

## Law Review Group

<b>Agenda Item</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	Law Review Group – Report and Recommendations regarding Laws 15, 16 and 17
<b>Subject for</b>	Minor Law changes and clarifications into Law for Approval. EXCO approved Law Trials for noting
<b>Presenter</b>	Mark Harrington
<b>Brief Summary</b>	Following the last EXCO meeting the Chairman of the Rugby Committee was given discretion to propose additional Law trials directly to EXCO after the Law 15, 16 and 17 review
<b>Recommendation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trial 11 Laws in closed trials</li> <li>2. Form working groups to look at the TMO Protocol, the maul and a simplified Law book</li> <li>3. Trial the use of two referees</li> </ol>
<b>Financial implications</b>	Minimal and within existing budget
<b>Appendices for Noting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LRG Law 15,16 and 17 trial laws</li> <li>2. Union and competition trials</li> <li>3. Working Group composition</li> </ol>

## Law Review Group

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### **Law 15, 16 and 17 changes were discussed at two special LRG meetings**

At the April meeting of LRG it became clear that the Laws for tackle, ruck and maul needed further specialist attention. Unions were asked to convene their own working groups and re-submit to World Rugby. The proposed changes were discussed at a special meeting of LRG on September 14 and then again by teleconference on October 14. Given the timing of these meetings it was previously agreed that the Rugby Committee Chairman could propose any subsequent Law trials directly to EXCO.

### **Trial recommendations agreed**

The LRG agreed on a number of significant potential changes to the tackle, ruck and maul and seeks approval to trial these laws. These laws can be seen at **APPENDIX ONE**. The proposed trials and Unions who have offered to trial them can be seen in **APPENDIX TWO**.

### **Working Groups required to underpin the LRG work**

The LRG agreed that some smaller groups were required to look specifically at some issues. The proposed membership of these groups can be seen in **APPENDIX THREE**.

## APPENDIX ONE

### LAW REVIEW GROUP – LAW 15, 16 & 17 PROPOSALS

#### Law 15 - Tackle

1. The tackler must get up before playing the ball and then may only play the ball from behind his side of the breakdown mid-point. (amend current 15.4 (c). The breakdown mid-point is not the ball but the point where players are in contact.
2. A tackled player must immediately pass the ball or release it. That player must also get up or move away from it at once (existing 15.5 (b))
3. If Tackler and Ball carrier only then there is no breakdown or offside line – this is open play and subsequent attacking players maybe be tackled by retreating players
4. Recognize Assist Tackler in Law  
Players in opposition to the ball carrier who remain on their feet who bring the ball carrier to ground so that the player is tackled must *clearly* release the ball and the ball carrier *immediately after the tackled player is put on the ground*. Those players may then play the ball providing they are on their feet and do so from behind the breakdown mid-point (Existing 15.6 (c))

#### Law 16 - Breakdown

1. A breakdown commences when at least one player from the attacking team is on their feet and over the ball which is on the ground (Tackled player, tackler + 1). At this point the offside line is created. (New definition)
2. Only players acting as a half-back can play the ball with their hands (lift the ball out of the breakdown). They must be on their feet and on-side. They must subsequently run, pass or kick. (New 16.2 – Joining a breakdown). A half-back is any one player who is not part of the breakdown and behind the hindmost foot who is in a position to play the ball emerging from the breakdown. The hindmost foot will be the offside line for half-back players.
3. Offside line at a ruck is the back foot + 1 metre. If the back foot of the hindmost player is on or behind the goal line, the offside line for the defending team is the goal line. To be policed by AR's (New 16.5 (a) – Offside at the breakdown)
4. All arriving players must come from an onside position (see 3 above) and can enter their side of the breakdown mid-point (no gate). Players must remain on their feet. (New 16.5 (c) )
5. No players at breakdown can have hands on the ground beyond the ball, hold onto or lean on or have knees on players on the ground. Players off their feet sealing the ball will be penalized. Arriving players encouraged drive over/ past the ball (Existing 16.4)
6. Players must not handle the ball in a breakdown once the breakdown is formed. Once the breakdown contest is formed the player must release the ball. (New 16.4 – Other breakdown offences)

7. The breakdown ends when the ball emerges or the ball is picked up (New 16.6 – Successful end to a breakdown)

In order to facilitate more accurate officiating of the tackle and breakdown the LRG would like to trial the use of two on field Referees. This has already been successfully trialled in South Africa and NZRU have offered to trial in the ITM Development League and an Under 19 League.

#### **Law 17 - Maul**

The group debated trialling a collapsed Maul. The consensus was that this would be perceived as dangerous and should not be trialled.

The group agreed to *Issue a Law Application (from Jan 1<sup>st</sup>) Guideline to enforce the following:*

The ball can be moved backwards hand-to-hand once the maul has formed. A Player is not allowed to move/slide to the back of the maul when he is in possession of the ball.

Sanction: Penalty Kick

## APPENDIX TWO

### COMPETITIONS TO TRIAL THE TACKLE & BREAKDOWN LAWS

<b>Union</b>	<b>Competition</b>
NZRU	ITM Cup
IRFU	AIL Div 1A
FFR	U18 League

**APPENDIX THREE  
WORKING GROUPS**

<b>Working Group</b>	<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Union</b>
<b>Television Match Official</b>	Alain Rolland & Joel Jutge	World Rugby
	Scott Young	ARU
	Dave McHugh	IRFU
	Rob Andrew	RFU
	Ben Skeen	NZRU
	Player/ Coach representative	TBA
<b>Maul</b>	Joel Jutge	World Rugby
	Adrian Thompson	ARU
		RFU
	Chean Roux	SARU
	Steve Hansen	NZRU
<b>Simplified Law Book</b>	Mark Harrington & Ross Tucker	World Rugby
	Chris Cuthbertson	RFU
	Tappe Henning	SRU
	Rod Hill	NZRU