

# MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

## MINI RUGBY

### Contents

	Page
Introduction .....	2
Philosophy of Coaching and Refereeing Mini Rugby .....	3
Summary of the features of Mini Rugby .....	4
<b>Before the Game</b>	
1. The Ground .....	6
2. Players .....	7
3. Dress and Ball Size .....	8
4. Time .....	9
5. The Referee and Touch Judges .....	9
<b>Method of Playing the Game</b>	
6. Advantage .....	10
7. Method of Scoring .....	10
8. Kicking in General Play .....	11
9. Foul Play .....	12
10. Off-side and On-side in General Play .....	13
11. Knock-On and Throw-Forward .....	14
<b>In the Field of Play</b>	
12. Kick-Off and Restart Kick .....	15
13. 15m Drop out Restart .....	16
14. The Tackle and Lying With, On or Near the Ball .....	17
15. Ruck .....	18
16. Maul .....	20
<b>Restarting the Game</b>	
17. Touch and Mini Line-Out .....	21
18. Mini Scrum .....	24
19. Penalty Kick .....	28
<b>In-Goal</b>	
20. In-Goal .....	29
<b>Australian Rugby Union Code of Conduct</b> .....	31
Expectations of Behaviour	
General Information	
Contact Details	

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

When we watch the wonderful Wallabies in action against South Africa, England or the All Blacks, we see a huge variety of skills and techniques displayed with great precision and expertise. Rugby is a very exciting, free flowing and often spectacular game, but it is quite complex and requires the mastering of many different individual and unit skills.

The ARU believe that younger rugby union players should be introduced to the game gradually through it's pathway programme. The Rugby Union pathway is based on research conducted into children in sport and development. It was concluded that modified pathways offer great opportunities for children to develop confidence in sporting performances. Children as young as six greatly enjoy rugby through non-contact versions of the game.

Pathway Rugby should be free flowing with the purpose of developing the skills of running, balance, ball handling and contact. The Pathway comprises:

<b>Walla Rugby</b>	Under 7 and 8
<b>Mini Rugby</b>	Under 9 and 10
<b>Midi Rugby</b>	Under 11 and 12

Walla Rugby is a simple, non-tackling introduction to the game that concentrates on passing, catching and running skills. It is played on a smaller field and with only seven players.

Mini Rugby continues the theme of free flowing, running and passing rugby action. However, most importantly it introduces the young player to the elements of tackle, continuity, ruck and maul. Midi rugby is the 12-a-side stepping stone to the full game. It is played on a standard field and more elements of the under-19 game are introduced.

### **Features of the Australian Rugby Pathway**

- Provides children with a safe and enjoyable introduction to the skills and tactical principles of the game of Rugby union.
- Allows young players to be introduced to skills at a pace appropriate to their age and physical development.
- The essential feature of Rugby within the Pathway is one of enjoyment. Irrespective of size, body shape or ability, players are given the opportunity to reach their potential in a caring, fun and safe environment.
- Pathway games provide the basic skills and understanding of set plays through the modified scrum, maul and lineout situations.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

- The desirable qualities of rugby - **sportsmanship and fair play** - are positively rewarded, with minimal emphasis on competition.
- At all times **safety** is a paramount consideration. The Laws of each level of the Pathway have been specifically designed to provide a safe environment for both male and female players, while learning relevant skills.

With your support, and that of the local club or school, in a very short period of time you will see your child's coordination, confidence, self-esteem and social skills improve immensely. This will help to provide a good basis of health, fitness and motor skills for future years.

### PHILOSOPHY OF COACHING AND REFEREEING MINI RUGBY

#### Coaching

Mini Rugby is a simple game designed to provide an introduction to the skills and tactical principles of Rugby for 9 and 10 years old players. This is done in an enjoyable game form that will stimulate interest and maximise participation. The essential feature of Mini Rugby is one of **enjoyment**. The desirable qualities of Rugby - sportsmanship and fair play - are to be positively rewarded. At all times safety must be a paramount consideration.

Mini Rugby has been designed to teach the tactical principles of Go Forward, Pressure and introduce the tactical principle of Support. It also teaches the individual skills of Passing and Receiving; Running and Evasion; Contact; Kicking and Tackling; as well as the game elements of Ruck, Maul, Scrum and Lineout. In refining the traditional approach to Rugby, the playing numbers, size of the ball and field size are modified to suit the younger player.

The concept of **positive re-inforcement** of the ideals of the game and skills of players cannot be over-emphasised. Satisfaction should be gained from participation, Improvement and competitive performance - without emphasis on win at all costs. Players should be left to develop skills and learn the game without the presence of external pressure to win premierships.

Coaches must ensure that the skills of the game are correctly taught and that the success achieved by each player is acknowledged and encouraged. It is vital that each and every player receives the same opportunity to develop in an environment of friendliness and co-operation.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### Refereeing

Unlike the more senior levels of Rugby, where the referee's role is to interpret, judge and decide, Mini Rugby requires a different philosophy from the referee. A purely technical refereeing approach to the Laws of Mini Rugby is contrary to the spirit of the game. It is recommended that at all times referees adopt an **encouraging and educative**, rather than punitive, whistle-happy approach.

The desirable qualities of rugby - sportsmanship and fair play - should be positively rewarded. This may be done by the quiet word or open comment, rather than penalising the player.

Of course, any dangerous action by a player should be quickly and firmly dealt with, but again the emphasis should be on an educative approach.

In summary:

- keep it **simple, free-flowing and enjoyable**
- let the players **develop skills**, with **safety**
- discourage any dangerous action or unsafe practice
- adopt an **educative, positive re-inforcement** approach
- ensure that players receive an equal opportunity to participate, regardless of ability.

### Summary of the features of Mini Rugby

FOR 9/10 YEAR OLDS AS STEP TWO OF THE AUSTRALIAN RUGBY PATHWAY

Playing Area	Max. 70m x 35m (includes in-goal area).
Team Size	Ten (10) players per standard team.
Ball Size	Size Mini.
Playing Time	Two x 20 minute halves.
Scoring	A try is worth 5 points. A kick at goal following a try is worth 2 points. (Taken in front of the posts - if goal posts available.) There are no penalty goals or drop goals in Mini Rugby.
Kick-off	Taken in the form of a "drop kick" or "punt kick". Non-scoring team to kick off. 5 metre "free zone" for receiver.
Restart	"Drop kick" or "punt kick" by non-scoring team after a try. 5 metre "free zone" for receiver.
Kicking in General Play	No kicking is allowed in general play.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

