

Section 16. Duties of Referee and Touch Judges (continued)

- When to blow whistle**
- 8.1 The Referee must carry a whistle which he shall blow to commence and terminate each half of the game. Except for these occasions the blowing of the whistle shall temporarily stop the play. The Referee shall blow the whistle:**
- (a) when a try or a goal has been scored
 - (b) when the ball has gone out of play
 - (c) when re-starting play, other than at a scrum
 - (d) when he detects a breach of the Laws of the Game, except when to stop the play would be to the disadvantage of the non-offending team
 - (e) when play is irregularly affected by the ball or the player carrying the ball coming into contact with the Referee, a Touch Judge, or with any person not taking part in the match or with any object which should not normally be on the playing field
 - (f) when any irregularity, not provided for in these Laws, occurs and one team unjustifiably gains an advantage
 - (g) when a stoppage is necessary in order to enforce the Laws or for any other reason.
- 8.2 Where a Referee has stopped play to administer a caution to a player or players he shall indicate extra time until he blows his whistle to re-start play.**

NOTES

- Whistle blown accidentally**
8. *Play must stop even if the whistle is blown accidentally in which case play is re-started with a scrum where the ball was last touched by a player in the field of play before the whistle is blown, and his team shall be given the loose head and put -in.*
- Apply advantage**
8. *The advantage law applies to all phases of play, but where a team infringes in a strong tactical position the advantage should be allowed only if the ball goes immediately into the possession of the non-offending team.*
- The Referee is the sole judge of what constitutes an advantage be it tactical or territorial. An infringement is not 'negated' simply because the ball touches or is touched by an opponent. The opponent must have adequate opportunity to take advantage and endeavour to do so before play is allowed to proceed.*
- Application of the advantage laws does not deprive the Referee of subsequently dealing with an offending player.*
- Mutual Infringement**
8.1(e) and (f)
- Where play is irregularly affected in the field of play, the Referee shall re-start play with a scrum with the attacking team (i.e. with territorial advantage) to receive the loose head and feed. The Referee is the sole judge of what constitutes a mutual infringement, and whether or not play has been irregularly affected. Contact between a defender and Referee may not constitute a mutual infringement.*

Section 16. Duties of Referee and Touch Judges (continued)

- Changing decision** 9. The Referee judges on matters of fact and shall not subsequently alter those judgments. He may cancel any decision made if prior foul play of which he had no knowledge is reported to him by a Touch Judge.
- Accept Touch Judge decision** 10. The Referee shall accept the decision of an official Touch Judge relating to touch and touch in-goal play and to kicks at goal.
- Touch Judge** 11. Each Touch Judge shall remain in touch, one on each side of, and near to, the playing field except:–
(a) when judging kicks at goal (see Section 6) and
(b) when reporting a player's misconduct which has escaped the notice of the Referee.
- Flag** 12. Each Touch Judge must carry an approved flag.
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NOTES

Infringement by attacking team

If a team infringes when in a strong attacking position territorial or tactical, the Referee should stop play promptly, unless the ball is immediately possessed by the defending team because a loose ball cannot be considered to be of advantage to a team in a weak, defensive position.

Applying the advantage law does not deprive the Referee of his power to deal subsequently with any offending player.

Awarding a Try

9. *The circumstances referred to in this Law will not arise when a try is scored as the Referee shall look at both Touch Judges before awarding a try.*

Touch Judge under control of Referee

10. *A Touch Judge is at all times under the control of the Referee and may be dismissed and replaced if, in the opinion of the Referee, he can no longer be considered to be neutral. In this case, any decision made by a Touch Judge leading to his dismissal may be disregarded. Any misconduct by a Touch Judge should be reported by the Referee to the appropriate authority.*

Report misconduct quickly

11. (b) *If a Touch Judge wishes to report a player's misconduct he should advise the Referee as quickly as possible in order to avoid any unnecessary continuation of play. Any subsequent penalty is awarded where the offence occurred and not where play is subsequently stopped.*

No undue interference

A Touch Judge must not unduly interfere with the Referee's control of the game by reporting incidents which have obviously been seen by the Referee.

