

21 Feb 2023

### Law Trials applying to Rugby competitions in NSW in 2023

All Rugby Competitions conducted under the jurisdiction of NSWRU using U19 or senior Law will apply the following Law Trial in 2023. This includes adult, junior, school and representative matches. It applies to both 7s and XV's matches played on or after Sat 25 Feb 2023.

#### Scrum-half offside

Law 19.30 Once play in the scrum begins, the scrum-half of the team not in possession:

- a. **Remains on that team's side of the middle line, within 1m of the scrum, or**
- b. Permanently retires to a point on the offside line either at that team's hindmost foot, or
- c. Permanently retires at least 5m behind the hindmost foot.

Note that point a is the only one that has changed, the others are existing law. This law trial will also be applied in Super Rugby Pacific, Rugby NZ community competitions and some other Australian domestic competitions in 2023.

#### Note for matches played using U6-12 Pathways or Cross-fields 7s (U10+) Law

1. Matches played using U6-12 Pathways or Cross-fields 7s (U10+) Law will not apply this law trial as they have their own law variations that apply more restrictions to the non-feeding halfback (i.e. they must stay at the tunnel).
2. Goal-Line Drop-Outs will apply to U10-12 age groups in 2023. They were excluded from the Global Law Trial in 2022, but this is now Law and thus they will apply it. U6-9 Law use tap restarts so Goal-Line Drop-outs are not relevant to them.

#### Game Management Guidelines

Global Law Trials being applied in Australian domestic Rugby are covered in the 2023 Game Management Guidelines (GMG). Download from <https://australia.rugby/participate/referee/laws>. The scrum-half offside law trial does not appear in GMG as it is not being applied by all domestic competitions.

#### Feedback

As these are Law Trials we ask that your competition collate feedback from your stakeholders (players, coaches, referees, etc) on their success or otherwise to improving their Rugby experience and provide that feedback to me at the midpoint of the season (by 1 Jul) and at the conclusion of the season (by 30 Sep). NSWRU will ask a question about this in the annual player survey and Rugby AU will conduct video analysis of Shute Shield matches.



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I remind you that any other law trials you wish to do require annual approval by the Rugby Australia Laws Advisory Group. Complete the form at <https://www.iotform.com/form/212930865796065>

If you have any questions please contact me as below.

Yours in Rugby,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. R. Richards".

**Alex Richards**  
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