Penalty Kick	The "tap restart" or kick for touch are the only options for the team receiving a penalty. (Penalty kicks for goal are not permitted at this age level.)
Drop-out Restart	Drop-out Restart Taken in the form of a "drop kick" from the mid-point of the 15 m line.
Tackle	A tackle occurs when the ball carrier is brought to the ground and held by an opponent. This includes being on one knee, sitting on the ground or being on another player on the ground. Once tackled the ball carrier must immediately place, push or pass the ball. The tackler must release the tackled player and roll away. No defending player may prevent the ball carrier from playing the ball. After a tackle players must be on their feet when they play the ball.
Ruck	If the ball in a ruck becomes unplayable the scrum feed will be awarded to the team moving forward immediately prior to the stoppage. Offside line is last feet.
Maul	If the ball in a maul becomes unplayable the scrum feed will be awarded to the team NOT in possession at the commencement of the maul. Offside line is last feet.
Scrum	Scrum are non-contested. ie Only the hooker of the team feeding the ball into the scrum may strike for the ball. Five-player scrum, with three players in the front row and two in the second row. There is no pushing in a Mini scrum. Defending scrum-half can not go past the midline of the scrum Offside line is 5m from last feet for the defending team and from last feet for the attacking team.
Line-out	Line-outs are non-contested. Four players line-out (plus hooker). The lineout is formed 4 metres from the touch line. The thrower stands in line with the Line of Touch. The offside line for players not in the lineout is 5m from the line of touch.
Advantage	Played generously to ensure a free-flowing game.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

Off-side	In general play, a player is off-side if they are in front of a team mate who is carrying the ball, or if they are in front of a team mate who last played the ball. Off-side lines exist for scrum, line-out, ruck and maul situations. An off-side zone also exists for the tackle. (see relevant sections)
Finals series	No finals series but Premierships awarded for “first past the post” at this age level.

**The following sections provide a more comprehensive explanation of the Laws of the Game at this age level. Reference may also be made to the current ARU Handbook - “Rugby - The Laws of the Game”.**

### Pathway Laws

The following two laws are applicable to Walla, Mini and Midi;

1. Two year window - This allows players with an adequate skill and maturation level to participate in a game one year above their chronological age group e.g. A 7 year old player who turns 8 during the season, may play in the U9's
2. Unlimited interchange is allowed.

In keeping with the philosophy of the pathway for maximising skill development, enjoyment and safety, we recommend the following;

1. That all players have equal game time
2. That both teams should field equal numbers, not in excess of the numbers dictated to by the laws of the game.
3. That the competition season should be a maximum of 16 matches.

### 1: The Ground

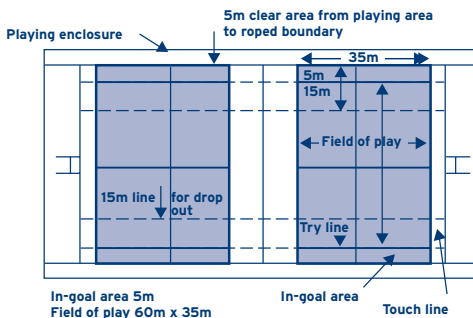
The **playing area** consists of the field-of-play and the in-goal area.

The **field-of-play** is bounded by the touch lines and goal lines, but does not include them. The touch line is considered to be “in touch” (see Touch and Lineout). The goal line is considered to be part of the in-goal area.

The **playing enclosure** is the playing area and a reasonable area surrounding it and is under the control of the referee. This area should remain clear. It is recommended that the playing enclosure be “roped-off” in such a way as to restrain or confine spectators to an area a minimum of five metres from the side-line and the dead ball line.

# MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

## Mini Field set-up on Standard Rugby Ground



Playing Area:

The maximum playing area for this age group is 70m x 35m

Goal Posts:

All goal posts within the playing enclosure must be fitted with goal post pads.

### Persons authorised to enter the Playing enclosure:

The referee and players of each team are authorised to enter the field of play.

The touch judges and authorised medical staff are permitted between the playing enclosure and the field-of-play.

The Manager and Reserve Players must remain outside the playing enclosure.

**N.B.** It is recommended that, for the first half of the season, each team should have a coach or other adult on the field during play at this level. The role of the coach on the field is to assist the Referee to manage the game. The coach does this by directing players on the field. For example:

- assisting in the efficient formation of lineouts, scrums
- setting of off-side lines for scrums, lineouts, rucks and mauls.

## 2: Players

A Mini Rugby team comprises a maximum of Ten (10) players who start the match plus any authorised replacements and/or substitutes.

**Replacement:** A player who replaces an injured team mate.

**Substitute:** A player who replaces another player.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

In keeping with the Philosophy of the Pathway, teams with more than 10 players available are encouraged to assist the team with less than 10 players, so that the match is played as a 10-a-side game.

**If a match is played with fewer than 10 players per team; then teams must play with equal numbers.**

### **Replacements:**

An injured player should stop playing and be replaced temporarily. If the player is unable to resume playing, the replacement becomes permanent.

Any player who has an open wound must leave the Field of Play, until such time as the bleeding is controlled and the wound is covered or dressed.

**NB.** If on medical advice or for any other reason the referee or coach considers it would be harmful for an injured player to continue playing, then the player is required to leave the playing area.

**Coaches should particularly note that a player who has suffered definite concussion should not participate in any match or training session for a period of at least three weeks from the time of injury, and then only subject to being cleared by a proper neurological examination.**

### **Substitutions:**

In all Mini rugby, it is the intention to “give all players a game”. There is no limit to the number of players who may act as substitutes for any match. Players may substitute in accordance with the following procedure:

- \* Following the scoring of a try, players may substitute prior to the restart
- \* At other times during the match, substitutions may be made when the ball is dead and with the permission of the referee.

## **3: Dress and Ball Size**

Players must not wear dangerous projections such as buckles, rings, earrings or baseball caps. The wearing of beads in a player’s hair is also prohibited. The referee may inspect players before or during a match and require dangerous items to be removed.

**Footwear:** Players shall not play without footwear

**Mouthguards:** It is recommended that a mouthguard be worn.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

**Head Gear:** The wearing of headgear is optional. Many parents choose to have their children wear head gear as an added safety feature.

**Shoulder Pads:** A player may wear shoulder pads, made of soft and thin materials, which may be incorporated in an undergarment or jersey provided that the pads cover the shoulder and collar bone only.

**NB:** All shoulder pads and headgear must abide by the IRB regulations.

**Ball Size:** The Mini Rugby Union Football shall be used for this age group.

### 4: Time

The match shall be played in two halves of twenty (20) minutes each with a five (5) minute break.

### 5: The Referee and Touch Judges

The Referee acts as a game manager and teacher. They should be encouraging and educative, positively reward sportsmanship and fair play, and deal quickly and firmly with any dangerous action or unsafe practice.

The touch judges assist the Referee. For the first half of the season, the two coaches on the field also assist the referee.

