

# Leicestershire Society Of Rugby Union

## Referees Newsletter:



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In the December edition:



### A Chairman's Note

- Return to play - Stage by stage guidance
- New law adaptations Fact sheet
  - Law adaptations outline
- New Referee guidance check sheet
- New Assessor/Coaching Guidance check sheet



# RFU

## TRAINING



### Important Training Information



## A Chairman's Note

Well, what a strange year 2020 has been !!

It is certainly one that we will all remember for a long, long time. There is light at the end of the tunnel, with the first of many long awaited vaccines beginning to be rolled out. It may well be a long tunnel, but we will get there, I am sure.

The RFU have announced that competitive, contact rugby at all levels, can resume from the 18<sup>th</sup> December, when we will enter Stage E in the return to rugby roadmap.

This will be under revised Laws, which are designed to limit the amount of face to face contact and will make for quite a different game. Following a trial game in Hampshire, under these revised Laws, the feedback from all involved, was extremely positive.

Most of this newsletter will be dedicated to these revised Laws and also guidance for our members who will be attending games, to help them stay safe.

I would like to thank all the Committee for the continued work that they have all carried on doing, during these challenging times. There is an awful lot of unseen work still going on behind the scenes, despite the lack of any games to officiate, to ensure we are ready when the game we all love resumes.





## A Chairman's Note

Our Training Officer, George Richardson, will be delivering a presentation on the revised Laws and details of Covid-19 guidance to members, in the next members meeting, on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

The Committee have made the decision that this training is mandatory, for those members who wish to resume officiating or coaching/match observing, at this time. The importance of understanding these Law variations and the risks posed by the Covid-19 virus, cannot be over stated.

For those of you who cannot make Monday, please contact George for alternative dates for this input.

I wish all of you and your families, a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year. Please stay safe and I look forward to catching up with you all, as soon as we are allowed to.

Mark Elliott

Chairman

Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union Referees





# **Restarting Competitive Grassroots Rugby: Return to Rugby Roadmap**

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## **STAGE BY STAGE GUIDANCE**

September 2020

The following information provides an overview of the key components in stages A-D of the Return to Rugby Roadmap.

Before running any rugby activity, clubs should ensure they are aware of any local lockdown restrictions and/or changes in RFU and Government guidance which may affect which stage they are in and what activity can be undertaken.

**All Activity (in all stages) should include appropriate social distancing, strong personal hygiene maintenance, and follow the latest RFU & government guidance.**

## Stage A

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- Socially distanced activity only
- Maximum of 2 people in a session
- No equipment sharing permitted

Individual Training with  
One Other Person



## Stage B

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- Maximum 6 players in a group per ¼ pitch
- All players and coaches must remain socially distanced at all times
- Only essential equipment sharing ( ball )
- No contact activity permitted
- No touch Rugby activity permitted.
- No Tag Rugby permitted
- Maximum 15 minutes activity before a break to clean and sanitise.

Small Group Training



**More Information is available in the**  
**[Return to Rugby Roadmap: Stage B Webinar](#)**

## Stage C

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- Maximum 20 players per half pitch
- Only Touch Rugby and Ready 4 Rugby activity permitted for the game zone
- All non-game activity must still remain socially distanced
- Intra club fixtures only permitted
- No contact rugby activity permitted
- No Tag rugby permitted

**Non-Contact Training &  
Intra Club Matches**



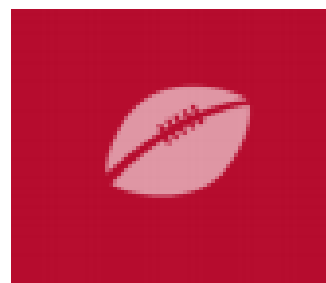
**More Information is available in the**  
[Return to Rugby Roadmap: Stage C Webinar](#)

## Stage D

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- Maximum 20 players per half pitch
- Only Touch Rugby and Ready 4 Rugby activity permitted for the game zone
- 15 minutes specific adapted contact skill zone activity permitted per session
- Inter club fixtures permitted
- No contact training games permitted
- No scrum activity permitted
- No maul activity permitted
- No opposed lineouts permitted
- No Tag rugby activity permitted

**Adapted Contact  
Training & Non-Contact**



**More Information is available in the**  
[Return to Rugby Roadmap: Stage D Webinar](#)



## Stage E – Current Stage

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- Increased contact training permitted
- Contact fixtures under law variations permitted from 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### Adapted Law Variations



Relaxations of restrictions on outdoor contact sports Law variations reduce risk of F2F & close contact exposure low enough to allow progression to adapted contact matches and training activities

More information is available on the  
[Return to rugby roadmap – Stage E Webinar](#)





# COVID-19 Law Variations 2020/21

## FACT SHEET



### **The principal changes are to:**

1. Suspend Law 19 (other than the amended Law 19.1 below) in its entirety.
2. Suspend Law 16 in its entirety.

### **Law 16: The Maul is suspended in its entirety**

Players must not bind onto a team-mate who is in possession of the ball.

