



To: **Secretaries / Chief Executive Officers of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership of World Rugby**

From: **David Carrigy**  
**Head of Development & International Relations**

Date: **July 19, 2017**

Re: **Approved Global Law Trials**

Acting in accordance with the Bye-Laws and on behalf of Council the World Rugby Executive Committee have agreed to approve the Global Law Trials set out in **APPENDIX ONE**.

The implementation date for the approved Law Trials set out in **APPENDIX ONE** are:

- *August 1, 2017 – Northern Hemisphere*
- *January 1, 2018 – Southern Hemisphere*

These closed trials will not apply for the Women's Rugby World Cup as the tournament is so close. However the November window games will be played under these laws.

A presentation explaining the Law Trials has been prepared and may be downloaded from the following link: <http://laws.worldrugby.org/?domain=20>

We look forward to receiving the full results of the trial upon its completion.

Please note that a press release will be issued confirming the above tomorrow and that all public commentary should be embargoed until that point

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Carrigy".

**David Carrigy**  
**Head of Development & International Relations**

Cc: *John Jeffrey – Chairman Rugby Committee*

## APPENDIX ONE

### 1. **Law 20.5 and 20.6 (d) Throwing the ball into the scrum**

No signal from Referee. The scrum half must throw the ball in straight, but is allowed to align his shoulder on the middle line of the scrum, therefore allowing him to stand a shoulder width towards his side of the middle line.

### 2. **Law 20.9 (b) Handling in the scrum – exception**

Allow the No 8 to pick the ball from the feet of the 2nd Rows.

### 3. **Law 20 Striking after the throw-in**

Once the ball touches the ground in the tunnel, any front row player may use either foot to try to win possession of the ball. One player from the team who put the ball in must strike for the ball. Sanction: Free Kick

### 4. **Amended Law 15.4 (c)**

The tackler must get up before playing the ball and then can only play from his side of the tackle gate.

### 5. **Law 16: Breakdown Amended Ruck Law**

A ruck commences when at least one player is on their feet and over the ball which is on the ground (tackled player, tackler). At this point the offside line is created. A player on his feet may use his hands to pick up the ball as long as this is immediate. As soon as an opposition player arrives no hands can be used.

### 6. **Law 16.4: Other Ruck Offences**

A player must not kick the ball out of a ruck. The player can only hook it in a backwards motion. Sanction: Penalty Kick

#### **Implementation Date:**

- *August 1, 2017 – Northern Hemisphere*
- *January 1, 2018 – Southern Hemisphere*