#### THE REFEREE

There shall be a referee for each match. The referee shall be appointed by or under the authority of the Union. If no such referee is appointed as mutually agreed between the teams. Failing any agreement, the referee will be appointed by the home team.

The referee keeps the time and the score and has the power to end the game before time has expired if it is believed that the continuation of play would prove dangerous.

During the match the referee is the sole judge of Fact and Law. All decisions are binding on the players.

All players must stop playing at once when the whistle is blown. All players, coaches and others must respect the authority of the referee and they must not dispute the decision. Infringement of this is regarded as a breach of the Code of Conduct and subject to penalty. This could result in a sending-off.

# MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

## THE TOUCH JUDGES

Each team must provide a touch judge. The referee has control over the touch judges and may instruct them on their duties and may over-rule any of their decisions.

The touch judge must hold up the touch flag when the ball or a player carrying it has gone into touch and must indicate the place of throw-in and which team will throw-in.

## 6: Advantage

The referee shall not whistle for an infringement during play that is followed by an obvious advantage to the non-offending team. An advantage must be either territorial or such possession of the ball as constitutes an obvious tactical advantage. A mere opportunity to gain advantage is not sufficient. The Referee has a wide discretion in applying advantage and should be lenient in order to ensure that play at this level continues.

Teams should play to the whistle after an apparent infringement, whether or not the referee calls or signals advantage. This is true for a wide range of infringements from a knock-on to a serious offence. It should be noted that some Laws require the referee to apply advantage only if it occurs very quickly. Examples of this are to be found in the Foul Play Law as it applies to dangerous tackles and the collapsed scrum situation where the safety of the players is paramount.

In fact, outside of immediately dangerous situations, there are only two (2) occasions when advantage is **not** played:

1. When the ball or the ball carrier touches the referee in the field-of-play.
2. When the ball emerges from either end of the scrum tunnel without having first been touched by the hooker, of the team feeding the ball.

## 7: Method of Scoring

**Try:** When an attacking player is first to ground the ball in the opponent's in-goal, a try is scored. (A player grounds the ball in the in-goal area by forcing the ball onto the ground with the hand or hands, arm or arms, or the front of a player's body from waist to neck inclusive even for an instant.)

**Penalty Try:** If a player would probably have scored a try but for foul play by an opponent, a penalty try is awarded between the goal posts. (Mid point of the try line)

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

**Conversion Goal:** When a player scores a try, it gives the player's team the right to score a goal by taking a kick at goal. The ball is kicked over an opponents' cross bar and between the goal posts from the field of play. (This also applies to a penalty try.) This kick is a conversion kick. It can be taken in the form of a place kick.

**No penalty goals or drop goals at this level.**

### 1. SCORING VALUES:

Try	5 points
Penalty Try	5 points
Conversion Goal	2 points

### 2. CONVERSION KICK

The kick is taken on a line through the centre of the goal posts from 10 m out from the goal posts. (if posts available)

The scoring team may choose not to take a conversion kick.

#### a. THE KICKER'S TEAM

All the kicker's team must be behind the ball when it is kicked.

#### b. THE OPPOSING TEAM

During an attempt at a conversion kick, the defenders must remain quiet and stationary behind their goal line until the kicker has taken the conversion attempt. They may not charge or jump to prevent the goal.

If the defenders do not remain quiet and stationary and the attempt at conversion is unsuccessful, then another attempt may be awarded.

Further movement by the defenders should be treated as Foul Play and subject to a penalty awarded to the scoring team at the centre of the halfway line.

## 8: Kicking in General Play

Kicking is not permitted in General Play at this age level.

The first time a kick in general play occurs, the Referee should take the opportunity to explain to the players the importance of maintaining possession, rather than kicking it away. Then award a tap restart to the opposition team at the point where the offending team kicked the ball.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### 9: Foul Play

Foul Play is any action by a player that is contrary to the law and spirit of the game and includes obstruction, unfair play, misconduct, dangerous play, unsporting behaviour, retaliation and repeated infringements.

**Foul Play offences result in a penalty kick and can also result in a caution, temporary suspension or sending off, and a penalty try if appropriate.**

In general, a penalty is awarded at the place of infringement, except:

- a) for offences in touch, the penalty is awarded 10 metres in from touch.
- b) for offences while the ball is out of play, including in-goal, the penalty is taken wherever the play would otherwise restart.

#### 1. OBSTRUCTION

It is illegal for any player:

- a) who is running for the ball to charge or push an opponent also running for the ball.
- b) who is in an off-side position wilfully to run or stand in front of a team mate who is carrying the ball thus preventing an opponent reaching the ball carrier.

**NB** There are no circumstances in which the ball carrier can be penalised for obstruction. However this is a common occurrence in this version of the game, thus discretion on intent should be considered.

#### 2. UNFAIR PLAY, REPEATED INFRINGEMENTS

It is illegal for any player to:

- a) deliberately play unfairly or wilfully infringe any Law of the game.
- b) wilfully, knock or throw the ball from the playing area into touch, touch-in-goal, or over the dead-ball line.
- c) repeatedly infringe any Law of the game.

#### 3. MISCONDUCT, DANGEROUS PLAY

It is illegal for any player to:

- a) strike an opponent, even in retaliation.
- b) wilfully trip, hack or kick an opponent.
- c) in the front row of a scrum, charge, punch, wheel, collapse or “pop” an opponent.

#### 4. PLAYER ORDERED OFF

A player who is ordered off shall take no further part in the match. The referee will send a report to the Union or School, naming the player and describing the circumstances. The Union or School will investigate the matter and take such action and inflict such penalty as they see fit.

**The player must be replaced for the remainder of the match.**

### 5. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

- a) A player guilty of Foul Play, misconduct or repeated infringements shall either be ordered off, sent from the field-of-play for a period of 5 mins or else cautioned that they will be ordered off if they repeat the offence.
- b) For a similar offence, after a caution or temporary suspension, the player must be ordered off.
- c) If temporarily suspended the player shall remain with the team manager and must not enter the playing area until permitted to do so by the referee.
- d) Temporary Suspension is not a substitute for ordering off. If the offence warrants a player being ordered off, then the player must be ordered off.
- e) The maximum period of temporary suspension shall not exceed five (5) minutes in any circumstances.
- f) Time is to be counted from when the player leaves the playing area.
- g) If the period of temporary suspension has not expired when half-time or full-time is called, the period is considered to have expired.

### 10: Off-Side and On-side in General Play

At the start of a game all players are on-side. As the match progresses players may find themselves in an off-side position. Such players are then liable to be penalised unless they become on-side again.

**In general play**, a player is in an off-side position if they are in front of a team mate who is carrying the ball or they are in front of a team mate who last played the ball.

Off-side means that a player is temporarily out of the game. Such players are liable to be penalised if they take part in the game.

In general play, a player can be put on-side by an action of a team mate or by an action of an opponent.