Section 16. Duties of Referee and Touch Judges (continued)

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| Indicating Touch | 13. A Touch Judge shall indicate when and where the ball goes into touch by raising his flag and standing opposite the point of entry into touch except in the case of 'ball back' (see Section 9 para. 4) when the Touch Judge must indicate that no ground has been gained by waving his flag above his head accentuating the movement in the direction of the kicker's goal-line. |
| Indicating Touch in-Goal | 14. If the ball enters touch in-goal the Touch Judge shall wave the flag across the body and below the waist. With the other hand he/she points to either the goal line or twenty metre line depending on where play should be re-started. Do not point to the player who made the ball dead. |
| Judge kicks at goal | 15. Touch Judges shall assist the Referee in judging kicks at goal. (See Section 6 para.10). |
| Indicating 10 Meters | 16. When a free kick is being taken, and the referee chooses to take up a position at the mark, both Touch Judges shall take up a position near the touch line ten metres beyond the mark to act as a guide for the team which is required to retire. (See Section 13 Note to Laws 3 and 4 "Retiring ten metres".) |
| Official Inquiry | 17. In cases where circumstances in connection with the match are likely to be made the subject of official investigation, the Referee and Touch Judges shall report to the investigating authority only and shall refrain from expressing criticism or comment through other channels. |
| Touch Judge Responsibility | 18. It is a duty of the Touch Judges to replace a corner post which is displaced during a game, or ensure that it is replaced appropriately without causing delay to a game. |

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| <i>Ball swerving back into Playing Field</i> | 13. A Touch Judge should not raise his flag immediately the ball in flight crosses the touch line if there is a possibility of it swerving or being blown back into the playing field because play is not stopped if the ball does drop back into the playing field. |
| <i>Controversial decisions</i> | 15. If any decision by a Referee is likely to be controversial, the Referee may explain his reasons for making the decisions if by so doing unnecessary misunderstanding or controversy can be avoided. |

SECTION 17

REFEREE'S SIGNALS

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| Signal nature of offence | 1. When the Referee is required to give a decision he shall whenever possible indicate the nature of his decision by making the appropriate signal. |
| Indicate how play re-starts | 2. When he wishes to stop the game temporarily, he shall, after blowing his whistle, indicate the nature of the decision, point to the offending player and then signal as to how the game is to be re-started. |
| Example | <p>For example if the scrum half puts the ball into his own side of the scrum the referee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) blows his whistle and indicates the scrum half has put the ball in wrongly.(2) points to the offending scrum half and then(3) signals that a penalty has been given. <p>The Referee can, with advantage, repeat the signal indicating the nature of the offence in order to reduce the need for verbal explanations to the players. This applies particularly to scrum offences where some of the forwards may miss the first signal if they still have their heads down in the scrum.</p> |
| Signals for Re-starting Play | <p>3. The signals to be given by a Referee are set out below.</p> <p>Scrum. With bent arms, palms of hands facing each other at shoulder level, fingers together and slightly bent, bring the tops of the fingers together with a slight downward movement and then point to the team awarded the loose head and put-in.</p> <p>Penalty Kick. Face the non-offending team and extend an arm forward with the hand slightly higher than the shoulder level and the palm of the hand at right angles to the ground.</p> <p>Differential Penalty. Extend the arm as for an ordinary penalty then move the arm to the upright position. Perform this action twice with the whole movement being continuous and decisive.</p> <p>Drop-out. Point to the place from which the drop kick is to be taken.</p> |
| Relating to Scoring | <p>Try. Point to where try is awarded. Instruct the Touch Judge to stand on this point temporarily as a guide to the player who is to take the goal kick.</p> <p>Penalty Try. Point to midway between the posts and take up position temporarily on this point as a guide to the kicker.</p> <p>Eight Point Try. This term is used to indicate that a penalty kick has been awarded for foul play against a try scorer. Instruct a Touch Judge to take up position in front of the posts ten metres from the goal line before retiring behind the goal posts to judge on the conversion attempt.</p> <p>Goal. Raise hand above head.</p> |

Section 17. Referee's Signals (continued)

