



MEMO TO COACHES, REFEREES AND ADMINISTRATORS

July 30th, 2021

GLOBAL LAW TRIALS

World Rugby (WR) has announced several Global Law Trials that go into effect on August 1st, 2021. These trials are not minor tweaks and will have some significant effects on safety and strategy. We strongly recommend all players and coaches familiarize themselves with the new Laws. Referees must learn all the details.

More information can be found at: <https://www.world.rugby/the-game/laws/global-law-trials>. This resource includes many good video examples. (World Rugby has not yet updated their mobile Laws app, but we expect that to happen soon.)

APPLICATION IN THE USA

These trial laws will be adopted here in the USA, except for competitions that began prior to August 1st. For consistency:

- All sevens matches will continue without the trial Laws through August 15th, when the National Club Sevens Championship concludes. From August 16th onward, all sevens matches must be played under the trial Laws.
- All other matches must be played under the trial Laws from August 2nd onward.
- Any group wishing to request an exemption should contact USA Rugby (jmcgregor@usa.rugby).

SUMMARY OF TRIALS

50:22

If the team in possession kicks the ball from inside their own half indirectly (i.e. it bounces first) into touch inside their opponents' 22, they will throw into the resulting lineout. The ball cannot be passed or carried back into the defensive half for the 50:22 to be played. The phase immediately prior to the kick (tackle, ruck or maul) must originate inside the defensive half, or an opponent touches the ball inside the half before it is kicked.

Goal line drop-out

If the ball is held up in in-goal, or there is a knock-on from an attacking player in in-goal, or an attacking kick is made dead by the defending team inside their own in-goal, then play restarts with a goal line drop-out anywhere along the goal line.

1-player latch

One support player may pre-latch to a ball carrier prior to contact. If the ball carrier is tackled, this player must observe all the requirements for a first arriving player, particularly the need to stay on their feet and not obstruct an opposing tackler or player trying to contest for the ball. The first opposition player may still attempt to tackle the ball carrier, and will not be considered to have automatically created a maul when they make initial contact.

Flying Wedge

Two or more support players may not bind onto a ball carrier prior to opposition contact play. This is dangerous play. (Usually happens near the goal line or in open play.)

Cleanout and safety of the 'jackler'

The 'jackler' has now been defined as the first arriving team-mate of the tackler at the tackle. A Penalty Kick has been added for clean-outs which target or drop weight onto this player's lower limbs. No-wrap hits and 'neck rolls' on a jackler are still foul play. Claspings a jackler under their armpits to lever them up and out of the contest (known as a 'gator roll') is still legal.

FURTHER MATERIALS

An updated Game Management Guidelines document will be released for the 2021-22 season in early August. USA Rugby will also be hosting a webinar for coaches and referees covering the Law trials:

Global Law Trials Webinar

Roundtable discussion with:

Angus Gardner – World Rugby Test Referee, Australia

Jenny Lui – Eagle #210 and WNT 15s Assistant Coach

Tim O'Brien – US Rugby HOF Coach and Head Coach Saint Mary's College

Date: Thursday August 5th, 8:30pm Eastern

Registration for webinar: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s3-FU4NOTj-Xe_zRFCVS7A

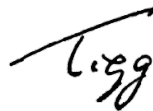
The webinar will be subsequently posted online for distribution to all coaches and referees.

We know we all look forward to rugby's large-scale return in the USA.

If you have any questions about the Global Law Trials' implementation in the USA, please contact the Referee and Laws Committee's Match Management Working Group at laws@usa.rugby



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