



IRB Conference on ELV's Outcomes Written By Chris Cuthbertson (RFU, Essex)

An iRB Conference on the ELVs was held at the Lensbury on the 30th/31st March. The Conference was attended by referees, coaches and administrators from all of the major Unions together with senior members of the iRB.

The aim of the conference was to make recommendations on each of the ELVs for consideration by the iRB Rugby Committee and the iRB Council.

1. The Conference agreed to recommend that the following **ELVs SHOULD NOT** be incorporated into Law:

- **ELV 2** Head and shoulders not having to be lower than hips in the maul
- **ELV 3** Players are able to pull down a maul
- **ELV 6** There is no restriction on the number of players from either team who can participate in the lineout.
- **Sanction ELVs** That free kicks should be awarded to the defending side for un-playables at the ruck and maul and that some penalty offences should be downgraded to free kicks (These are the ELVs that have been trialled in the Southern Hemisphere, most noticeably during last season's Super 14s and Tri Nations).

Whilst it was agreed that the Sanctions ELVs had not produced the anticipated results, it was agreed that problems persist at the breakdown and the iRB was asked to clarify existing Law and to reconsider the Law surrounding this area of the game.

2. In addition, the conference agreed to recommend that any of the ELVs that had previously been referred back to the iRB Laws Project Group (which include handling in the ruck, free kicks for restarts not going 10, free kicks for not straight at the lineout and the establishing of offside lines at the tackle) **SHOULD NOT** be incorporated into Law.

3. The Conference agreed to recommend that the following **ELVs SHOULD** be incorporated into Law:

- **ELV 1** Assistant referees are able to assist the referee in any way, which referees require.
- **ELV 4** If a team puts the ball back into their own 22 and the ball is subsequently kicked directly into touch there is not gain in ground.
- **ELV 5** A quick throw may be thrown in straight or towards the throwing team's own goal line.
- **ELV 7** The receiver at the lineout must be 2 metres away from the lineout.



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- **ELV 8** The player who is in opposition to the player throwing in the ball must stand in the area between the 5m line and the touchline and must be 2m from the lineout.
- **ELV 9** Lineout players may pre-grip a jumper before the ball is thrown in.
- **ELV 10** The lifting of lineout jumpers is permitted.
- **ELV 11** Introduction of an offside line 5m behind the hindmost feet of the scrum.
- **ELV 12** Scrum-half offside lines.
- **ELV 13** The corner posts are no longer considered touch in goal except when the ball is grounded against the post.

I am pleased to say that the above outcomes exactly match the preliminary recommendations put to Council on 20th March 2009.

During the Conference, the iRB restated its commitment to unify the Laws worldwide with effect from 1st August 2009 and to end all experiments in the run up to the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

The iRB will also be re-considering its processes for law experimentation and evaluation.

The ELVs will now be considered by the iRB Rugby Committee on 27th April 2009, before being finally decided on by the iRB Council at their meeting on 13th May 2009, but the recommendations coming out of this Conference represent a major step forward in the process.

A fuller briefing will be given to Council on 24th April 2009.