Sanction: Penalty kick.

When one or more players come into contact with an opposing ball carrier and do not bring that player to ground, those players may attempt to gain possession of the ball if done immediately, but thereafter must not prevent the ball carrier from playing the ball.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick to the team in possession of the ball.

No other player may join these players in contact.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick against arriving players.

The ball carrier must play the ball immediately.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick to the team not in possession.

### **Law 18 Lineout**

**18.11** – Forming a Lineout. The throwing team must, when forming the lineout, have a minimum of five players and maximum of seven players.

Sanction: Free-kick to the non-throwing team.

**18.14** - Amend to - The non-throwing team must match the number of players in the lineout with the throwing team. Sanction: Free-kick to the throwing team. The player winning the ball in the lineout must either pass the ball immediately, release it to a teammate or leave the lineout as soon as they land on the ground.

**Sanction:** Free-kick.

**NB:** *Law 18.3 & 4 (quick throw) have not been varied.*

### **Law 19 Scrum**

**19.1** - Principle. Amend to Where the game would restart play with a scrum, is replaced with a Free-kick in all circumstances.

Law 5 Time

**5.7 a:** Delete 'scrum'.

**5.7 b:** Amend to - The referee awards a Penalty or Free-kick, other than a Free-kick for which a scrum would have been awarded previously. (This will end the half or full-time.)

**5.9** - Irrespective of the weather conditions, the referee has the discretion to allow water breaks at any stage of the match.

### **Law 20 Penalty and Free-Kick**

**20.3** - Amend to - A team awarded a Penalty or Free-kick may not choose a scrum.

**20.4** – Amend to - A team awarded a Penalty or Free-kick at a lineout may instead choose another lineout at the same mark.

**20.11** - Amend to - Taking a Penalty or Free-Kick. The ball must be kicked a visible distance. If the kicker is holding it, it must clearly leave the hands. If it is on the ground, it must clearly leave the mark. At a free-kick, other than on either five-metre lines, once the kick has been taken legally, the kicker may not run with the ball. Sanction: Free-kick.

**NB:** *For the avoidance of doubt, there is no change to the law relating to taking a penalty kick, which can be played immediately, and the kicker may run with the ball.*

# Scrum

## No Scrums will take place

### 19.1 - Principle

Where the game would restart play with a scrum, this is replaced with a free kick in all circumstances.

NB: When a scrum offence occurs after the expiry of half or full time, that offence will end that period of the game. No free kick will be awarded.

*Clarification – These free kicks are designed as a method of restarting the game and will not be escalated in sanction. The tempo of the free kicks will be determined by the match officials and are not to be taken quickly.*



# Free Kick

## Law 20.11 – Taking a free kick

‘Taking a Free Kick. The ball must be kicked a visible distance. If the kicker is holding it, it must leave the hands. If it is on the ground, it must clearly leave the mark. Once the free kick has been successfully taken, the kicker may not play the ball again unless the free-kick has been awarded on either of the 5m lines.’

*Clarification – a player who taps the ball must then make a pass to another player or kick the ball, **unless** the mark for the free kick is on the 5m line (infringement occurs between 5m and goal line). If this is the case, the player who taps the ball may play the ball themselves.*

## Law 20.3 – Options at a penalty or free kick

A team awarded a penalty or free kick may not chose a scrum

## Law 20.4 – Options at a penalty or free kick

A team awarded a penalty or free kick at a lineout may instead chose another lineout at the same mark



# Penalty

## **Law 20.11 – Taking a penalty**

**When a penalty or free-kick is awarded, the opposing team must immediately retreat 10 meters towards their own goal line or until they have reached their own goal line if that is closer.**

## **Law 20.3 – Options at a penalty or free kick**

A team awarded a penalty or free kick may not chose a scrum

## **Law 20.4 – Options at a penalty or free kick**

A team awarded a penalty or free kick at a lineout may instead chose another lineout at the same mark



# Lineout

## **18.11 – Forming a lineout**

A minimum of five players and maximum of seven players from each team are required to form a lineout.

## **18.14 – Forming a lineout**

The non throwing in team must match the numbers of players in the line out of the team throwing in.

The team winning the ball in a lineout will either pass immediately or release the ball to a teammate as soon as they land on the ground, no maul shall be formed.