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| Signals made when play is not necessarily stopped | <p>Try disallowed. Wave hands, palms facing downwards across and in front of the body below the waist. Play on. Wave the hands chest high palms facing away from the chest across and in front of the body.</p> <p>Ball touched in flight. Raise one hand above the head and tap the tips of the fingers with the fingers of the other hand.</p> <p>Count of Tackles is cancelled. Raise clenched fist above head and wave from side to side.</p> <p>Player "held" and to play-the-ball. Indicate that players not concerned with the play-the-ball must retire by making a signal chest-high, similar to the breast stroke in swimming.</p> |
| Signals indicating infringements | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Knock-on. With hands in front of the body, below the waist, slightly apart, palms facing forward and fingers pointing towards the ground, make two or three forward movements of the hands.2. Forward Pass. Make a forward movement with the straight arm indicating the line of flight of the ball. |
| Scrum | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Scrum half feeds "own feet". With hands and arms mime the action of the scrum half putting the ball into the scrum, but exaggerate the angle at which it was thrown.4. Scrum half "dummies". Mime the action of the scrum half but emphasise the backward motion of the hands.5. Scrum half fails to retire. Make a movement with the hand indicating the direction the scrum half should have taken.6. Scrum half throws the ball upwards into the scrum. Mime the action of the scrum half exaggerating the upward movement of the hands.7. Hooker strikes prematurely. Raise a foot from the ground in front of the body with the leg straight.8. Hooker packs with a Loose Arm. Raise one arm sideways with elbow bent so that the hand hangs downwards.9. Prop strikes for the ball. Raise a foot from the ground by extending the leg sideways from the body.10. Handling in the scrum. Make a backward scooping action with the hand.11. Collapsing the scrum. Make a lifting motion with the hand.12. More than seven backs. Point to one of the players who is detached from the scrum and who normally is in the pack and then hold up seven fingers.13. More than six players pushing in the scrum. Point to the player who is pushing and who is not normally in the scrum and then hold up six fingers. |

Section 17. Referee's Signals (continued)

Play-the-ball

14. Tackled player delays regaining his feet. Flick the hand in an upward direction.
15. Tackled player 'dummies' when dropping the ball. Mime the action of the offending player exaggerating the upward direction.
16. Tackled player fails to drop the ball correctly. If the ball has been dropped between the legs indicate the path of the ball. If the ball has been dropped to the side, point with one hand to the side.
17. Tackled player does not lift the ball clear of ground. Make a lifting movement with the hand.
18. Tackled player does not face opponents' in-goal. Stand at the angle offending player adopted and then turn to face the opponents' in-goal.
19. Tackled player fails to play-the-ball backwards or passes when he should have played the ball. Mime the gesture of playing the ball.
20. Tackled player obstructs or butts with his head after playing the ball. Mime his action.
21. Voluntary tackle. Make a lifting movement with hand.
22. The player marking the tackled player kicks or heels the ball. Make a kicking movement with the foot.
23. Player marking retains his hold on player playing the ball. Make a decisive backward movement with one hand. This signal applies to any interference by the player marking when the ball is actually being played other than kicking prematurely or dangerously (paragraph 22 above).
24. Tackler delays releasing tackled player. Make a downward movement with the hands in front of the body below the waist.
25. Offside at play-the-ball. With a backward movement of the hand indicate that the player should be further back.
26. Stealing of the ball from the tackled player. Mime the action of snatching the ball from the opponent.
27. Dragging tackled player after tackle is effective. Mime the action of dragging.
28. Team is tackled five successive times. Raise arm vertically above head with fingers and thumb outstretched.
29. Team is tackled six successive times. Blow the whistle, raise the arm vertically above the head, then point to the side which is to gain possession and mime the gesture of playing the ball. The surrendering of the ball is referred to as the 'handover'.
30. Count of tackle is cancelled and starts again. Wave clenched fist from side to side above head.

Section 17. Referee's Signals (continued)

**Drop-out
or Penalty**

31. Kicker fails to bring foot into contact with the ball. Tap the foot with one hand.

**Other
Infringements**

32. Offside. Indicate player should have been further back. (See No. 25).

33. Player in possession touches official. Point to the player in possession and tap the chest with one hand.

34. Obstruction. Mime the offending player's action.

35. Tripping. Extend one foot forward as if to trip.

36. Stiff arm tackle. Raise an arm in front of the body with fist clenched and as the arm is moved forward tap the forearm with the other hand.

37. Disputing decisions. Place one hand on the mouth.

38. Ball in Touch. Point to appropriate Touch Judge.

39. Extra time. Raise both arms vertically above head.

40. Ending Extra Time for Stoppage. Wave one arm over head.

41. Temporary Suspension of a Player. Raise both arms with fingers outstretched for ten minutes suspension.

42. Player directed to leave the field to receive attention for bleeding. Draw the hand across the chest from side to side.

**Touch Judge
signals**

43. The Touch Judge cannot stop the play for any infringement but he may signal the nature of an infringement if the Referee is unsighted and seeks his guidance.

Signals which may be used by a Touch Judge and which are not included in Para. 3 above are:-

Touch. Flag is raised about the head at the point of entry into touch..

Ball Back. Flag waved above head accentuating backward movement.

Touch in-Goal. Flag waved across the body, below the waist, and, with the other hand, point to either the goal line or 20 metre line depending on where play should be re-started. Do not point to the player who made the ball dead.

Successful Kick at Goal. Raise flag above head.

Unsuccessful Kick at Goal. Wave flag across and in front of the body below the waist. If the ball goes over the dead ball line, tap the ground with the end of the flag stick.

