

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 26 October 2009
TO: State and Territory Union CEO's; ARU Affiliates
FROM: Ian Alker
SUBJECT: Law Application for 2010

Australian Rugby Union (ARU) would like to provide the following directive in regard to the Laws of the Game in Australia for 2010.

In May 2009 the International Rugby Board (IRB) ruled on which of the Experimental Law Variation's (ELV's) are to be adopted as Law globally.

The following Laws were approved and adopted as Law by the IRB and these Law changes are to be applied domestically from the commencement of the 2010 season:

- Law 6** – Assistant Referees allowed;
- Law 19** – Kicking directly into touch from ball played back into 22 equals - no gain in ground;
- Law 19** – Quick Throw permitted in any direction except forward;
- Law 19** – Positioning of player in opposition to the player throwing-in to be two metres away from lineout and the line of touch;
- Law 19** – Pre-gripping of lineout jumpers allowed ;
- Law 19** – Lifting in the lineout allowed;
- Law 19** – Positioning of Receiver must be two metres away from lineout;
- Law 20** – Five-metre offside line at the Scrum;
- Law 20** - Scrum half offside line at the Scrum;
- Law 22** – Corner Posts no longer touch in goal.

The following were not adopted into Law:

- Law 17** - Maul - Head and Shoulders not to be lower than hips
- Law 17** - Maul - Pulling down the Maul
- Law 19** – Freedom for each team to determine Lineout Numbers

In addition to the approved Laws above, the ELV Free Kick sanctions at the tackle and ruck, played in Australia in 2009 was not adopted. This will mean returning to Penalty Kick sanctions at the tackle as was played domestically in community rugby in 2008 and prior to that season. The consequent change will mean that unplayable tackles, rucks and mauls will revert to a scrum restart as was the case in 2008 rather than the "use it or lose it" Free Kick sanction applied in 2009.

These changes are to be applied to all forms of rugby from Pathway to Senior.

In summary, the game will change in 2010:

- Penalty Kick sanctions will again be applied at tackle and ruck.
- Players will no longer be able to defend against the driving maul by pulling it down.
- The team not throwing in at the lineout cannot have more players participating in the lineout than the throwing team.

In addition to the above, the IRB also wrote into Law provisions allowing for Unions to employ Law variations implementing rolling substitutions and addressing uncontested scrums. After canvassing opinions on these issues from various stakeholders, the ARU's Laws Advisory Group (LAG) has met to discuss how these provisions will be applied across Australia.

A recommendation has been drafted and a memo with details of these two matters will be disseminated to Member Unions and Affiliates for comment later this week before a final decision is made.

Kind regards,



Ian Alker
General Manager, Community Rugby