#### A. Off-Side in General Play

A player is in an off-side position if the ball has been kicked, touched or is being carried by one of their team behind them.

1. There is no penalty for merely being in an off-side position. Off-side players will only be penalised if they:
  - play the ball
  - obstruct an opponent
  - move forward towards the ball

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

2. Players can be off-side in their in-goal.

3. A player who receives an unintentional throw-forward is not off-side.

**NB.** Referees will usually play the advantage with off-side if the non-offending team gains or appears likely to gain advantage.

Penalty: Penalty at the place of the infringement.

### **B. Being put On-side in General Play**

On-side simply means a player is in the game and is not liable to penalty for off-side.

#### **1. PLAYERS MADE ON-SIDE BY ACTION OF THEIR TEAM**

a) Players who are off-side in general play become on-side as a result of any of the following actions of their team:

- i) when the off-side player has retired behind the team mate who last kicked, touched or carried the ball; or
- ii) when one of their team mates carrying the ball has run in front of them;

#### **2. PLAYERS MADE ON-SIDE BY ACTION OF THE OPPOSING TEAM**

a) Players who are off-side in general play and further away than 10m from an opponent become on-side when:

- i) an opponent carrying the ball has run five metres; or
- ii) an opponent passes the ball; or
- iii) an opponent intentionally touches the ball and does not catch or gather it (eg. Drops a catch).

## **11: Knock-on and Throw-Forward**

A knock-on occurs when a player loses possession of the ball and the ball travels forward, towards the direction of the opponents' dead-ball line; or after striking a player's hand or arm the ball travels forward and touches the ground or another player before it is recovered.

A throw-forward occurs when a player carrying the ball throws, passes or hands it in the direction of their opponents' dead ball-line.

Referees are instructed not to judge a knock-on or throw-forward as an infringement unless clearly so. A knock-on will only be called if:

- a) The infringing team gains an advantage.
- b) The ball is played forward rather than dropped.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

These two infringements account for most applications of the Advantage Law. Players should continue playing until the whistle is blown.

**These infringements result in a scrum, normally at the place of infringement. The non-offending team will feed the ball into the scrum.**

**An intentional throw-forward or knock-on results in a penalty.**

### 12: Kick-Off and Restart Kick

A **kick-off** starts play for each half. The drop restart kick restarts play following the scoring of a try. The kick-off is only semi-contested. This means that the team receiving the kick-off has every opportunity to control the ball and play it by running or passing.

The kick-off is taken in the form of a drop kick or punt kick.

The restart kick is taken in the form of a drop kick or punt kick.

It is taken from the centre of the half way line by the team that has the right to start the match or by the opposing team following the resumption of play after the half time interval.

Following the scoring of a try, the non-scoring team (kicks off) restart kicks from the centre of the half way line.

1. The kick-off/restart kick must be taken from the centre of the half way line and by a drop kick or punt kick; otherwise it shall be kicked again.
2. The kicker's team must be behind the ball when kicked; otherwise the ball shall be kicked off again.
3. The kicker's team must not advance within 5 m of the receiving player until that player has brought the ball under control and run with the ball or passed the ball. If the kicker's team is inside the 5 m area, the kick-off/restart will be taken again.

Should the same offence occur with the second kick-off/restart, a penalty will be awarded at the point where the infringement occurred.

4. The receiving team must stand back at least ten metres back from the half-way line. If they are in front of that line or if they move forward before the ball has been kicked, it shall be kicked again.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

5. If the ball fails to reach the opponents ten metre line or if it is kicked out on the full it must be kicked off again.  
Should the second kick/restart fail to travel the required distance or is again kicked out on the full, a scrum will be formed at the centre of the half-way line, receiving team to feed.
6. If the ball crosses the goal line without touching a player, the defenders may either ground the ball or opt to play on. If they do ground the ball, or if it goes into touch-in-goal or over the dead ball line, they will be awarded a scrum at halfway.

### 13: 15m Drop-out Restart

A **Drop-kick** is used to restart play after an attacking player has put or taken the ball into the in-goal, without infringement, and a defending player has made the ball dead there (touchdown) or it has gone into touch-in-goal or over the dead-ball line.

The drop-out is only semi-contested. This means that the team receiving the drop-out has every opportunity to control the ball and play it by running or passing. (See point 3 below.)

A 15m drop-out restart is a drop kick taken by the defending team. The drop-out must be taken from the mid-point of the 15 m line.

1. The 15m restart must be taken from the centre of the 15m line and by a drop kick; otherwise the drop-out must be taken again.
2. Following the completion of the tackle, the tackled player must also get up or move away from the ball at once.
3. The kicker's team must not advance within 5 m of the receiving player until that player has brought the ball under control and run with the ball or passed the ball. If the kicker's team is inside the 5 m area, the drop-out must be taken again.  
  
Should the same offence occur with the second drop-out a penalty will be awarded at the point where the infringement occurred.
4. The receiving team must stand back at least five metres back from the 15 m line. If they are in front of that line or if they move forward before the ball has been kicked, the drop-out must be taken again.
5. If the ball fails to travel at least 5 m or if it is kicked out on the full the drop-out must be taken again.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

Should the second kick fail to travel the required distance or is again kicked out on the full, a scrum will be formed at the centre of the 15 m line.

6. If the ball crosses the goal line without touching a player, the defenders may either ground the ball or opt to play on. If they do ground the ball, or if it goes into touch-in-goal or over the dead ball line, they will be awarded a scrum at point where the drop-out was taken.

### 14: The Tackle and Lying With, On or Near the Ball

The defending team attempts to halt the running progress of the attacking team by “tackling” the ball carrier.

A tackle occurs when a ball carrier is held by an opponent and while held is brought to the ground, or the ball comes into contact with the ground. This includes being on a knee, sitting on the ground or being on another player on the ground. A tackle can only take place in the field of play.

This Law aims to give the tackled player a chance to keep the ball alive and thus provide continuity to the game.

**NB.** When a ball carrier is held by one opponent and not brought to ground, and a teammate binds onto the ball carrier, a maul has been formed and a tackle cannot take place.

1. When tackled, the ball carrier must release the ball by:

- immediately passing the ball up to a supporting player
- placing the ball on the ground in any direction
- pushing or dropping it away, but not in a forward direction.

**NB.** At this age level referees are encouraged to have a liberal interpretation of “immediately”. The referee should allow a reasonable amount of time for the ball carrier to “play the ball” as long as the player is obviously attempting to keep the ball alive.

2. Following the completion of the tackle, the tackled player must also get up or move away from the ball at once.
3. The tackler must immediately release the tackled player and get up or move away from the ball at once. However the tackler can compete for the ball as long as they are on their feet prior to the formation of a ruck.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

4. Any player who is not a tackled player or a tackler on the ground may gain possession of the ball at the tackle or in close proximity to it, providing that:

- they do so from behind the ball **and**
- from behind the tackled player or the tackler closest to their goal line and
- they are on their feet.

