



To: **Secretaries / Chief Executive Officers of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership of the IRB**

From: **David Carrigy  
Head of External & Member Relations**

Date: November 30, 2010

Re: **IRB Special Meeting of Council 2010  
IRB Council Decision : Notice of Law Amendments**

At its Special Meeting held on November 23, 2010 Council agreed to the following Law amendments :

**Notice of Law Amendments**

(1) Law Amendments – attached Annex One\*

*\*Unions should note that as result of the Law amendments there are consequential alterations to IRB Regulation 17. These consequential alterations to IRB Regulation 17 will be circulated in the coming days.*

**Decision implementation dates**

All of the Law Amendments together with the consequential amendment to Regulation 17 **with the exception of Law 5** shall come in to effect on December 1, 2010. The amendments to Law 5 will come into effect on January 1, 2011.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carrigy', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**David Carrigy  
Head of External & Member Relations**



# **ANNEX ONE**

## **Law Amendments**



## **Law 5 Time**

### **Amend Law 5.2 Half Time to read:**

After half-time the teams change ends. There is an interval of not more than 15 minutes. The length of the interval is decided by the match organiser, the Union or the recognised body which has jurisdiction over the game. During the interval the teams, the referee and the assistant referees may leave the playing enclosure.

### **Delete Law 5.2 Paragraph 2**

## **LAW 5 – Date Effective Jan 1, 2011**

### **The Hand-off**

#### **Add new Definition:**

##### **Hand Off**

An action taken by a ball carrier to fend off an opponent by using the palm of the hand.

#### **Add new paragraph to Law 7 Mode of Play:**

A ball carrier may hand off an opponent.

#### **Amend Law 10 4 (f) to read:**

**Playing an opponent without the ball.** Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball, must not hold, push or obstruct an opponent not carrying the ball.

### **Law 10 4 (j) Spear Tackles**

#### **Amend Law 10 4 (j) to read:**

Lifting a player from the ground and dropping or driving that player into the ground whilst that player's feet are still off the ground such that the player's head and/or upper body come into contact with the ground is dangerous play.

### **Laws 21 and 22**

#### **Amend Law 21.2 to read**

When a penalty or free kick is awarded in in-goal the mark for the kick is in the field of play, 5 metres from the goal line, in line with the place of infringement.

**Sanction:** Any infringement by the kicker's team results in a scrum 5 metres from the goal line in line with the mark. The opposing team throws in the ball.



**Amend 21.4 (f) to read:**

**Kick taken in the in-goal.** If a player retires into in-goal to take a penalty or free kick awarded in the field of play and a defending player by foul play prevents an opponent from scoring a try a penalty try is awarded.

**Amend 21.4 (g) to read:**

**Out of play in-goal.** If a player retires into in-goal to take a penalty or free kick awarded in the field of play and following the kick the ball goes into touch-in-goal, or on or over the dead ball line, or a defending player makes the ball dead before it has crossed the goal line, a 5 metre scrum is awarded. The attacking team throws in the ball.

**Amend Law 21. 8 (g) to read:**

If a free kick has been awarded and the player retires to in-goal to take it and the opponents charge and prevent the kick from being taken, a 5-metre scrum is ordered. The attacking team throws in the ball. If a free kick is taken in the in-goal, an opponent who legitimately plays it there can score a try.

**Amend Law 18.2 (Mark) to read:**

The kick is awarded at the place of the mark. If the mark is made in the in-goal the kick is awarded five metres from the goal line in line with where the mark was made.

**All other Laws – Date Effective Dec 1, 2010**