



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

EXPERIMENTAL LAW VARIATIONS IMPLEMENTATION TASK GROUP

18th September 2008

Dear Rugby Colleagues,

UNDER 19 (AND BELOW) MATCHES INVOLVING TEAMS FROM OTHER UNIONS

Following the RFU's decision not to trial ELV 2 & ELV 3 at Under 19 and below, a number of you have contacted the RFU for clarification as to what laws should be played in matches involving teams from other Unions and what are the insurance implications.

The situation for all youth matches against teams from another Union is as follows:

1. FOR MATCHES PLAYED IN ENGLAND

- (a) If the match is being played under the jurisdiction of the RFU, ELV 2 and ELV 3 will not be played.
- (b) If a match is being played as part of an RFU sanctioned competition, under the jurisdiction of another Union (eg: a cross border competition comprising home and away fixtures), then ELV 2 and ELV 3 may be played in England.

In both these cases the Club, its coaches and its players will be covered by the RFU insurance. This includes training sessions during which "pulling down" is being coached.

2. FOR MATCHES PLAYED IN ANOTHER UNION

Teams have three options

- (a) To negotiate with the opposition to play under the RFU variations ie: without ELV 2 and ELV 3. This is the RFU's preferred option.
- (b) To play under IRB Laws ie: including ELV 2 and ELV 3.
- (c) Not to play.

In both option (a) and option (b) the Club, its coaches and its players will be covered by the RFU insurance. This includes training sessions, during which "pulling down" is being coached.

If those responsible for the team agree (under 1(b) and 2(b) above) to play matches with ELV 2 and ELV 3, then its coaches have a responsibility to ensure that the players are adequately prepared for the match. If they are not happy that they can properly prepare the players so that they can safely compete then they should elect **NOT** to play.

I hope that this clarifies the position.

Chris Cuthbertson
Chairman
ELV Implementation Task Group
