

# Laws Changes for 2025

The following changes were recommended by the RFL's Laws Committee, and approved by the RFL Board in December 2024

## Captain's Challenge

This will be introduced at all televised fixtures with a video referee in 2025, allowing the captain of either team – or a nominated stand-in if the captain is off the field – to refer a specific range of decisions to the video referee.

Each team will be entitled to one unsuccessful challenge per match.

Time Limit: a captain has until the referee is ready to recommence play, upon which the challenge time frame will lapse; the referee will not unduly delay the restart of play; there will be 10 seconds from the referee communicating the decision (by signal and verbally).

The challenge is only permissible in instances where the referee blows the whistle to stop play (except for stoppages for injury or suspected injury)

Decisions that cannot be challenged are: Forward Pass; Roll Ball; Discretionary penalties (10m/marker offside, ruck infringements relating to the speed of the play the ball, tackled into touch or in-goal after the held call); the mark of a penalty; time wasting; dissent; deliberate forward pass; scrum penalties.

## Contested Dropouts

If a team kicks a drop out on the full over the touchline or kicks a drop out so that it fails to travel at least 10 metres forward in the field of play, play will restart with a play the ball 10 metres out from the centre of the goal line rather than a penalty kick from the centre of the 10 metre line.

If a team takes a 20 metre drop out and it travels on the full over the touchline or kicks a 20m drop out so that it fails to travel at least 10 metres forward in the field of play, play will restart with a play the ball from the centre of the 20 metre line, rather than a penalty kick from the centre of the 20 metre line.

NOTE - kicks must be capable of being contested in the opinion of the referee

## Offside Kick Chasers

Referees and video referees will now differentiate between active and passive players when awarding penalties for offside.

An active player will be defined as one who takes part in and/or influenced the course of the game.

A passive player will be defined as one who does not influence the course of the game.

## Green Card

Now applies to attacking players as well as and defending players

Should the referee call time off either themselves or at the request of either a Physio, Doctor or Head Trainer to allow a player to receive attention then the protocols set out in the Timekeeping

protocols will be followed and the player will either leave the field for a concussion assessment, be interchanged, leave the field of play and return immediately once an interchange card is handed over or leave the field for 2 minutes of elapsed playing time before being allowed to re-enter the field.

Should the Referee call time off either themselves or at the request of either a physio, Doctor or head trainer for an injury that results from a penalty for foul play, the injured player will not be subject to the green card policy as outlined.

Ends...