

# GLOBAL LAW CHANGES

**1 JULY 2024**

(for new competitions/leagues starting after)



**LAW CHANGE – 1 JULY 2024**  
**NO CROC ROLLS**



# CROC ROLLS

## RATIONALE:

- Unanimous agreement from global stakeholders at the Shape of the Game conference in March 2024 - Croc roll MUST be removed from the game to protect player welfare.
- A downward action on a jackler's back/lower half and then rolled to ground from an arriving player is no longer allowed.

**The law change will encourage players to remain on their feet and drive the jackler instead of using a croc roll**



Thanks to Richie Gray, GSI Performance & WR Tackle consultant

# CROC ROLL

## DEFINITION OF CROC ROLL:

**Crocodile roll:** A prohibited action where a player laterally rolls/twists or pulls a player, who is on their feet in the tackle area, to ground. The action often lands on the player's lower limbs

## What we sometimes see:

- a. Twisting action – Wraps/rolls/twists on jackler dropping weight onto/near lower limbs
- b. Pulling action - Pulling jackler and dropping weight onto/near lower limbs; pulling jackler around, or onto, heads/necks; or pulling a jackler forward onto their heads/necks

## “Drive not dive” is key communications phrase to be using

If player is driven backwards and then goes to ground, this in itself isn't a croc roll.

## Good practice examples to encourage:



# CROC ROLL

## LAW WORDINGS

**Definition:** Crocodile roll: A prohibited action where a player laterally rolls/twists or pulls a player, who is on their feet in the tackle area, to ground. The action often lands on the player's lower limbs

### Law 9.20d & e (Dangerous play in a ruck/maul)

d. A player may remove the jackler from the tackle area by pushing/driving them backwards (including by grabbing the knee/leg), but must not roll, pull or twist an opponent.

e. A player must not drop their weight onto an opponent or target the lower limbs.  
(Sanction: Penalty)

New clause in 14.8 (Tackle Law). Other players must:

e: Not roll, pull or twist an opponent, who is involved in the tackle, to the ground



# CROC ROLL

## Levels of sanction

**FOUL PLAY** – arriving player pulls or rolls jackler past the point of initial contact forward (risk of dropping on limbs or hyper extension).

Similar to the Head Contact Process, the level of sanction is based on the degree of danger of the action and the proximity to limbs.

**PK** or **YC** - Croc roll with a drop near or onto lower limb – Low/Medium danger



**RC** - Croc roll with a drop onto lower limb or causing hyper extension of leg – High danger



**LAW CHANGE – 1 JULY 2024**  
**NO SCRUM OPTION FROM A FK**



# NO SCRUM FROM A FREE KICK

## Law wordings

**Rationale: Speeding up play after technical offences by avoiding multiple reset scrums**

Law 20: Options at a penalty or free-kick

Law 20.3 A team awarded a penalty ~~or a free-kick~~ may instead choose a scrum.

Law 20.4 a. A team awarded a penalty ~~or free-kick~~ at a lineout may instead choose a lineout or a scrum at the same mark.

b. A team awarded a free-kick at a lineout may instead choose a lineout at the same mark.

Consequential change: Mark law

17.6 If the player is **injured in the act of claiming a Mark, and** is unable to take the free-kick within one minute, **a team-mate may take the Free Kick.**





# NO SCRUM FROM A FREE KICK

## Application Questions

### WHAT HAPPENS IF WE HAVE CHEATING FROM THE WEAKER SCRUM?

- Referees to manage/sanction these situations strongly
- Deliberate infringing of the laws of the game is an offence with a PK sanction (9.7a)
- Repeat offences can be escalated to PK in the usual way

### QUICK TAPS

- Following the law change we expect to see more quick taps at scrum
- Quick taps must be played behind the scrum (around no8 position)
- Defending players who aren't 10m must retreat

**LAW CHANGE – 1 JULY 2024**  
**OFFSIDE IN FRONT OF A KICK**



# OFFSIDE IN FRONT OF A KICK

## Law wordings

**Rationale:** Clearing up space for players to attack into, reducing loitering offside

**Law 10.1:** A player is offside in open play if that player is in front of a team-mate who is carrying the ball or who last played it. An offside player must not interfere with play. This includes:

- a. Playing the ball.
- b. Tackling the ball-carrier.
- c. Preventing the opposition from playing as they wish.
- d. Loitering in an offside position

**Law 10.4** An offside player may be penalised, if that player:

- a. Does not make an effort to retreat and interferes with play; or
- b. Moves forwards towards the ball; or

**Law 10.7** Other than under Law 10.4c, an offside player can be put onside when:

- a. An onside team-mate of that player moves past the offside player and is within or has re-entered the playing area.
- b. An opponent of that player:
  - ~~i. Carries the ball five metres; or~~
  - ~~ii. Passes the ball; or~~
  - i. Kicks the ball; or
  - ii. Intentionally touches the ball without gaining possession of it.



# OFFSIDE IN FRONT OF A KICK

## Application Questions

WHAT IF THE KICK RECEIVER INTENTIONALLY PLAYS THE BALL WITH HAND OR FOOT WITHOUT GAINING POSSESSION?

- All the players in front of their kicker must have been retreating
- If the ball is played (attempted catch/trapped with feet) the offside players can then move forward once the ball has been touched
  - This meets the definition of “intentionally played without gaining possession” as per 10.7b ii.
  - This is only the case if they are more than 10m away of the ball alighting. If they are within 10m, Law 10.4c is in play

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS NO PLAYER TO PUT TEAM-MATES ONSIDE? I.E. THE KICKER IS LEGALLY TACKLED WITH NO SUPPORT?

- All the players in front of their kicker must retreat until put onside (see video)
- Coaches/Teams need to be aware of this while defending (similar to defending against the 50:22 with extra defender covering space)



# OFFSIDE IN FRONT OF A KICK

## Application Questions

### WHEN BALL GOES INTO TOUCH – WHAT ARE THE OBLIGATIONS FOR THE PLAYERS WHO WERE IN FRONT OF KICK?

- If the ball is still live (ie a Quick throw-in is on) then the offside players still need to be retreating and can't benefit from loitering.
- When referee blows whistle or AR arm goes out, signalling a lineout is to take place, that act makes the ball dead and so the players can move to the line of touch. (This was the subject of a 2012 Law Application Guideline)

### WHAT IS A RETREAT?

- Players in an offside position must be moving – walk, jog, run – towards their onside team-mates



# Thank you

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