



# GLOBAL LAW TRIALS 2025

# 2025 LAW CHANGES AND GLOBAL LAW TRIALS

## Full Law (Jul 24)

**FK = NO SCRUM**

**IFOK OFFSIDES**

**CROC ROLL BANNED**

## Global Law Trials (New comps after 1 Jan 25)

### **TIMINGS**

- 60 second conversions, 30 seconds for LO formation

**NOT STRAIGHT L/O =  
PLAY ON IF NO CONTEST**

**TMO PROTOCOL**  
- Last attacking phase

**CLEANER BALL AT  
SCRUM/RUCK/MAUL**

**MARK FROM A KICK-OFF  
& RESTART**

**MAUL STOP ONCE ONLY**

**20 MIN RED CARD  
REPLACEMENT**

[Elite rugby – deferred to 2025]

# TIMINGS

## Kicks at Goal

- Penalties – 60 seconds (existing law)
- Conversions – 60 seconds (change from 90 seconds)

## Set piece

- Lineout – “within 30 seconds” replaces “without delay” when forming a lineout (sanction: FK)
- Now matches the time set in law for a scrum



# TIMINGS - FAQs

**At a conversion, does it have to be the same ball?**

- No. It's OK to use a different ball if first one now unavailable. Law 8.8a has been removed. The intent is to speed up the taking of the conversion.

**What if you need to pause the 60 seconds at a kick at goal?**

- If there's an injury/replacement/TMO check, then stop the clock if needed. Then allow up to 60 seconds when issue resolved.

**Lineout: 30 seconds from when?**

- When either referee/AR makes the mark for the lineout, or referee for scrum.
- If a genuine injury slows the formation of a lineout (or a scrum), pause the time, or delay setting mark.



# CLEANER PLAY FROM RUCK, MAUL & SCRUM

## Ruck: Law 15: New law 15.18

A player who is, or was part of the ruck may not play an opponent who is near it (within 1m), and who is attempting to play the ball away

Sanction: Penalty

## Maul: Law 16: New law 16.18

A player who is, or was part of the maul may not play an opponent near it (within 1m), and who is attempting to play the ball away

Sanction: Penalty

## Scrum: Law 19: Amend 19.30:

Once play in the scrum begins, the scrum-half of the team not in possession:

- Takes up a position near the scrum, **no further than the centre line of the tunnel**

19.30 b & c unchanged

Sanction: Penalty.



Actions of White 13  
on Blue 9 – PK  
(match in closed law trial)



Actions of Gold 3 on  
White 9 – would now  
be a PK  
(match not in trial)



Good examples of new scrum  
offside line

Defending 9 can stay at tunnel or move to anywhere on back foot (or back 5m)  
(match in closed law trial)

# CLEANER PLAY FROM RUCK/MAUL - FAQ

## What if 9 steps away to box kick or picks and goes?

- When the ball is no longer 'near' the scrum/ruck/maul, open play begins.
- Onside players not involved in the ruck/maul may move forward and tackle the 9 once they are in possession.

## Can a player who was bound in the ruck/maul get to the 9 as the ball is played away?

- No, not while the scrum half is still near to the ruck/maul. This includes players who were originally bound in and then unbind.

## Is it just the player wearing shirt number 9 who is protected?

- No, the law covers any player in the scrum half position who is playing the ball away from the scrum/ruck/maul

## If a ruck participant has unbound and fully retired to the backfoot, can they then tackle the 9?

- Yes, onside players not involved in the ruck/maul may move forward and tackle the 9 once the ball has been lifted and they are in possession.
- The "or was in.." relates to players still in and around the ruck/maul who have not retired to the relevant offside line

## Can a player in a maul when it ends, move to block a kick by the player who took the ball more than 1m from the ruck/maul?

- Yes. If the scrum half has moved the ball away from the maul, open play has resumed and so a player who was always legal can be involved in play.

## What if there's a counter-ruck that disrupts the 9?

- The change doesn't impact the ability to counter ruck legally on any opposition player. Match officials asked to decide whether it's a counter ruck or an action to play the scrum half once they have gained possession and are then attempting to play the ball away.

# CLEANER PLAY FROM SCRUM - FAQ

## **At a scrum, where should non-throwing in 9 start?**

- If they chose to have one, they should start near to the 9 throwing the ball in (Law 19.28a). Otherwise, they can start and remain on the 5m offside line with the other players until the scrum ends.

## **After the put in, where can the non-throwing 9 go?**

- 3 options – stay close to the scrum at tunnel, go anywhere along the backfoot offside line, or anywhere back 5m.

## **What if the scrum wheels?**

- The tunnel remains the tunnel regardless of the angle and player should remain at that point. Or they can move to the backfoot offside line or back 5m (as per 19.30 a, b, c)

# LINEOUT NOT STRAIGHT - PLAY ON IF UNCONTESTED

## Law 18.23:

The ball must:

a. Be thrown in straight along the mark of touch  
towards a lineout player;

Sanction: If the defending team are not lifted to  
compete for the ball, then play shall continue.

If the defending team lift a teammate to compete for  
the ball, then they shall be offered the option of a  
lineout or scrum. If the lineout is chosen and the ball  
is again not thrown straight, a scrum is awarded to the  
team that originally threw in the ball.

No intention by Green  
to compete for ball =>  
would now be play on



No intention by Red to  
compete for ball => play  
on



If players lifted to compete => LO/scrum option applies





# LINEOUT NOT STRAIGHT - PLAY ON IF UNCONTESTED



## FAQ

### Can Hooker just throw the ball to the receiver?

- The throw must still be thrown straight to a player in the lineout - deliberately throwing the ball not straight is not allowed.

### What about long and short throws?

- Over-throws beyond 15m and quick/short throws to the front player still need to be straight, regardless of competition. Scrum/LO option if not.

### What if a single player just jumps at the back – is that enough?

- No – any jumper has to be lifted to compete for ball.
- A lift at any lineout position (front/middle/back) will be deemed competition, regardless of where the throw goes.

Remember the intent of the change – remove an unnecessary second stoppage when a non-material offence takes place, and opposition has opted out of the contest for possession.



# Implementation



**New competitions/leagues that  
start after 1 January 2025**





**THANK YOU**

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