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NSWRU Affiliates and Sanctioned Events
Via Email

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Global Law Changes for 2025 applying to Community Rugby

All Community Rugby Competitions (including Sanctioned Events) in Australia commencing after 1 Jan 2025 will apply the Law Changes implemented by World Rugby on 1 July 2024 and the Global Law Trials applying from 1 January 2025. In addition, Rugby Australia has implemented a Domestic Law Trial applying from 1 January 2025. Details of these changes are on the next page.

Please communicate these changes to your affiliates, as well as encouraging them to attend a Game Management Guidelines session to discuss their implementation.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Yours in Rugby,

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Law Changes for 2025 applying to Community Rugby

Read more about the Global Law Trials applying to Community competitions in Australia at <https://passport.world.rugby/laws-of-the-game/laws-news/law-changes-1-july-2024/> and <https://passport.world.rugby/laws-of-the-game/laws-news/global-law-trials-1-january-2025/>. They affect the following areas of the game:

- Offside in front of a kicker;
- Eliminating the crocodile roll;
- Removing the scrum option when a Free Kick is awarded.
- Quicker conversions;
- A new set time to form a lineout (in line with 30 seconds at the scrum);
- Cleaner play away from the ruck/maul/scrum; and
- Not straight at uncontested lineout = play on.

In addition, the following Domestic Law Trial will apply (change highlighted):

Law 18.23a. The ball must be thrown in straight along the mark of touch towards a lineout player.

Sanction: If the non-throwing team do not lift a teammate to compete for the ball, then play shall continue. If the non-throwing team lift a teammate to compete for the ball, **then they shall be awarded a Free Kick.**

As a result, Law 20.4b will NOT apply to Australian Community competitions, meaning teams may NOT choose to have another lineout at the same mark when awarded a free kick at lineout (the ball must be tapped or kicked). This is in line with the change to free kicks at scrum.

The following items were **NOT** approved for Global Law Trial and will **NOT** apply to Community rugby in Australia:

- One stop maul;
- Mark from a kick off/restart; and
- 20 minute red card replacement.

Game Management Guidelines (GMG)

GMG provide the focus areas for Coaches and Match Officials. They are updated each year and form part of Season Ready (Coach) and Season Ready (Referee). These law changes are included within Game Management Guidelines for 2025. The pdf document can be read now at <https://australia.rugby/participate/referee/laws>

Coaches and Match Officials are strongly encouraged to attend a face-to-face Game Management Guidelines session, which are being organised in every zone. Failing that, the content will also be available on the Rugby AU Learning Centre from mid Feb.