Dead Ball Line. Wave flag up and down between shoulder and knee and then point to appropriate re-start position.

SECTION 18

GROUND MARKINGS & DIMENSION GUIDELINES

- Introduction** These guidelines set out the official markings and dimensions of the playing surface for NRL Competition matches.
- Dimensions** Each NRL Competition venue playing surface will have the following dimensions:
Field Width: 68m
Length: Goal line to goal line - 100m
 In-goal areas - to measure 68m X 8m.
Goal posts: Height : 16m
 Width: 5.5 m
- Markings** Each NRL Competition venue playing surface will have the following markings:
- (a) Line Markings:
An unbroken red line shall be used for each of the two 40 metre lines
Unbroken lines (15cm in width and white in colour) for the following lines:
- * 10m
 - * 20m
 - * 30m
 - * halfway line
 - * try line
 - * dead ball line
 - * touch line
- (b) Distance markings:
Distance markers will be placed at the following lines and will be white in colour with a red outline and 2.0 metres in height:
- * 10m
 - * 20m
 - * 30m
 - * 40m
 - * 50m
- (c) Media Line:
Each venue will have a media restraining line marked out on either side of the field, 1.5m from touch line. This line is to be 10cm in width and red in colour.

(d) 10m and 20m scrum lines:

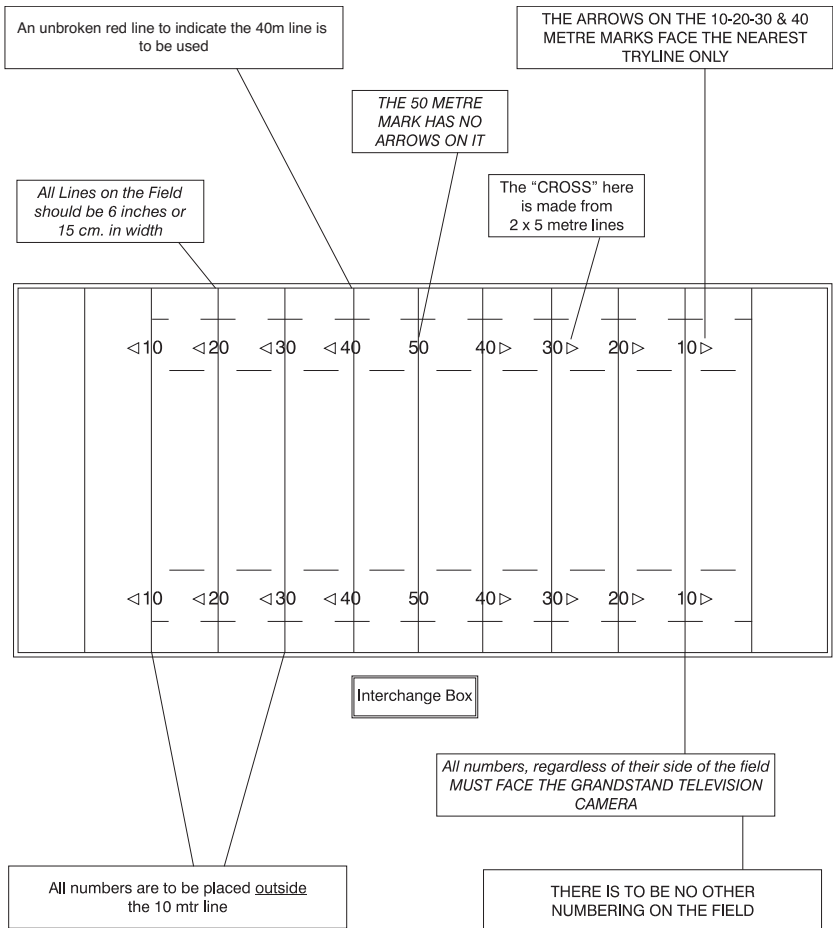
Scrum lines will be marked both 10m and 20m from touch line. These are to be 10cm in width and white in colour.

(e) On-field signage:

Will be advised.

Diagram

The attached diagram illustrates the lines and markings referred to above.



NOTES ON LAWS

1. INTERCHANGE (FOUL PLAY)

A “free” interchange is permitted if a player is fouled and injured by a player who is dismissed from the field, sin binned or placed on report. It applies only when the injured player is immediately replaced. Should the injured player later return to the field, the interchange is then counted.

SECTION 19

INDEX TO THE LAWS OF RUGBY LEAGUE

This Index to the Laws of Rugby League is based on *The International Rugby League Laws of the Game and Notes on the Laws* as published by the National Rugby League.