5. No player may:

- a) While lying on the ground, play or interfere with the ball or opponent in any way.  
(While on the ground a player is considered out of the play.)
- b) Voluntarily fall on or over a player or players lying on the ground with the ball near them.

A breach of any of the above will result in a penalty being awarded at the place of infringement.

**NB.** A try may be scored in a tackle if the tackled player's momentum takes them to the goal-line. It may also be scored where they can reach out and place the ball on or over the line as part of the placing requirement but it must be immediate and in one movement. In this situation a defender is allowed to pull the ball from the tackled player to attempt to stop a try.

**Dangerous tackles** are regarded as Foul Play. Dangerous tackles include:

- charging or knocking a ball carrier over without any attempt to grasp him;
- jersey slinging tackles;
- early, late or stiff-arm tackles;
- tackles above the level of the chest; or
- any tackle that in the opinion of the referee is dangerous

A dangerous tackle will result in a penalty being awarded to the non-offending team at the place of infringement, and may result in the offending player receiving a caution, temporary suspension or sending off.

### 15: Ruck

A ruck is a phase of play formed when one or more players from each team who are on their feet and in physical contact, close around the ball on the ground.

**NB.** Only two opposing players are required as the minimum for a ruck.

A ruck can take place only in the field-of-play, not in the in-goal.

A ruck ends when:

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

- a) the ball emerges
  - b) the ball is on or over the goal line.
1. A player joining a ruck must have their head and shoulders no lower than the hips and must bind with at least one full arm's length (from hand to shoulder) around the body of a team mate.
2. A player must not:
- a) return the ball into the ruck.
  - b) pick up the ball in the ruck.
  - c) while lying on the ground interfere in any way with the ball in or emerging from the ruck.
  - d) wilfully collapse the ruck.
  - e) jump on other players in the ruck.
  - f) ruck opponents or pull them out of the ruck, even if they are in the way.

**A breach of any of the above will result in a penalty being awarded at the place of infringement. NB Breaches of d-f are considered dangerous play and may also be dealt with under the Foul Play Law.**

3. If the ball in a ruck becomes unplayable the scrum feed will be awarded to the team moving forward immediately prior to the stoppage.
4. Off-Side at Ruck

The "off-side line" means a line parallel to the goal-line immediately behind the hindmost foot of the last player/s of each team participating in the ruck. Those players not taking part in the ruck must remain behind the off-side line until the ruck ends.

While a ruck is taking place, players are off-side if they:

- a) join it from the opposition's side; or
- b) join it in front of the ball; or
- c) unbind from the ruck and do not immediately either retire behind the off-side line or rejoin it behind the last player.
- d) advance beyond the off-side line with either foot and do not join the ruck.

**In all cases an infringement results in a penalty where the offending player was off-side.**

### 16: Maul

A maul occurs when a player, carrying the ball, is held by one or more opponents, and one or more of the ball carrier's team-mates bind on the ball carrier. All players must be on their feet and moving towards their respective goal-line.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

A maul can take place only in the field-of-play and not in the in-goal.

A maul ends when:

- the ball is on the ground (it becomes a ruck).
- the ball or ball carrier emerges from the maul.
- the ball in the maul is on or over the goal line.

1. A player joining a maul must have their head and shoulders no lower than the hips and must bind with at least one full arm's length (from hand to shoulder) around the body of a team mate.
2. A player must not:
  - a) jump on players in a maul.
  - b) wilfully collapse a maul or attempt to take the legs out from under any player in the maul.
  - c) Attempt to drag another player out of a maul.

**Offences will result in a penalty, and a caution or sending off if the offence is dangerous.**

3. If the ball becomes unplayable or it appears it will probably not emerge without delay the referee should not allow prolonged wrestling for the ball but should order a scrum.

If the ball become unplayable the referee will award the scrum feed to the TEAM NOT IN POSSESSION AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MAUL.

If the referee is unable to determine which team had possession at the commencement of the maul, then the scrum feed will go to the geographically attacking team.

4. If a player in a maul goes to ground, including being on one knee or sitting, then a scrum shall be ordered unless the ball is immediately available. This is to avoid dangerous pile-ups.
5. **Referees will penalise any players who charge or drive into the maul in an unsafe manner, particularly where defenceless players are vulnerable. Players who try to collapse a maul will be penalised immediately and may also receive a caution or sending off as this constitutes dangerous play.**

### 6. Off-Side at Maul

The "off-side line" means a line parallel to the goal-line immediately behind the hindmost foot of the last player/s of each team participating in the maul. Those players not taking part in the maul must remain behind the off-side line until the maul ends.

While a maul is taking place, players are off-side if they:

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

- a) join it from the opposition's side
- b) join it in front of the ball
- c) unbind or leave the maul and do not immediately either retire behind the off-side line or rejoin it behind the last player
- d) advance beyond the off-side line with either foot and do not join the maul.

In all cases an infringement results in a penalty where the offending player was off-side.

### 17: Touch and Mini Lineout

The Mini lineout is used to introduce the lineout as a game element. It is a non-contested method of restarting play after the ball is carried or passed over the touch-line. The team throwing the ball into the lineout must win it.

#### TOUCH

The ball is in touch when the ball or the ball carrier touches the touch-line or the ground beyond it.

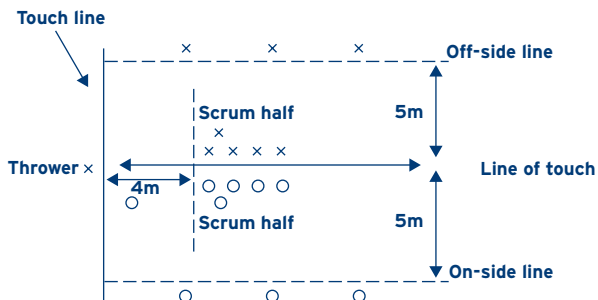
#### LINE OF TOUCH

The line-of-touch is an imaginary line in the field-of-play at right angles to the touchline from the place where the ball went into touch.

#### 1. FORMATION OF THE LINE-OUT

- a) A line-out is formed by four (4) players from each team standing in a single line parallel to the line-of-touch. Such players are those "in the line-out".
- b) The thrower stands on the touch line at the point where the ball went into touch.
- c) The four players from the thrower's team and the four players from the opposing team stand on either side of the Line of Touch, so as to leave a clear space of one (1) metre between the two lines of players, at the shoulders. This space should be maintained at all times. The first player stands 4m in from the touch-line. There is no set distance between team-mates.
- d) The player from the non-throwing team should stand in the 4m area as indicted on the diagram below.
- e) The line-out extends from four metres in from touch to ten (10) metres in from touch.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK



### 2. THROWING IN THE BALL

- a) The ball must be thrown in along the Line of Touch, at least four metres, and with the thrower's feet entirely in touch.

