

Law Guidance Card

Youth & Senior 2007-2008



U7 to U12 Age Grades

Playing regulations for these age grades are detailed in the RFU/RFUW's Rugby Continuum, which can be found on the RFU's web site at www.rfu.com in the Regulations Section. Boys and girls can play mixed rugby within the Continuum.

Girls U12 Rugby

U12 girls may continue to play U12s mixed rugby in the RFU continuum.

U12 girls may apply for a dispensation to play down in the U11 age group of the RFU continuum.

Clubs may field girls only U12s teams against other girls sides. U12 sides can include U12s and U11s girls and will play to the same laws and variations as U10s Mini rugby detailed in the RFU Continuum. This includes contact rugby with a maximum of 9 players. Contested scrums (3 a side) and lineouts are permitted where both coaches are satisfied that the players involved have been suitably prepared.

Lower Age Band (U15)

This age band takes into account players aged 12, 13 and 14 on 1st September. The RFUW's U15 matches should be played to the RFU U14 variations but with the following difference:

- **13 aside - 6 in scrum & 7 backs**
- **25 minute halves**
- **Size 4 ball**
- **Substituted players can be re-used at anytime**
- **Festival and Tournament 80 minutes of rugby per day**
- **Line-out – Law 19.** Lifting/supporting is prohibited in these age groups, i.e. a player may not bind to a jumper until that player has returned to the ground.
- **Scrum – Law 20.**

The scrum half not throwing the ball into the scrum must not move beyond the middle line of the scrum until the ball has emerged from the scrum or an opponent has placed their hands on the ball. In the event of a strike against the head, the scrum-half who has thrown the ball into the scrum is similarly restricted in not following the ball.

NB Contested scrums are permitted if both coaches agree. Coaches must ensure that the players have been suitably prepared for contested scrums. If there is any doubt then scrums must be uncontested.

Upper Age Band (U18)

This age band takes into account players aged 15, 16 or 17 on September 1st. The RFUW's U18 matches should be played to the **IRB U19 variations**. (www.irb.com).

From their 18th birthday players may elect to register as a senior player and may participate in senior training sessions and matches as well as U18 training sessions and matches. They will however be restricted in cups and some tournaments to only one category.

Conditions:

- 1) The age group Coach should be qualified and have completed a recognised Child Protection course.
- 2) The coach must discuss with the parents, the differences in physical development of all the children in the proposed age band and how it affects their child before obtaining their consent.
- 3) The parents must be fully briefed by the coach concerned on how their child could cope with the differences in physical development between the children in their age band.
- 4) Players must be registered on the RFU Youth registration scheme.
- 5) Match Day Forms must be completed for every Junior Match played.

Senior Variations

Premiership and the Championship play in accordance with current IRB laws (www.irb.com). National Challenge Leagues play in accordance with current U19 IRB laws apart from the following variations:

National Challenge 2 and below

- All matches can be played with reduced numbers and teams either match 15 or 12 a side.
- 12 a side will comprise of 6 forwards and 6 backs (front row, second row, number 8).
- Maximum of 20 players with 10 interchanges allowed using roll on, roll off substitutes.

SAFETY NOTE

Coaches at all times should bear in mind their responsibility for player safety and appropriate introduction to the demands of the game.