The Index identifies Laws and terms in Sections (S.) and the page(s) where these are explained.

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| Punt | Glossary, p.7 |
| Put-in/Feeding scrum | Glossary, p.7, S12, Law 6 |
| Rebound & ricochet | S.9.7,p.21, Notes S.11, p.25 |
| Referee | See "Duties of Referee" |
| Re-starts of play | S.8, p.18 |
| - "Optional" kick | S.8, Law 2 p.18 |
| Scrum | Glossary, p.7; S.12, p.29 |
| - Formation | S.12, p.29 |
| - Attacker held up in-goal | Notes S.12, p.29 |
| - Backs retire 5 metres | S.12, p.31 |
| - Ball in play | S.12, p.32 |
| - Butting | Notes S.12, p.32 |
| - Depleted pack | Notes S.12, p.29 |
| - Forwards detaching | Notes S.12, p.29 |
| - Forwards action | S.12, p.31 |
| - Forwards feet | S.12, p.29 |
| - Handling in scrum | Notes S.12, p.32 |
| - Hookers | Notes S.12, p.31 |
| - Loose arm | Notes S.12, p.29 |
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| - Numbers/backwards/forwards | S.12, p.29 |
| - Offending team | Notes S.12, p.30; Notes S.12, p.32 |
| - Pushing | S.12, p.30 |
| - Put-in/Feeding scrum | S.12, p.30 |
| - Put-in/Which side | Notes S.12, p.31 |
| - Scrum half retires | S.12, p.30; Notes S.12, p.31 |
| - Scrum wanders | S.12, p.32 |
| - Scrum wheels | S.12, p.32 |

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| Scrum (cont'd) | |
| - When formed | S.12, p.29 |
| - Where formed | S.12, p.32 |
| Shoulder charge | Notes S.5, p.11, Glossary p.7; S15, Law 1 (k) |
| Signals | S.17, p.46, 47, 48, 49 |
| Simultaneous | Notes to S11, Law 6 |
| Sin Bin | S.16; Law 6; P,42. |
| Start of play | S.8, p.18 |
| - Re-starts of play - 20 m | S.8, p.18 |
| - Goal line drop-out | S.8, p.19 |
| - Breaches of | S.8, p.18, 19 |
| - Players not retiring | Notes S.8, p.20 |
| - Penalties where taken | S.8, p.20 |
| “Stealing” ball | S.11, p.26; Notes S.11, p.26 |
| Stripping ball | S.11.9, p.26; Notes S.11, p.26 |
| Strike | Glossary, p.7 |
| Tackle | Glossary, p.7; S.5, p.11; S.11, p.23 |
| - Broken tackle | Notes S.11, p.23 |
| - Count of tackles | S.11, p.25; Notes S.11, p.25 (cancels) |
| - Charging down | Notes S.11, p.25 |
| - Player in possession | S.11, p.23 |
| - Foul “throws” | Notes S.11, p.23 |
| - Dangerous Throw | S.15.1 (d), p.38 |
| - Indicate last | Notes S.11, p.25 |
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| - Simultaneous | Notes S.11, p.25 |
| - Sixth tackle | S.11, p.25 |
| - Sliding tackle | S.11, p.24 |
| - “Stealing” ball | S.11, p.25 |
| - Succumbing to | Notes S.11, p.23 |
| - “Touching” ball | Notes S.11, p.25 |
| - Verbal instructions | S.11, p.24 |
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| - When tackled | S.11, p.23 |
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| Tap Kick | Glossary, p.7 |
| Temporary suspension | Notes S.16, Notes 6; Law 6; p.42 |
| Time keeping | S.7, p.16 |
| Toss | S.5, p.11 |
| Touch | S.9, p.21 |
| - Ball back | S.9, p.21 |
| - Ball dead | Notes S.9, p.21 |
| - Ball in touch | S.9, p.21 |
| - From penalty | S.9, p.21 |

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| - Player in touch | S.9, p.21 |
| - Points of entry | S.9, p.21 |
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| "Touching" ball | Notes S.11, p.25 |
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| Try | Glossary, p.7 |
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| - Ball lost after grounding | Notes S.6, p.12 |
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| Eight Point Try | S.13; Law 9; p.35 |
| - How scored | S.6, p.12, Pick up ball in in-goal: Notes S.6, p.12 |
| - In scrum | Notes S.6, p.12 |
| - Incorrectly grounding | Notes S.6, p.12 |
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| - Referee sole judge | S.6, p.13 |
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| Whistle | S.16, p.43 |
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| Zero tackle | S.11, p.25 |

Safe Play Code for Junior Rugby League

INTRODUCTION

The Safeplay Code was developed to emphasise safety and good conduct within the game of Rugby League by creating the best possible on-field environment and actively encouraging the core values of Rugby League, and a healthy respect for all participants. It applies to all players up to and including the Under 15 years age group.

