

U13-U18 Boys Variations to the World Rugby Laws of the Game

Players and Match Officials must ensure that the World Rugby Laws of Game (including the World Rugby Under 19 Law Variations) and any such law variations set out below (and/or otherwise agreed by the RFU) are observed when playing boys rugby by U13 to U18 in England.

RFU Regulation 15 (<http://www.englishrugby.com/governance/regulations/>) must also be complied with at all times.

Any terms defined in these Rules shall have the meanings set out in the World Rugby Laws of the Game.

Law Variations applicable to all age grades between U13 and U18

1. Ball and pitch sizes

Ball size:

- U13 and U14 – ball size 4
- U15, U16, U17 and U18 – ball size 5

Pitch Size: as set out in World Rugby Law 1

2. Substitutions and replacements

Rolling substitutions are permitted and substituted players can be re-used at any time. Substitutions can only take place when the ball is dead and always with the referee's knowledge.

There is no limit on the number of replacements that a team may have, even if competing teams have unequal number, unless otherwise specified by separate regulations specific to a competition.

3. Squeezeball

No player shall use the technique known or referred to as "Squeezeball" and no person involved in the teaching or coaching of rugby may teach or coach to encourage the use the "Squeezeball" technique.

Note: "Squeezeball" is a technique where the ball carrier goes to ground, head forward (touching or close to the ground), irrespective of immediate contact with opponents, usually keeping parallel to the touchline, holding and protecting the ball close to the chest and, when on the ground, pushing the ball back between the legs.

4. Sin Bin

If a player is temporarily suspended in an Age Grade match, the duration of time in the Sin Bin shall be as set out below:

- U13 and U14 - 5 minutes
- U15 - 6 minutes
- U16, U17 and U18 - 7 minutes

Additional Law Variations applicable to U13, U14 and U15 only

The variations below shall also apply at U13, U14 and U15:

5. The scrum

- a) There is no 'turnover' law. If scrums are reset for wheeling beyond 45 degrees the throw-in is to the side in possession at the time it is wheeled beyond 45 degrees.
- b) The scrum-half not throwing the ball into the scrum must not move beyond the middle line of the scrum until the ball has emerged from the scrum or an opponent has lifted the ball from the ground. In the event of a strike against the head, the scrum-half who has thrown the ball into the scrum is similarly restricted in not following the ball.
Sanction: Penalty Kick.

6. Law 19 Line-Out

Lifting and supporting is prohibited at this age group, i.e. a player may not bind to a jumper until he has returned to the ground.
Sanction: Penalty Kick.