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## Match Official Development

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### Distribution List:

RFRU Secretary  
Referee Society Secretaries  
Federation Secretaries  
Area Training Teams  
Match Official Panel Managers

### Introduction:

Welcome to the 1<sup>st</sup> Match Official Development Send Out for the 2016-17 season, with these send outs we provide you with information, which is for you to action, distribute or circulate to all match official's for the benefit of the whole game. **More players, playing more games, more often.**



With all the build-up and pre-season already seeming a distant memory we hope you're enjoying another exciting rugby season.

The summer has provided so many rugby opportunities; The Under 20's World Championships in Manchester, The Olympic Games in Rio and closer to home numerous 7's and touch tournaments.

It has also been an exciting time off the pitch with the Referees Union (RFRU) change of status to a National Constituent Body confirmed at the RFU's AGM. There has been a change to RFU Regulation 3 which sets out the criteria that prospective members of the RFU have to meet to be eligible for Voting Membership. That means that Societies are now able to apply to join the RFU.

In your latest send out, we've focused on law clarifications and the revised age grade rules of play and how we can ensure younger players have a safe and enjoyable experience when we referee.

Yours in ref'ing,

*Michael*

**Michael D Patz**  
**RFU Match Official Development Manager**

Contact us at: [matchofficials@rfu.com](mailto:matchofficials@rfu.com)

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**For Action**



## **World Rugby Clarifications in Law**

With so many minor law amendments being introduced this season it is not surprising that unions are seeking clarification already. Two have been received and circulated recently;

<b>Clarification</b>	<b>2 – 2016</b>
<b>Union/ HP Ref Manager</b>	<b>Alain Rolland, Fifteens High Performance Referee Manager</b>
<b>Law Reference</b>	<b>Law 3</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>August 5, 2016</b>
<b>Request</b>	

Alain Rolland, Fifteens High Performance Referee Manager has requested clarification on the following items within law 3.14.

1. Does the injured player have to go off at the time of the foul play or can the player try to play on first?
2. Can a No. 22 who has tactically replaced No. 10, and then gets injured by foul play, be replaced by the No. 10 while other unused subs remain on the bench?
3. What is the definition of foul play for the purpose of this Law?
4. What happens if the referee plays advantage from the foul play; can the player still be replaced?
5. What happens in games where there are rolling substitutions?
6. Does the injured player have to go off permanently; or, if deemed fit, can he return later in the game?

**1.1**

### **Clarification of the Designated Members of the Rugby Committee**

The Designated Members have reviewed this request for clarification and the below are the relevant responses.

1. Replacement should be immediate.
2. The substituted No. 10 can re-join even if another replacement is available.
3. Law 10.4 defines foul play for the purposes of this Law
4. Yes, player must be replaced at next stoppage.
5. The player will be deemed to be injured and will not be permitted to return to the field of play.
6. If a player is injured and is replaced, he may not return. There are no temporary replacements while injury is being assessed.

**Clarification  
Union/ HP Ref Manager  
Law Reference  
Date  
Request**

**3 – 2016  
Welsh Rugby Union  
Law 3  
August 25, 2016**

Following on from the recent Law Clarification 2 – 2016 (Law 3.14) further clarification is sought by the WRU as to the following scenario:

Scenario – Red No.3 (TH) is injured and replaced by No.18 (declared TH cover). No.18 then gets injured as a direct result of foul play. No.18 can be replaced but Red has no recognized TH on the bench and, as such, would have to go to uncontested scrums. **Law 3.6(d) states that a player whose departure causes the referee to order uncontested scrums cannot be replaced.**

In the above scenario, can the Red team now continue for the remainder of the game, however long it may be, with 15 players – due to the fact the replacement TH has been injured as a direct result of foul play – which has to be verified by the match officials, or do they reduce to 14 (as per Law 3.6(d))? This scenario can relate to any member of the front row.

It is noted that if the above were to arise then front row replacements must be used first for uncontested scrums.

The WRU view is that the game should continue with equal numbers and Law 3.6(d) is not enforced. There is a direct correlation with HIA albeit a time constraint.

**Clarification of the Designated Members of the Rugby Committee**

The Designated Members have reviewed this request for clarification and the below are the relevant responses.

In this scenario the Red team can continue with 15 players. The new clause to 3.14 was added so as to not disadvantage a team that had lost a player due to foul play. Law 3.14 should supersede Law 3.6(d) in the unusual situation where a front row player has been injured as a direct result of foul play.

**RFU Regulation 13 Appendix 2 – Rolling Substitutions**

The new Law relating to injuries as a result of foul play applies (as amended by the Law Clarifications).

If a front row player goes off injured following foul play and there is no front row player available to permit contested scrums to continue, then, provided the team has unused interchanges available, the player can be replaced and the game continues with uncontested scrums.

In the same situation if the player's injury was accidental, or if the team has used all of its interchanges, then the team has to continue with one less player.

Should you have any questions in relation to law clarifications or application, please contact our dedicated e-mail service: [Laws@RFU.com](mailto:Laws@RFU.com)

**For action by - Society Training Officers to factor into training events and publication to all members**

<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>For Distribution</b></p>
<p><b>2.1</b></p>	<p><b>New Age Grade Rugby Rules</b></p> <p>Clubs and schools will be playing the <b><u>New Rules of Play</u></b> this season, up to and including U13 level with additional developments at U14 and U15 levels.</p> <p>Prior to kick-offs, clarify with team coaches the rules being played to support player development. There are deliberate differences between the Adult and Age Grade game.</p> <p><b>▶ NEW RULES</b></p> <p>Further information can be found online at <a href="http://www.englandrugby.com/agegraderugby">www.englandrugby.com/agegraderugby</a> with continual updates throughout the season.</p> <p><b>For Society Training Officers to factor into training events, distribution to members</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>For Information</b></p>
<p><b>3.1</b></p>	<p><b>Concussion Training</b></p> <p>Player safety is the number one Principle of Refereeing. Headcase is the RFU’s concussion awareness programme.</p> <p>Please complete the online, interactive training module if you haven't already done so. Don't be a Headcase - be concussion aware.</p> <p><b>▶ ONLINE COURSE</b></p> <p><b>For the information of all members</b></p>

