

# You and the ELVs: a RFU Age Grade Guide

The RFU has embraced all but 2 of the 13 new Experimental Law Variations. Here is a brief guide to how they will affect your team this coming season.

| LAW  | Discussion  | U8 | U9  | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 |
|--|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Law 6 - Match Officials</b>   |   |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>1</b> Assistant referees are able to assist the referee in any way that the referee requires.   | No effect   | No | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| <b>Law 17 - Maul</b>   |   |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>2</b> Remove reference to head and shoulders not being lower than hips.   | Not allowed by RFU for this season.   | No | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| <b>3</b> Players are able to defend a maul by pulling it down.   | Not allowed by RFU for this season.   | No | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| <b>Law 19 - Touch and Lineout</b>  |   |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>4</b> If a team puts the ball back into its own 22 and the ball is subsequently kicked directly into touch, there is no gain in ground. | There is no kicking allowed until U11. No fly hacking until U13.  | No | No  | No  | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES |
| <b>5</b> A quick throw in may be thrown in straight or towards the throwing team's own goal line.  | Quick throw ins are allowed from Under 13s onwards.   | No | No  | No  | No  | No  | YES | YES | YES |
| <b>6</b> There is no restriction on the number of players from either team who can participate in the lineout.                             | Affects under 13 and onwards. At U9 and U10, both teams must have 2 each in the lineout. At U11: 4 and at U12: 5.   | No | No  | No  | No  | No  | YES | YES | YES |
| <b>7</b> The receiver at the lineout must be 2 metres away from the lineout.   | For most teams the scrum half is in the receiver position and must be 2m back from the lineout. Makes it easier for the referee to see who is in and out of the lineout for offside purposes. | No | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES |

# You and the ELVs: a RFU Age Grade Guide

| LAW   | Discussion   | U8  | U9  | U10 | U11 | U12 | U13 | U14 | U15 |
|---|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>8</b> The player who is in opposition to the player throwing in the ball must stand in the area between the 5-metre line and the touch line but must be 2 metres away from the 5-metre line. | The hooker must be 2m back from the front of the lineout, though practically, up to under 12, he must be within 2m of the thrower. | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | YES | YES | YES |
| <b>9</b> Lineout players may pre-grip a jumper before the ball is thrown in.  | Lifting and pre-gripping only allowed from U16 upwards.  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| <b>10</b> The lifting of lineout players is permitted.  | Tidies up what was already happening before BUT remember players cannot be lifted until the ball has left the hands of the hooker. | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  | No  |
| <b>Law 20 - Scrum</b>   |  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>11</b> Introduction of an offside line 5 metres behind the hindmost feet of the scrum.   | Applies to U9 and above , (U9, and U10 backs had to be 7m, now it is 5m)   | No  | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES |
| <b>12</b> Identification of scrum half offside lines.   | The scrum half has to stay in close proximity to the scrum. Otherwise he must retire 5m.   | No  | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES |
| <b>Law 22 – Corner Posts</b>  |  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>13</b> The corner posts are no longer considered to be touch-in-goal except when the ball is grounded against the post.  | Applicable to all levels.  | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES | YES |

*Also note that at all age groups from Under 9 to senior, it is prohibited to swing a player around by his jersey. Fending off and handing off is allowed from Under 13s upwards.*