If the ball is not thrown in correctly, the same team will have a second throw. If this throw is not straight the opposing team will be awarded a scrum, their ball. The scrum is formed 10 m in along the Line of Touch.

### 3. BEGINNING AND END OF THE LINE-OUT

- a) The line-out begins when the ball leaves the thrower's hands.
- b) When the ball is thrown in, players from the throwers' line jump in an attempt to catch the ball and then direct it to their scrum-half by passing.
- c) Players from the non-throwing team are not permitted to contest the throw.

Once the ball is caught or deflected no player may:

- leave the line; or
- tackle or challenge any other player until the scrum-half has passed the ball.

**An infringement results in a penalty 10m in, along the line of touch.**

- d) The line-out ends when:

- the scrum-half has passed the ball to a player in their backline; or
- the ball becomes unplayable and play is stopped.

**NB** It is important for all players not participating in a formed line-out to realise that unless and until a line-out ends in one of these ways, they must not approach within five (5) metres of the line-of-touch.

**An infringement results in a penalty 10m in, along the line of touch.**

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### 4. RESTRICTIONS ON PLAYERS IN LINE-OUT

- a) Before or during a line-out a player may not:
  - i) be off-side; or
  - ii) push, charge, shoulder, bind or hold in any way another player of either team; or
  - iii) use any player as a support in jumping for the ball.

An infringement results in a penalty 10m in, along the line of touch.

- b) When jumping for the ball a player must use both hands to catch or deflect the ball.

### 5. LINEOUT SAFETY

There is no supporting or "lifting" in the lineout in Mini Rugby.

### 6. OFF-SIDE AT LINE-OUT

The players "participating in the line-out" are those in the two lines, the ball thrower and his/her immediate opponent, and the two scrum-halves.

#### A. OFF-SIDE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THE LINE-OUT

- a) Participating players are off-side if:
  - BEFORE the ball has touched a player OR the ground they are in front of the line-of-touch with either foot. The jumper for the ball may step up to the line-of-touch but not step across it in an attempt to jump.
- b) After the throw the thrower and his/her immediate opponent must either remain within four (4) metres of the touch line or retire to the five metres off-side line.

In the case of an infringement, the penalty is awarded 10 m in, along the line of touch.

#### B. OFF-SIDE WHILE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE LINE-OUT

A non-participating player is off-side if they move within five (5) metres of the line-of-touch before the line-out is ended. (ie until the scrum-half has passed the ball.)

In the case of an infringement, the penalty is awarded where the offence occurred.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### 18: Mini Scrum

The Mini scrum introduces the scrum as a game element. It is a non-contested method of restarting play. The team feeding the ball into the scrum must win it.

A scrum can take place only in the field-of-play and is not to be formed closer than five metres to the touchline or closer than five metres to the goal line. Five players from each team join to form a scrum. The middle player in each front row is the hooker, and the players on either side are the props. These players stand side by side and correctly bind upon each other. The remaining two players (locks) bind together and with the prop on their side and form the second row.

The scrum must be stationary, with the middle line parallel to the goal lines at all times. The "middle line" means an imaginary line on the ground directly beneath the line formed by the junction of the shoulders of the two front rows.

#### 1. SCRUM SAFETY

##### A. The Engagement Sequence

- a) The opposing teams follow the scrum engagement sequence which is verbally managed by the referee:

##### CROUCH - TOUCH AND HOLD - ENGAGE SLOWLY

- a) This ensures that the correct body positions are adopted and that players gently come to rest shoulder to shoulder with the opposition.
- b) Front rows should not crouch until the scrum-half has the ball and is ready to put it in.
- c) Each scrum must have 5 players in it at all times. (If playing Mini Rugby with less than ten players, the number in the scrum must remain at 5.)
- d) During the scrum each front row player's shoulders must not be lower than the hips. Players must adopt a normal stance, both feet on the ground, with the hooker having all weight firmly on one foot and in a position to hook the ball.

##### B. ARU Directive

If a scrummage collapses the referee MUST whistle immediately. The MAY DAY procedure must be followed to take pressure off the collapsed players.

##### C. Body Shapes

Children with long, thin necks are not suitable to play in the front row and must not be selected in these positions. Even though the laws of Mini Rugby prevent pushing the principle of selecting body types starts at this level.

##### D. Non-contested Scrums

In Mini rugby only the hooker of the team feeding the scrum may strike for the ball. This maximises stability among the other players participating in the scrum.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### 2. BINDING PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE ENGAGEMENT SEQUENCE

All front row players must bind firmly and continuously throughout the duration of the scrum. It is recommended that the hooker bind over the prop's arms, gripping their jersey at the armpit (see fig 1).

The loose-head prop must bind to their opposing tight-head prop with the left arm inside the other prop's right arm.

The tight-head must bind with the right arm outside the left upper arm of their opposing loose-head prop and must not pull downwards.



Figure 1:



The two locks must bind around the hips of the prop in front of them and to each other to form the second row.



Figure 2



## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### 3. THE ENGAGEMENT SEQUENCE:

Once each team has formed their front row and second row and bound the two rows together, the referee will verbally manage the engagement sequence as follows:

CROUCH	This means that each front row bends at the hips and knees and stands "offset" to their opposing front row. Offset means that each player in the front row has their head to the left hand side of their opposing player.
TOUCH AND HOLD	Each prop reaches forward and places their outside hand on the upper arm of their opposite prop, this establishes a safe distance for engagement. Hold means to pause prior to the engage call from the referee, NOT to hold or grip the jersey of your opposition. While waiting, they should look up and sight the space for their head during the engagement. The referee then checks that all is ready for the scrum to engage.
ENGAGE SLOWLY	Each member of the front row places their head under the shoulder of their opposite and looks up.

The following aspects are a list of correct technique and safety considerations for the scrum during the engagement sequence:

- Players form a bridge with players of the opposing team.
- Looking up assists the back to straighten and keep the spine in line.
- Back straight
- Hips bent
- Knees bent
- Weight evenly balanced over feet
- Feet far enough apart to allow correct engagement.

### 4. PUTTING THE BALL IN

- a) The non-infringing team shall put the ball in.
- b) The ball shall be put in without delay or when ordered by the referee.
- c) Play in the scrum begins when the ball leaves the scrum-half's hands.
- d) If the ball is put in and it comes out at either end of the tunnel it shall be put in again by the same team.
- e) The scrum ends when the scrum-half places their hands on the ball as it emerges from the scrum.
- f) The scrum-half shall:
  - i) Stand on the left hand side of their own scrum, an arms length from centre.
  - ii) Hold the ball at a level midway between ankle and knee then roll the ball into the centre of the tunnel.
  - iii) Release the ball from the scrum immediately it is controlled at the back of the scrum.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

- g) The opposing scrum-half must stand on the same side of the scrum as the scrum-half feeding the ball and is not permitted to move past the middle line of the scrum until the scrum has ended.
- h) If the team putting the ball into the scrum does not win the ball, the scrum is reset.