1. TACKLE ZONE

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| The Code: | TACKLES ABOVE THE ARMPITS ARE NOT PERMITTED |
| Application: | (a) It is an infringement if, whilst attempting to effect a tackle on a ball-carrier, a defender makes contact above the armpits intentionally, recklessly or carelessly. (b) A defender, in front of a ball-carrier who is diving or falling, is permitted to come in contact with the ball-carrier's shoulder provided the defender's arm(s) extends down the shoulder and trunk, i.e. underneath the ball-carrier. |
| Reference: | Law Book: - Section 15, Law 1 (b), Page 38. |

2. DANGEROUS TACKLES

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| The Code: | (2.1) THE TACKLER'S LEGS CANNOT BE USED TO TRIP IN A THROW. |
| Application: | The use of the legs in a tackle is not permissible. Using the legs (even if the defender has a hand/hands on the ball-carrier) to trip or throw the ball-carrier constitutes an infringement. |
| Reference: | Law Book - Section 15, to Law 1 (a) and (d), Page 38. |
| The Code: | (2.2) ADOPTING A CROTCH HOLD IS MISCONDUCT. |
| Application: | Adopting a crotch hold i.e. by placing either a hand or arm in the crotch region, is an infringement. |
| Reference: | Law Book - Section 15, Law 1 (i), Page 38. |
| The Code: | (2.3) The BALL-CARRIER CANNOT BE LIFTED. |
| Application: | No defender(s), during the course of a tackle, are permitted to lift the ball-carrier (this is not to be confused with a tackle that, in the same motion, "knocks" a player off their feet). If a lift occurs, the Referee must penalise the offending player(s). If a defender(s) lift one foot/leg of the ball-carrier the Referee must immediately call "held" to prevent the tackle from continuing. If the tackle continues, or the ball-carrier is placed in a dangerous position, the Referee must penalise the offending player. |
| Reference: | Law Book - Section 15, Law 1 (d), and Notes to Law 1(d), Page 38. |
| The Code: | (2.4) ANKLE TAPS ARE NOT PERMITTED. |
| Application: | It is an infringement to ankle tap the ball-carrier. This is not to be confused with a defender who makes a genuine attempt to wrap his arms around the legs of the player. |
| Reference: | Law Book - Section 15, Law 1 (d) and Notes 1 (d), Page 38. |

- The Code: (2.5) A DEFENDER CANNOT “SHOULDER CHARGE” A BALL-CARRIER TO AFFECT A TACKLE.
- Application: Shoulder Charge – is where a defender, without attempting to tackle, grab or hold the ball-carrier (or any opposing player) using the arms or hands, makes direct physical contact with the shoulder or the upper arm.
- Reference: Law Book – Section 15, 1(k) Page 38.
- The Code: (2.6) IT IS AN OFFENCE TO SLING OR SWING THE BALL-CARRIER.
- Application: A defender who uses any part of the ball-carrier’s body, clothing, or equipment to sling or swing the player in a tackle, commits an infringement.
- Reference: Law Book - Section 11, Notes 1 (a). Page 23.

3. AGGRESSIVE PALM

- The Code: THE BALL-CARRIER CANNOT “THRUST” OUT AN ARM TO CONTACT THE DEFENDER ON THE HEAD OR NECK.
- Application: It is an infringement for the ball-carrier to thrust out an arm or use an outstretched stiff arm so as to make contact to the defending player’s head or neck. Regardless of point of contact, the palm must not be high, dangerous, or unnecessary.
- Reference: Law Book - Section 15, Law 1 (a), Page 38.

4. PUSHING

- The Code: A PLAYER CANNOT “PUSH” AN OPPONENT.
- Application: A player who pushes an opponent is guilty of an infringement.
- Reference: Law Book – Section 15, Law 1 (i), Page 38.

5. DANGEROUS FLOP

- The Code: A PLAYER CANNOT DROP, DIVE OR FALL ON A PRONE PLAYER.
- Application: A player cannot make dangerous, aggressive or unnecessary contact on a player in a prone position on the ground (a simple hand-on can complete the tackle).
- Reference: Law Book - Section 11, Law 1 (d), Page 23.

