

Line-Out Lifting at CB U15s

Some CBs sought clarification as to the experimental law variation - lifting in the line-out - for Under 15s involved in CB representative rugby.

The experiment was introduced in the 2008/09 season and was agreed to run over a two year period. With only a few CB U15 games in the season, it was recognised that coaches, rather than develop locks to jump and props to support them, in the majority of cases studied, supported the lightest and slimmest player to jump to guarantee winning the ball.

Following the two year experiment it was felt that players in CB Under 16s had not significantly benefited from early introduction to support in the lineout at U15 and if the highly qualified CB coaches were reluctant to utilise the appropriate jumper then the RFU Law variations at U13-15 prohibiting support in the lines-out would be retained for the benefit of all players.

This was agreed by Laws Sub-Committee and School & Youth Governance hence there is no reference in RFU Regulation 15 to any dispensation for CB to use support in the lineout at U15. Therefore, line-out lifting at Under 15 at all levels is not permitted and should cease forthwith.