### 5. RESTRICTIONS ON FRONT ROW PLAYERS

- a) All front row players must allow a clear tunnel.
- b) When the ball has touched the ground, only the hooker of the team feeding the ball should use their right foot to strike for the ball.
- c) There is no pushing allowed in scrums at this age level.
- d) No player may wilfully:
  - i) Raise both feet off the ground.
  - ii) Take any position or action which is likely to cause the scrum to collapse
  - iii) Lift an opponent off their feet or force them upwards out of the scrum (ie “popping”).
  - iv) Hold the ball in the scrum for a prolonged period.

### 6. MOVEMENT OF THE SCRUM

- a) The scrum must be stationary. If the scrum wheels unintentionally or moves forward, it will be reset with the same team feeding the ball.

**In all other cases above, an infringement results in a penalty awarded at the place where the scrum was set.**

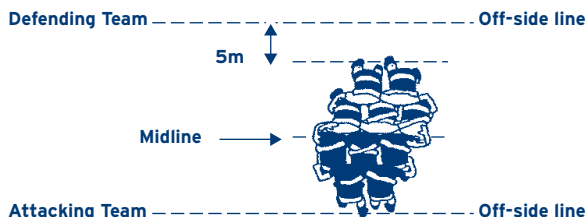
### 7. OFF-SIDE AT THE SCRUM

The “off-side line” means a line parallel to the goal-line 5m from the hindmost foot for the defending backline, and from the hindmost foot for the attacking backline, of the players in the scrum.

1. Players in the scrum must not leave it until the ball has been cleared.
2. Neither scrum-half may remain or place either foot in front of the middle line of the scrum before the ball has been cleared.
3. The non-feeding scrum-half is off-side if they stand on the opposite side of the scrum to the put-in.
4. The defending backline cannot advance ahead of the off-side (5m behind hindmost feet) line until the scrum has ended (ie until the scrum half has passed the ball).
5. The attacking backline cannot advance ahead of the off-side line (hindmost feet) until the scrum has ended (ie until the scrum half has passed the ball).

**In all cases an infringement results in a penalty kick where the scrum was awarded.**

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK



### 19: Penalty Kick

A penalty kick is a Tap restart or Punt kick awarded to the non-offending team as stated by the Laws.

**In Mini Rugby, the "Tap restart" and "Punt kick for touch" are the only options for the team receiving a Penalty Kick. Kicks for goal are not permitted at this age level.**

The tap restart is taken by placing the ball on the ground at the mark indicated by the referee. The ball must be propelled by the foot a visible distance in any direction from the mark. A mere touch with the foot is not sufficient.

The referee should ask the team receiving the penalty to place the ball on the mark and wait. They then ask the offending team to move back ten metres and when all is ready ask the team taking the penalty to play on.

If the place where the penalty would be awarded to an attacking team is within ten metres of the opponent's goal line, the mark for the kick shall be ten metres from the goal line. A defending team can be awarded a penalty within one metre of its own goal line.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### THE TEAM AWARDED THE PENALTY

1. Players of the team not behind the ball when the “Tap Restart” is taken must continue to retire until they have been put on-side.
2. Having successfully kicked the ball into touch from a penalty kick, the same team will throw the ball into the resultant line-out from the point at which the ball crossed the touchline.

### THE TEAM CONCEDED THE PENALTY

1. The opposing team must run without delay to, or behind, a line parallel to the goal line and ten (10) metres from the mark.
2. The opposing team must not prevent or delay the kick or interfere with the kicker in any way, nor wilfully interfere with the ball.

**Infringement of any of the above will result in a penalty a further ten metres in front of the original mark.**

## 20: In-Goal

**In-goal** is the area bounded by a goal-line, touch-in-goal lines and dead-ball line. It includes the goal-line but excludes touch-in-goal lines and dead-ball line.

It is that part of the playing area where players from either team may ground the ball by forcing the ball onto the ground with the hand or hands, arm or arms, or the front of a player’s body from waist to neck inclusive even for an instant.

When attacking players are first to ground the ball in the opponent’s in-goal, the attacking players score a **try**.

When defending players are first to ground the ball in their in-goal, the defending players make a **touchdown**.

**Touch-in-goal** occurs when the ball or a player carrying it touches a corner post or a touch-in-goal line or the ground beyond it.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### 1. IN-GOAL INFRINGEMENTS

- a) A penalty try should be awarded when a defender prevents a probable try by Foul Play in-goal.
- b) For other offences in-goal the outcome is the same as for in the field-of-play but the restart/kick or scrum is awarded five metres from the goal line opposite the place of infringement.

### 2. FIVE METRE SCRUM

A "Five metre scrum" is a scrummage formed when the ball becomes dead in-goal for the following reasons:

- a) a defending player with the ball is tackled in-goal.
- b) a defender carries the ball back, even if forced, or sends the ball back over the goal line and it there becomes dead (eg. Touch down, over touch-in-goal or dead-ball lines).
- c) where there is doubt about which team first grounded the ball.
- d) "held ball in goal". This occurs when a maul is carried over the goal line and the ball is not grounded.

The five metre scrum is formed five metres from the goal-line opposite the place where the ball became dead in-goal, but no closer than five metres from the touch-line.

The attacking team shall feed the scrum.

### 3. 15m DROP-OUT RESTART

A "15m Drop-out Restart" is a drop kick taken from the centre of the 15 m line for the following reasons:

- a) an attacker carries the ball into the opponent's in-goal and it is then grounded by a defender or else goes into touch-in-goal or over the dead-ball line.
  - b) when a "geographical defending" player with the ball is forced back from the field-of-play onto the corner post before grounding the ball. (Touch in Goal)
  - c) when a ruck or maul is carried over the goal line and a defender grounds the ball.
- NB** A ruck or maul ends when the ball within them is on or over the try line. If an attacker grounds the ball, it is a try.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### Code of Conduct

The Australian Rugby Union abides by a strict code of conduct. The full details of these can be accessed at [www.rugby.com.au](http://www.rugby.com.au).

### Expectations of Behaviour

The guidelines below outline the expectations of behaviour for all participants in the game which have been developed to:

- \* Maintain the elements of enjoyment and satisfaction in Junior and School Rugby.
- \* Improve the physical fitness of youth by making participation in Rugby attractive, safe and enjoyable for all young people.
- \* Constantly remind Administrators, Coaches, Referees and Parents that Rugby must be administered, taught and provided for the good of those young people who wish to play the game.