6. SURRENDER (IN THE TACKLE)

- The Code: THE BALL-CARRIER MAY SURRENDER IN THE TACKLE.
- Application: The Referee (not the player) is to call “held” if the ball-carrier surrenders prior to, or in, the tackle, or is held or subdued so their progress is halted.
- Reference: Law Book - Section 11, Law 2 (c), Page 23, Note 2 (c), Page 24.

7. VERBAL ABUSE / FOUL LANGUAGE

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| The Code: | IT IS AN INFRINGEMENT TO USE THREATENING OR OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE. |
| Application: | Verbal abuse, obscene language and sledging, including comments or words that threaten or denigrate an opponent, Referee or supporter, is an infringement. |
| Reference: | Law Book - Section 15, Law 1 (i), Page 38. |

8. SCRUMS

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| The Code: | PUSHING OR PULLING IN, OR ROTATING A SCRUM, IS NOT PERMITTED. |
| Application: | All scrums are to be de-powered. A team that deliberately pushes or pulls in, or rotates a scrum, is guilty of an infringement. Once the ball has been fed into the scrum, only the hookers may strike for the ball, and the second rowers may rake the ball out of the scrum with their foot. |
| Reference: | Law Book - Section 12, Law 4, Page 30. |

It should be noted that a penalty under the Safeplay Code should be clearly communicated to the offending player. Where possible, this should be kept brief, and it does not necessarily have to be a stoppage in play or a formal meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTE

It is mandatory that a penalty is awarded following any breach/infringement of the Safeplay Code. In addition to a penalty for a breach, Referees at their discretion may:

- SIN BIN THE OFFENDING PLAYER (INTERNATIONAL GAME 13 – 15 years ONLY)
- DISMISS THE OFFENDING PLAYER FROM the FIELD OF PLAY (INTERNATIONAL GAME 13 – 15 years ONLY) Refer Rugby League Laws of the Game, Section 13, 1 (a) and Section 15- Player's Misconduct
- REPLACEMENT IN 6 – 12 YEAR GAME MODELS Refer 6 – 12 Year Junior Rugby League Laws Page 14 Law 3 (b), Page 19 Law 17, and Page 30 Law 17

ADVANTAGE PLAY & THE SAFEPLAY CODE

A penalty kick must follow any infringement

1. IF NO ADVANTAGE OCCURS, the penalty is to be awarded immediately at the mark where the infringement occurred.
2. IF AN ADVANTAGE OCCURS, the penalty is to be awarded either at the breakdown in play immediately after the misconduct occurred, or where the act of misconduct occurred, whichever is to the greater advantage to the non-offending team.
3. WHEN A TRY HAS BEEN SCORED in the same play in which the act of misconduct occurred, the penalty kick, additional to the conversion, will be awarded in front of the goal posts. A kick at goal must be taken from the penalty kick (place or drop) and play re-started from the centre of the half-way line irrespective of the outcome of the kick. (refer to Page 35 of the 6 - 12 Year Junior Rugby League Laws for application in games where conversion attempts do not exist).

[The original Safeplay Code was written by Graham Chaffey - NSWRL - and trialled by the NSWCR in 1995.] NRL Education, Training and Research Team November 2016

2017 NRL LAWS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The 2017 Telstra Premiership season will be adjudicated in accordance with the current 'Rugby League Laws of the Game International Level and Notes on the Laws' (February 2017).

| Law | International Game Laws | NRL Interpretations – Telstra Premiership Competition |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Scrum: Time Off | No time off <i>Section 12 - The Scrum</i> | If a team is properly formed and ready to contest a scrum the head Referee will call time off. However if any players break from the scrum formation before the ball is fed, normal game time will be re-started. |
| Goal line Drop-out | To deliberately delay the re-start of play constitutes misconduct. Note: There is no exact time limit for a goal line drop-out to be taken. <i>Section 15 – Player's Misconduct, Notes to Law 1(i)</i> | The defending team is required to recommence play with a goal line drop-out within 30 seconds of it being signalled by the Referee. The Referee will give a warning as to the time that is remaining. If, in the opinion of the Referee the re-start is being delayed due to the circumstances of the game the Referee may call time off. |
| 20m Re-start Penalty | Any deliberate offence at the 20m re-start by either team shall incur a penalty to be awarded at the centre of the 20m line. <i>Section 8 - The Kick off and Drop-Out, Law 2 (c)</i> | Any deliberate offence at the 20m re-start by either team shall incur a penalty to be awarded at the centre of the 20m line, except where the defending team is offside. From an offside infringement at a 20m re-start, the penalty will be awarded opposite where the infringement occurred on the 30m line. |
| 20m Re-start 'quick tap' | No Law book reference. | The ball may be kicked in any manner and in any direction and is immediately in play. Opposing players shall retire ten metres from the 20m line and shall not advance until the ball has been kicked. Defending players shall not advance in front of the ball before it is kicked. Any deliberate offence by either team shall incur a penalty to be awarded at the centre of the 20m line, except where the defending team is offside (see above). A 20 metre re-start may be taken quickly as long as the ball has been passed (by any traditional RL pass) or run to the mark when: a) The Referee has signalled for play to recommence. b) The kick is taken on the centre of the 20m line. c) All players from the team taking the re-start are onside. <u>Note:</u> The Referee does not need to have a defensive line set for play to re-start. <u>Note:</u> The ball must not be kicked by a teammate to the 20m mark to facilitate a "quick tap". |

