



To: **Secretaries / Chief Executive Officers of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership of the IRB**

From: **David Carrigy
Head of External & Member Relations**

Date: **May 23, 2012**

Re: **IRB Special & Annual Meeting of Council 2012
IRB Council Decisions: Notice of Approved Law Trials**

At its Special and Annual Meetings held on May 15, 2012 Council agreed to the following Law Amendments:

Notice of Approved Global Law Trials

(1) Approved Law Trials – *attached Annex One*

Decision implementation

The approved Global Law Trials shall be implemented by all Unions and come into effect from the start of the next Northern Hemisphere season at, or around, September 1, 2012, and the start of the next Southern Hemisphere season at, or around, January 1, 2013.

Unions will be requested to comment on the Law Trials at a future date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carrigy', is written over a light blue background.

**David Carrigy
Head of External & Member Relations**



ANNEX ONE

Approved Law Trials

Implementation date:

The implementation dates of the Law amendments approved for global trial are the start of the next Northern Hemisphere season at, or around, September 1, 2012, and the start of the next Southern Hemisphere season at, or around, January 1, 2013. It is not intended that a Member Union should implement the trial Law amendments mid season or mid competition. Unions will be requested to comment on the Law Trials at a future date.



IRB Council Approved

Law Amendment Trials

The following Law amendments have been approved for global trial by IRB Council. The implementation dates are the start of the next Northern Hemisphere season at, or around, September 1, 2012, and the start of the next Southern Hemisphere season at, or around, January 1, 2013. It is not intended that a Member Union should implement the trial Law amendments mid season or mid competition. Member Unions will be given the opportunity to provide both quantitative and qualitative feedback on the trials. Unions will be requested to comment on the Law Trials at a future date. The process for providing feedback will be outlined in the near future.

1. Law 3.4 Players Nominated as Substitute

Current Law 3.4:

For international matches a Union may nominate up to seven replacements/substitutes.

Amend Law 3.4 to read:

For international matches a Union may nominate up to eight replacements/substitutes.

Please note - Law 3.4 trial is for application from the November window international matches.

2. Law 4 Players Clothing – Provisions Permitting the Use of GPS

IRB Council confirmed that the current provisions relating to Unions' dispensation for the use of GPS equipment will continue. Details can be obtained from the IRB Technical Services Department.

3. Law 4.2 Special Additional Items of clothing for women

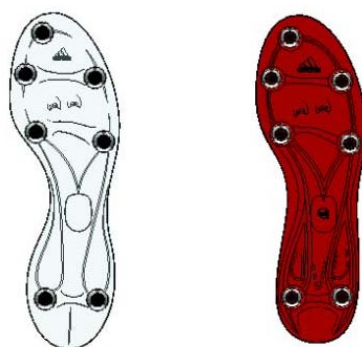
Current Law 4.2 to become 4.2 (a).

Add new 4.2 (b):

Female players may wear cotton blend long tights with single inside leg seam under their shorts and socks.

4. Law 4.3 Studs

The sole configuration below was approved for trial:



Save for the above configuration, studs must be compliant with Law 4 and IRB Specifications (Regulation 12).

5. Law 6.A.6 (b) Referee Consulting with Others

IRB Council approved trials which will extend the powers of the TMO. The trials will take place in selected competitions. Protocols will be circulated at a later date.

6. Law 9.B.1 Taking a Conversion Kick

Current 9.B.1 (e):

The kicker must take the kick within one minute from the time the kicker has indicated an intention to kick. The intention to kick is signalled by the arrival of the kicking tee or sand, or the player makes a mark on the ground. The player must complete the kick within one minute even if the ball rolls over and has to be placed again.

Amend 9.B.1 (e) to read:

The kick must be taken within one minute and thirty seconds (ninety seconds) of a try being scored, even if the ball rolls over and is placed again.

7. Law 12.1 Outcome of a Knock-On or Throw Forward

Add new 12.1 (e):

Knock-on or throw forward into touch. When the ball goes into touch from a knock-on or throw forward, the non-offending team will be offered the choice of a lineout at the point the ball crossed the touch line, or a scrum at the place of the knock-on or throw forward. The non-offending team may exercise this option by taking a quick throw-in.

Current Law 12.1 (e) becomes 12.1 (f).