### It is their game!

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S

1. Ensure that equal opportunities for participation in Rugby are made available to all irrespective of ability.
2. Do not allow the game to become primarily spectator entertainment.
3. Equipment and facilities must be appropriate to the maturity level of the young players.
4. Rules and length of schedules should take into consideration the age and maturity level of the young players.
5. Remember that play is done for its own sake. Do not emphasise the need for awards.
6. Distribute the code of conduct to spectators, coaches, players, referees, parents and teachers.
7. Ensure that parents, coaches, sponsors, doctors and participants understand their authority and their responsibility for fair play in Rugby.
8. Offer clinics to improve the standards of coaching and refereeing with emphasis on good sportsmanship and the development of good technical skills.
9. Ensure adequate supervision is maintained at all times.
10. Behave in a manner to set an example for all participants.

#### MANAGER'S

1. Encourage parents to take an active interest in the Team.
2. Encourage parents and supporters to talk to opposition spectators.
3. Encourage supporters to praise good play by both teams.
4. Discourage supporters from excessive barracking.
5. Provide administrative assistance to the Coach.
6. Be fully informed of Rugby requirements and matters effecting your team.
7. Look after injured players.
8. Phone results of game to designated person on time.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

9. Check eligibility of players for your team.
10. If a member of the team is ordered off by the referee, see that the player attends the judicial committee hearing as required and accompany him to the meeting.
11. Make sure players, parents and officials are informed of all functions, social and otherwise.
12. Attend coaching and other meetings where coach is unable to attend.
13. Insist on an appropriate standard of team behaviour both on and off the field.
14. Set an example in terms of behaviour.

### COACH'S

1. You have the responsibility for your team and its supporters. EXERCISE IT!
2. Be reasonable in your demands on the young player's time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests and demands on their time.
3. Teach your players that the laws of the game are mutual agreements that no one should ever evade or break.
4. Ensure that all players get a game. The "just average" players need and deserve equal time.
5. Remember that young people play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or losing a game.
6. The scheduling and length of practice times and games should take into consideration the maturity of the players.
7. Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as, the judgement of referees and opposing coaches.
8. Follow the advice of a doctor in determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
9. Remember that young people need a coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved and set a good example.
10. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of young people.
11. Encourage young people to develop basic skills and avoid over-specialisation in positional play during their formative years.
12. Create opportunities to teach sportsmanship, just as you would in teaching basic skills.
13. Ensure that efforts for both skill improvement and good sportsmanship are rewarded by praise.
14. Ensure that skill learning and free play activities have priority over highly structured competitions for very young people.
15. **INSIST ON FAIR PLAY**, do not tolerate foul play, fighting or foul language. Be prepared to take off an offending player.
16. Discourage excessive talk on the pitch.
17. **INSIST** on a disciplined approach by players and mean what you say.
18. Set a good example by personal good behaviour.
19. Do not approach a referee at any stage during or immediately after a game.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

### PLAYER'S

1. Play for the "enjoyment", not just to please your parents or coach.
2. Play by the laws of the game of Rugby.
3. Never argue with the referee's decisions. Let your captain or coach ask any necessary questions.
4. Control your temper - no "mouthing off".
5. Work equally hard for yourself and your team - your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
6. Be a good sport. Applaud all good play, whether by your team or by your opponent.
7. Treat all players as you would like yourself to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully or take unfair advantage of any player.
8. Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills and feel good. Don't be a show-off or always try to get the most points.
9. Co-operate with your coach, team mates, referee and opponents, for without them you don't have a game.

### REFEREE'S

1. Ensure that "over-refereeing" of the game does not lose the "spirit of the game" for young people.
2. Actions speak louder than words. Ensure that both on and off the field your behaviour is consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship.
3. Compliment both teams on their good play whenever such praise is deserved.
4. Be consistent, objective and courteous.
5. Condemn the deliberate "good foul" as being unsportsmanlike, thus retaining respect for fair play.
6. Publicly encourage law changes that will reinforce the principles of participation for fun and enjoyment.
7. Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound refereeing principles and the principles of growth and development of young people.
8. Avoid comment on competition rules, only deal with the Laws of the Game.

### PARENT'S

1. Do not force an unwilling youngster to participate in Rugby.
2. Remember, young people are involved in Rugby for their enjoyment, not yours.
3. Encourage your child always to play by the laws.
4. Teach young children that honest effort is as important as victory so that the result of each game is accepted without undue disappointment.
5. Turn defeat into victory by helping young people work towards skill improvement and good sportsmanship. Never ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or losing a game.
6. Remember that young people learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team.
7. Do not publicly question the referee's judgement and never his/her honesty.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

8. Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from Junior and Schools Rugby.
9. Recognise the value and importance of volunteer coaches, managers and referees. They give of their time and resources to provide recreational activities for your children.

### SPECTATOR'S

1. Remember that young people play organised sport for their own fun. They are not there to entertain you and they are not miniature Wallabies.
2. Be on your best behaviour. Don't use profane language or harass players, coaches or referees.
3. Applaud good play by your own team and the opposition team.
4. Show respect for your team's opponents. Without them there would be no games.
5. Never ridicule or scold a player for making a mistake during the game.
6. Condemn the use of violence in all forms.
7. Respect the referee's decisions.
8. Encourage players to play according to the laws.
9. SLEDGING: THIS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED in any shape or form. Players and referees are NOT fair game.
10. Do not, under any circumstance, approach a referee during or after a game.

### Refereeing

Refereeing is essential to all levels of the game of Rugby.

- Walla Rugby - A good place to begin refereeing and become involved in a non-contact version of the game. All parents are encouraged to involve themselves in this young age grouping.

Mini and Midi Rugby - The first contact rugby for youngsters. A challenge to referees in controlling this level of the game.

- Junior and Schools - Both these groups provide mid-week and weekend competition at varying standards for all referees. Provides the foundations for refereeing at a higher level.
- Colts and Club Rugby - Your local referees association will aid you in refereeing a game at a suitable standard and help your development in refereeing by providing seminars and practical experience.

Representative Rugby - For those who wish to progress to the top level and referee visiting and representing teams.

### What can you do to help your child's sporting development?

- Attend an Introduction to Mini Coaching course and then help coach your child's Mini Rugby Team.

## MINI RUGBY PATHWAY LAW BOOK

- Attend an Introduction to Pathway Referee course and then help referee your child's Mini Rugby Team.
- Volunteer to do one small but specific task at the club or school where your child plays.
- Enrol your child in age group specific Coaching Clinics that are conducted by your State/Territory Union.
- Ensure that fun and enjoyment are the reason that you and your child are involved in Mini Rugby rather than winning a game or competition.

**For more information contact your State Rugby Union Office.**

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