)
- vi. Ball not in straight (Free Kick)
- vii. Hands in scrum (Penalty Kick)

The above are only examples; refer to the Law book.

16. Law 21: PENALTY AND FREE KICK

- 16.1 At Primary school rugby penalties and free kicks are applicable as per the Law book.
- 16.2 A place kick or a drop kick is allowed at goal for penalties awarded for all age groups in primary schools.
- 16.3 A team is not allowed to score points from a drop goal following a free kick awarded to the team. In other words: if a drop goal is attempted from a free kick, play continues and no points are scored (**This is also applicable if a scrum is chosen in the place of a free kick**).

17. KICKS

All age groups in primary schools are allowed to kick anywhere in the field of play. This is in line with senior rugby.

18. General Primary School Laws

- 18.1 All Forward players (Positions 1 to 8) will at all-time take part in scrums and line outs. In other words there may not be interchanges between forwards and backs at a lineout and scrum (Manage and reform).
- 18.2 Above implies that only back line players may take up the position of the receiver at a line out (**This limitation is put in place for safety reasons**). Forwards may "stand loose" at tackle, rucks and mauls if they so wish, except those arising from a Lineout.
- 18.3 The Law change that when a Free kick or Penalty kick is awarded closer than 5m or in the In-Goal area the mark will be on the 5m line, is applicable.