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| Drawn Game | <p>If both teams score an equal number of points, or if both teams fail to score, then the game shall be deemed a draw.</p> <p>Section 6 – Scoring - Tries and Goals, Law 2(a)</p> | <p>If scores are equal at the conclusion of normal time, a period of extra time shall follow whereby the first scorer of any point or points will immediately be declared the winner (“Golden Point”). This will be for a maximum period of 10 minutes (5 minutes each half) except in Final Series Matches. If the scores are still level at the end of the period of extra time, then the game shall be declared a draw. In Final Series Matches, a period of extra time shall follow. This will be for a maximum period of 10 minutes (5 minutes each half), whereby the team who has scored the most points at the end of the period of extra time will be declared as the winner. If the scores are still level at the end of the period of extra time, then the game will re-start in a period of “Golden Point”, whereby the team who is first to score during this period shall be declared the winner.</p> |
| Bunker/Review process | <p>Not applicable.</p> <p>Section 16 - Duties of Referee and Touch Judges</p> | <p>In the event that the on-field officials require assistance for a ruling they will consult the Bunker/Review process. Additional responsibilities include the reporting of foul play.</p> |
| Number of on-field Referees | <p>1 Referee 2 Touch Judges</p> <p>Section 16 - Duties of Referee and Touch Judges</p> | <p>2 Referees 2 Touch Judges Bunker/Review process</p> |
| Stop the Clock | <p>Not Applicable</p> <p>Section 7 - Timekeeping</p> | <p>During the last five minutes of a match, the clock will stop following (a) a conversion, a successful penalty kick at goal, or field goal, until play re-starts at the halfway mark, and (b) following an unsuccessful penalty kick at goal or field goal that goes touch in-goal or over the dead ball line, until the re-start of play.</p> |
| Quick Penalty | <p>No Law book reference.</p> | <p>A quick penalty re-start will be permitted on any infringement against the team not in possession except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 metre penalties - within 10 metres of the opposition goal line - where the Referee requires it to be delayed - where the mark has been advanced |
| Captain Communication | <p>Captains may approach a Referee when clarifying a ruling in an orderly manner, when appropriate stoppages allow.</p> | <p>Captains will only be able to speak to Referees during a stoppage in play (tries, injury break or when Referee is issuing a caution). Penalties and scrums are not considered stoppages of play. Captains will be given the opportunity to speak to the Referees as players leave the field for half-time.</p> |
| Goal-kicking Time Limit | <p>Not Applicable</p> | <p>The Referee will call time off at 1 min 20 sec following the scoring of a try.</p> |

For the full list of NRL Telstra Premiership Laws and Interpretations, go to www.nrl.com

| Law | International Game Laws | NRL Interpretations – Telstra Premiership Competition |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Scrum Clock | Not applicable | Where play is recommenced with a scrum, both teams are to be properly bound and packed within 35 seconds following the Referee's indication that the "scrum clock" has started. |
| Drop-Out-Clock | Not applicable | Where play is recommenced with a goal -line or 20 metre drop-out, the kicking team must do so within 30 seconds following the Referee's indication that the "drop-out clock" has started. |
| The Wall | Reference to Section 15 – Player's Misconduct: 1. A player is guilty of misconduct if he: (j) deliberately obstructs an opponent who is not in possession | If two or more players form a wall (side by side) next to the play-the-ball and don't allow the opportunity for a defending player to move directly towards the player in possession, the Referee will penalise for obstruction. – Section 15, Law 1 (j) |

PLEASE NOTE

**THE NOTES ON THE LAWS ACCOMPANYING EACH SECTION ARE
TO BE TAKEN AS OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS RELATING TO THE
PUBLICATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS.**

**This publication replaces all existing Law
Books, Manuals, etc., and is the only official
NRL publication as at this date.**

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