

# IRB APPROVED LAW TRIALS



LAWS OF THE GAME  
**RUGBY UNION**



# PROCESS

- Sep 2011 Tier One Unions submitted proposed Law changes to the IRB.
- Oct 2011 Law changes considered by the IRB Laws Representation Group (LRG) and recommendations made to the IRB Rugby Committee.
- Jan 2012 Trials commenced at Stellenbosch and Cambridge Universities
- Apr 2012 Trial evaluations carried out.
- May 2012 LRG and Rugby Committee considered outcome of trials and made recommendations to the IRB Council
- May 2012 IRB Council approved the global trialling of a number of proposed Law amendments.

# APPROVED LAW TRIALS

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1. Law 3.4 Players Nominated as Substitute
2. Law 4 Players Clothing - Provisions Permitting the Use of GPS
3. Law 4.2 Special Additional Items of clothing for women
4. Law 4.3 Studs
5. Law 6.A.6 (b) Referee Consulting with Others  
*[TMO Trial]*
6. Law 9.B.1 Taking a Conversion Kick

# APPROVED LAW TRIALS

## 7 - 11

7. Law 12.1 Outcome of a Knock-On or Throw Forward
8. Law 16.7 Unsuccessful End to a Ruck
9. Law 19.2 Quick Throw-In
10. Law 20.1 (g) Forming a Scrum
11. 21.4 Penalty and Free Kick Options and Requirements

# 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, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

(The amendments can be implemented during pre season and cup matches taking place in August)

And the start of the next Southern Hemisphere season at, or around, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

# TIMETABLE

Aug 2012	Northern Hemisphere trials start
Jan 2013	Southern Hemisphere trials start
Jun 2013	Review of NH trials
Sep 2013	Review of SH trials
Oct 2013	IRB Rugby Committee approve proposed changes
Jan 2014	Proposals circulated to Unions
May 2014	IRB Council consider proposals
Aug 2014	Law amendments adopted in Northern Hemisphere
Jan 2015	Law amendments adopted in Southern Hemisphere
Sep 2015	Rugby World Cup commences

# FURTHER CHANGES

The IRB has established a four year cycle for Law amendments.

It is now envisaged that changes will only be made outside of this cycle for safety reasons.

# **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 2012 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.

### **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 including the 2012/2013 Aviva Premiership.

## 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).

## 7. Law 12 Outcome of a Knock-On or Throw Forward

**Add new 12.1 (e):**

**Knock-on or throw forward into to 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).

<http://www.irblaws.com/2012/?amendment=3>

## 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.

<http://www.irblaws.com/2012/?amendment=1>

## 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.

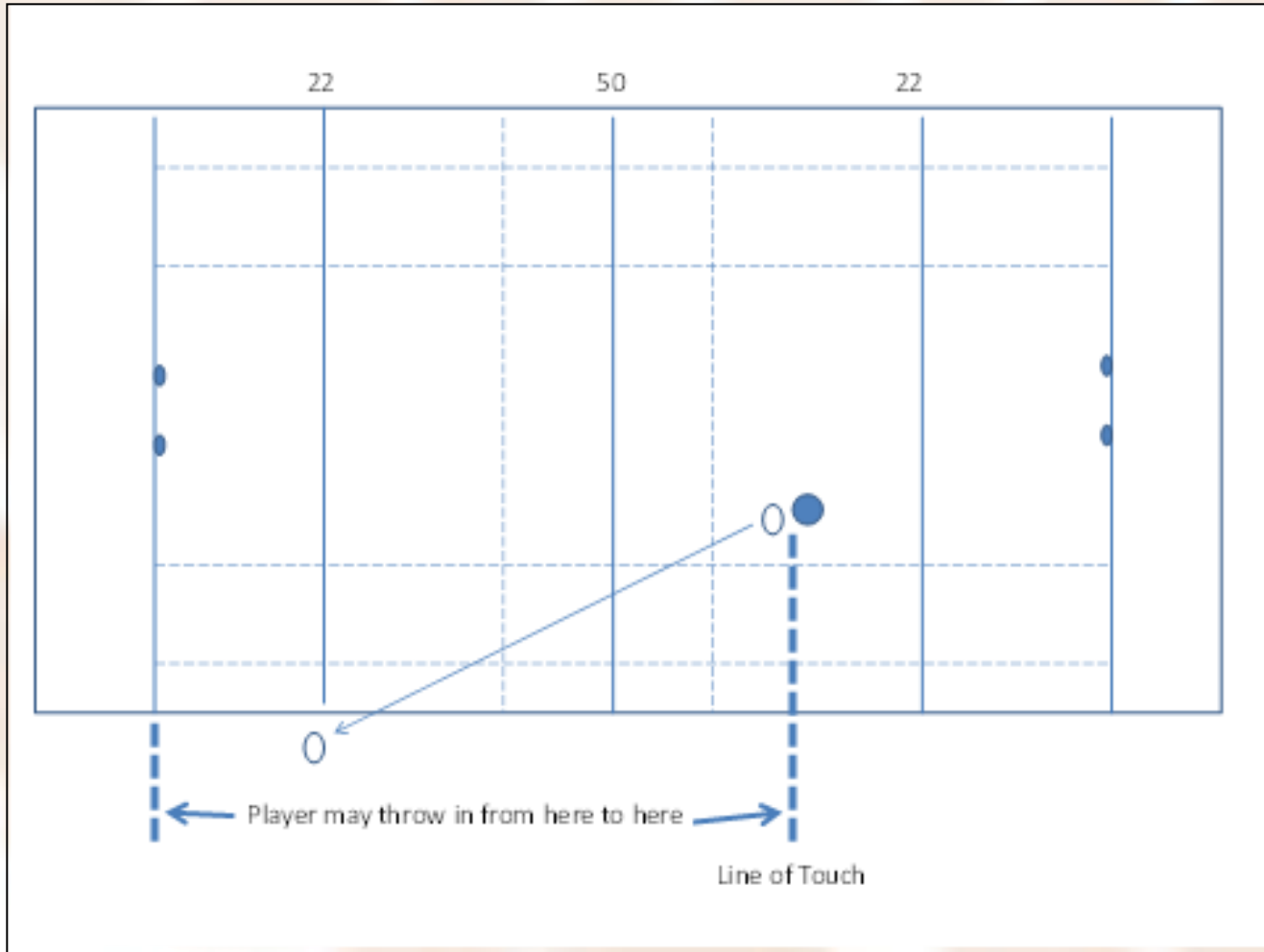
### **Amend 19.2 (b) to read:**

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.

<http://www.irblaws.com/2012/?amendment=2>



## 9. Law 19.2 Quick Throw-In



# 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.

**CROUCH - TOUCH - PAUSE - ENGAGE**

# 10. Law 20.1 (g) Forming a Scrum

## **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.

**CROUCH - TOUCH**

## 10. Law 20.1 (g) Forming a Scrum

### 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.

**CROUCH - TOUCH - SET**

<http://www.irblaws.com/2012/?amendment=21>

# 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).

<http://www.irblaws.com/2012/?amendment=7>

# FURTHER INFORMATION

IRB Law Trials

<http://www.irblaws.com/2012/>