8. Law 16.7 Unsuccessful End to a Ruck

Add new 16.7 (c):

When the ball has been clearly won by a team at a ruck and the ball is available to be played the referee will call "use it" after which the ball must be played within five seconds. If the ball is not played within the five seconds the referee will award a scrum and the team not in possession of the ball at the ruck is awarded the throw-in.

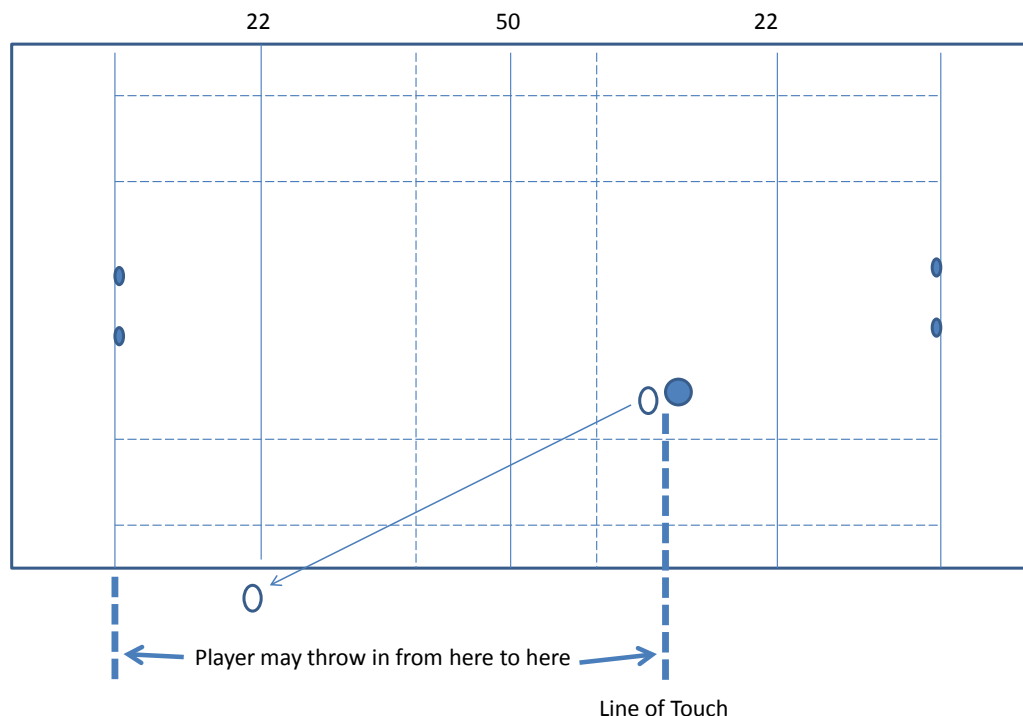
9. Law 19.2 Quick Throw-In

Current 19.2 (b):

For a quick throw-in, the player may be anywhere outside the field of play between the place where the ball went into touch and the player's goal line.

Amend 19.2 (b) to read:

For a quick throw-in, the player may be anywhere outside the field of play between the line of touch and the player's goal line.



10. Law 20.1 (g) Forming a Scrum

Current 20.1 (g):

The referee will call “crouch” then “touch”. The front rows crouch and using their outside arm each prop touches the point of the opposing props outside shoulder. The props then withdraw their arms. The referee will then call “pause”. Following a pause the referee will then call “engage”. The front rows may then engage. The “engage” call is not a command but an indication that the front rows may come together when ready.

Amend 20.1 (g) to read:

The referee will call “crouch” then “touch”. The front rows crouch and using their outside arm each prop touches the point of the opposing prop’s outside shoulder. The props then withdraw their arms. The referee will then call “set” when the front rows are ready. The front rows may then engage. The “set” call is not a command but an indication that the front rows may come together when ready.

11. 21.4 Penalty and Free Kick Options and Requirements

Add new 21.4 (b)

Lineout Alternative. A team awarded a penalty or a free kick at a lineout may choose a further lineout, they throw-in. This is in addition to the scrum option.

Current 21.4 (b) to (k) become (c) to (l).

Sevens Variations - Effective June 1 2012

Law 3.4 - Number of Players

Amend Law 3.4 to read:

A team may nominate up to five replacements/substitutes.

A team may substitute or replace up to five players.