*Clarification – There will be no sanction if the requirements above are not met. The lineout will be re-set with the variations adhered to.*



# Maul

**No mauls will take place**

## 16.1 – Principle

It will be illegal for a maul to take place

Players must not bind onto a team-mate who is in possession of the ball.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick.

When one or more players come into contact with an opposing ball carrier and do not bring that player to ground, those players may attempt to gain possession of the ball if done immediately, but thereafter must not prevent the ball carrier from playing the ball.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick to the team in possession of the ball.

No other player may join these players in contact. Sanction: Penalty kick against arriving players. The ball carrier must play the ball immediately.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick to the team not in possession.



# Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union

## ***Referees***

### Match Official Covid-19 Guidance





# Prior to Match Day

- Give the current situation careful thought and make an informed decision, as to whether or not you want to re-start refereeing, at this time.
- Making yourself available for fixtures, indicates to the Society that you are aware of the Risks due to Covid-19, of refereeing a rugby match and you are happy to take these Risks.
- You must have received the training from the LSRUR Training Officer, on the new Law Variations and the Covid-19 measures that we and the Clubs, will be taking.
- The appointments secretaries will endeavour to keep you as local as possible, but if you do not want to travel, or go to a particular club, let the Society know asap.



# Prior to leaving home for the match

Ensure you have a text/email of the appointment confirmation with you, just in case you are stopped by the authorities on the way to the match

Symptom self-check:

*Do not leave home for the fixture if you have : -*

A high temperature

A new, persistent cough

Loss of, or change to, your sense of taste or smell



# At the Club

- Arrive changed for the game so you do not have to enter the changing rooms
- Consider wearing a mask for arrival, briefings and for the time leading up to the game
- Take your own, labelled, water bottle
- Take your own hand sanitiser and clean hands at regular intervals
- Conduct all briefings and equipment checks out of doors - You are **NOT** expected to go through variations with teams, captains or coaches
- Carry out the coin toss yourself
- Do not give out your own Assistant Referee flags to the volunteers who will be running touch. Ask them to use a training bib, for example
- Follow social distancing at all times, outside of game times, including water breaks
- Do not engage in handshakes or 'tunnels', post-game
- Take a tracksuit to wear after the game and return home for a shower



Leicestershire Society of Rugby Union

***Coaches/Assessors***

Match Official Covid-19 Guidance



# Prior to Match Day

- Give the current situation careful thought and make an informed decision, as to whether or not you want to re-start Match Observing at this time.
- Making yourself available for fixtures, indicates to the Society that you are aware of the Risks due to Covid-19, of refereeing a rugby match and you are happy to take these Risks.
- You must have received the training from the LSRUR Training Officer, on the new Law Variations and the Covid-19 measures that we and the Clubs, will be taking.
- MODO will endeavour to keep you as local as possible, but if you do not want to travel, or go to a particular club, let the Society know asap.
- Ensure you have a copy of the email of the appointment confirmation with you, just in case you are stopped by the authorities on the way to the match



# Prior to leaving home for the match

Ensure you have a text/email of the appointment confirmation with you, just in case you are stopped by the authorities on the way to the match

Symptom self-check:

*Do not leave home for the fixture if you have : -*

A high temperature

A new, persistent cough

Loss of, or change to, your sense of taste or smell



# At the Club

- Avoid entering the changing rooms
- Consider wearing a mask for arrival, briefings and for the time leading up to the game
- Try to distance yourself from other spectators during the match. If you are unavoidably close to other people (spectators, etc), wear a mask
- Take your own hand sanitiser; and clean hands at regular intervals
- Conduct all briefings out of doors - You are **NOT** expected to go through variations with teams, captains or coaches
- Follow social distancing at all times, outside of game times.
- Do not engage in handshakes
- Consider carrying out the Referee debrief by telephone or other social media







## Important Training Information



Our Chairman has already stated this in his note but as you can see from this newsletter, there is a lot to digest to keep the players safe, yourself safe and your loved ones safe. As a committee we have decided that training is mandatory before you can return to referee. We are holding a training session on zoom on:

Monday 14th December at 7pm

Details will be sent out on the day to keep our meeting secure.

The society will not appoint you to referee if you have not completed this training. Due to this, if you cannot make the date and time then please message me and I will be happy to try and accommodate you at another time so that you can get back to refereeing.

Kind Regards,

George Richardson  
Leicestershire Society Training Officer





## Important Training Information



To minimise contact time of our referees with players and coaches we are holding a training session with the coaches within the society.

This will be held on

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

If you know of any coaches that want to join then they can contact me directly for the zoom meeting details. These will not be sent out otherwise.

Kind Regards,

George Richardson  
Leicestershire Society Training Officer



**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year**

