

## U14 Laws of the Game

### **Foreword**

The object of the Game is that two teams of fifteen players each, observing fair play according to the Laws and sporting spirit, should, by carrying, passing, and grounding the ball, score as many points as possible.

The Laws of the Game are complete and contain all that is necessary to enable the Game to be played correctly and fairly.

Rugby Union is a sport that involves physical contact. Any sport involving physical contact has inherent dangers. It is very important that players play the Game in accordance with the Laws of the Game and be mindful of the safety of themselves and others.

It is the responsibility of players to ensure that they are physically and technically prepared in a manner that enables them to play the Game, comply with the Laws of the Game and participate in accordance with safe practices.

It is the responsibility of those who coach or teach the Game to ensure that players are prepared in a manner that ensures compliance with the Laws of the Game and in accordance with safe practices.

It is the duty of the referee to apply fairly all the Laws of the Game in every match.

It is the duty of the Unions to ensure that the game at every level is conducted in accordance with disciplined and sporting behaviour. The referee cannot uphold this principle solely; its observance also rests on Unions, affiliated bodies and clubs.

**The U14 game is to be played in accordance with the iRB Laws of the Game, and observing the variations below.**

## Before the Match

### **Law 3: - Number of Players - The Team**

3.1 Each team must have no more than fifteen players on the playing area during play

3.4 **Amend:** Substitutions shall be unlimited and only made at times that the ball has become dead. Each coach shall ensure that all players named on the game sheet have at least 15 minutes playing time during each league game. There is no limit to the amount of substitute players present at a match.

3.9 If the referee decides – with or without the advice of a medically qualified person – that a player is so injured that the player should stop playing, the referee may order that player to leave the playing area. The referee may also order a player to leave the field to be medically examined.

### **Law 5: - Time**

5.1 A match lasts no longer than 50 minutes plus lost time, extra time (tournament specified), and any special conditions. A match is divided into two 25-minute halves.

5.2 After half time the teams change ends. There is an interval of not more than 5 minutes. The match organizer, the Union, or the recognized body that has jurisdiction over the game decides the length of the interval. During the interval, the players may leave the playing enclosure.

### **Law 6: - Match Officials**

6.A A match official who is accredited by the iRB will officiate the match. This is the responsibility of the host to arrange.

6.A.4 (a) The referee is the sole judge of fact and of Law during a match. The referee must apply fairly all of the Laws of the Game in every match.

## Method of Playing

### **Law 7: - Playing a match**

A match is started by a kick-off.

After the kick-off, any player who is onside may take the ball and run with it.

Any player may throw it or kick it.

Any player may give the ball to another player.  
Any player may tackle, hold or push an opponent holding the ball.  
Any player may fall on the ball.  
Any player may take part in a scrum, ruck, maul or lineout.  
Any player may ground the ball in in-goal.  
A ball carrier may hand-off an opponent.

### **Law 9: - Scoring Points**

**Addition:** If in the course of a game the points difference shall exceed 40 points at any time after half time the referee shall not record any further scoring and shall award uncontested scrums and lineouts to the side with fewer points for the remainder of the game.

## In the Field of Play

### **Law 13: - Kick-off and Restart Kicks**

The kick-off occurs at the start of each half and after each score.

13.1(a) A team kicks off with a drop kick, which must be taken at or behind the centre of half way.

## Restarts

### **Law 19: - Touch and Lineout**

19.10 (d) **Amend:** Lifting and supporting is not permitted at the U14 level.

*The contents of the above document are taken from both the iRB Laws of the Game and Rugby Ontario's Current U14 Rugby Laws of the Game.*