

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11 November 2008  
TO: State & Territory Union CEOs, ARU affiliates  
FROM: Matt Carroll, Deputy Chief Executive  
SUBJECT: Law Application 2009

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### Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) – Season 2009

The IRB have approved an extension for unions currently trialing the ELVs to continue the trial in 2009. Therefore the ARU Board has approved the continuation of the ELV trial at all levels of the game in Australia for the 2009 season.

ARU Board approval was based on research and survey work conducted by the ARU over the last 12 months and consultation with key stakeholders. This decision will ensure one set of laws is played, coached and refereed across Australia in 2009.

For U/19 and below the ARU has adjusted a number of the ELVs to better suit the variations that occur at these levels of the Game.

Outlined below are the key components of the Laws that will be played in Australia in 2009. Training and education resources are currently being produced to support an extensive education program.

### Law Implementation in Australian Rugby 2009

#### Super 14 and Tri Nations

August 1 approved IRB ELV's plus the inclusion of the sanctions.

#### All Senior club

August 1 approved IRB ELV's plus the inclusion of the sanctions.

#### U/19

##### (a) ELV's

August 1 approved IRB ELV's plus the inclusion of the sanctions with the exception of ELV Law No. 18 – *Players are able to defend the Maul by bringing it down*. The ARU is of the view that further safety research is needed before this ELV is adopted at U/19 level and below.

##### (b) Other U/19 Law Changes

In terms of the U/19 Laws two other law changes have been approved, separate to the ELV's. These are:

- **Sin Bin.** ARU support a change of this law to align with the IRB U/19 Variation where the time will move from 5 minutes to 10 minutes and no replacement player is allowed.

- **Red Card.** ARU support a change into this Law to align with the IRB U/19 Variation where no replacement is allowed once a player has been sent from the field of play.

The ARU also wish to advise that in recent years there has been a strong push for the ARU to align the scrum binding laws to the IRB U/19 Laws. Currently ARU U/19 variation indicates hip bind where the IRB indicates crotch bind for locks onto front row. ARU participated in a research project by Peter Milburn in 1987 which concluded the following:

"Milburn found the crotch binding technique added to the downward force at engagement and was considered to increase the risk of scrum collapse at engagement".

No other research evidence has been completed in this area. The IRB are currently conducting a Scrum research project and have been made aware of the Milburn research.

Without further research the ARU has not approved a change to the law on scrum binding at U/19 level in 2009 and await further IRB research results currently being conducted by the IRB Laws Project Group.

#### **Pathway - Mini and Midi.**

August 1 approved ELV's including the sanctions but excluding the following ELV's;

- No 6 – Numbers in the lineout remain the same
- No 9 – No Pre-gripping in Lineout
- No 10 – No Lifting in the lineout
- No 18 – No Pulling down the Maul (as with U/19)
- No 21 – Scrum half offside line (this already exists)

#### **Walla Rugby**

No Change to current Laws.

This directive will ensure all forms of the game in Australia have a common set of Laws in 2009. Continuing feedback on the ELVs is important and during 2009 a survey will be conducted to give the key decision makers tangible evidence on which to base their final decision. Therefore we will be working with unions operating at all levels of the game to ensure we collect and analyse feedback. The IRB will make a final decision in 2009 on the Laws of the game that will be universally played until after RWC in 2011.

Please disseminate this to all relevant Rugby bodies within your jurisdiction.

Kind Regards



Matt Carroll AM  
Deputy CEO  
Australian Rugby Union

**NOTE. A summary Page is included**



ELV Implementation in Australia in 2009

	ORIGINAL ELV	IRB Approved 1/8/08 to 1/8/09	S 14	TNS	Premier & All Senior rugby (as per SANZAR)	U/19	Pathway (U/9-U/12)
1	Assistant Referees able to assist Referees in any way which the Referee requires.	√	√	√	√	√	√
2	The corner posts are no longer considered to be in touch in-goal except when the ball is grounded against the post.	√	√	√	√	√	√
<b>LINE OUT and THROW IN</b>							
3	If a team puts the ball back into their own 22 and the ball is subsequently kicked directly into touch there is no gain in ground.	√	√	√	√	√	√
4	A quick throw may be thrown in straight or towards the throwing teams own goal line.	√	√	√	√	√	√
5	Incorrect throw (not straight) the sanction is a Free Kick.	X	X	X	X	X	X
6	There is no restriction on the number of players who can participate in the Lineout from either side.	√	√	√	√	√	X
7	The receiver at the Lineout must be 2 metres back away from the Lineout.	√	√	√	√	√	√
8	The player who is in opposition to the player throwing in the ball may stand in the area between the 5 metre line and touch line but must be 2 metres away from the Lineout.	√	√	√	√	√	√
9	Lineout players may pre-grip a jumper before the ball is thrown in.	√	√	√	√	√	X
10	The lifting of Lineout jumpers is permitted	√	√	√	√	√	X
<b>TACKLE and RUCK</b>							
11	Offside Line at the tackle	X	X	X	X	X	X
12	Players on their feet can play the ball with their hands	X	X	X	X	X	X
13	If the ball becomes unplayable at the Tackle or Ruck the team not in possession is awarded a Free Kick.	X	√	√	√	√	√
14	There are two Penalty Kicks awarded at the Tackle and Ruck - Offside and Foul Play	X	√	√	√	√	√
15	A reference to Unfair Play has been added to Law 15	X	√	√	√	√	√
<b>OFFSIDE</b>							
16	Players being put onside after a tackle.	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>MAUL</b>							
17	Remove reference to heads and shoulders not to be lower than hips.	√	√	√	√	√	√
18	Players are able to defend a Maul by pulling it down.	√	√	√	√	X	X
19	If the ball becomes unplayable at the Maul a Free Kick is awarded to the team not in possession.	X	√	√	√	√	√
<b>SCRUM</b>							
20	Introduction of an offside line five metres behind the hindmost feet of the Scrum.	√	√	√	√	√	√
21	Scrum Half Offside Lines	√	√	√	√	√	X
<b>KICK OFF AND RESTARTS</b>							
22	Incorrect Kick Offs and Restart Kicks result in a free Kick for the opposition.	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>SANCTIONS</b>							
23	Reduction of sanctions to Free Kicks from Penalty Kicks where possible.	X	√	√	√	√	√

X - Difference

