



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

From: **David Carrigy**  
**Chief International Relations & Participation Officer**

Date: **May 16, 2023**

Re: **World Rugby Special and Annual Meeting of Council May 11, 2023**  
**World Rugby Council Decisions:**     **Notice of Amendments to World Rugby Regulations**  
   **Notice of Amendments to World Rugby Bye-Laws**  
   **Notice of Opt-In Tackle Height Guidelines**  
   **Notice of Amended Law Review Process**

At its Special and Annual Meetings of Council held on May 11, 2023 Council agreed the following:

**World Rugby Regulations**

- (1) Regulation 4: Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement – [attached annex one \(page 1\)](#)  
**Implementation date: Effective from July 1, 2023**
- (2) Regulation 8: Eligibility to Play for National Representative Teams – [attached annex two \(page 6\)](#)  
**Implementation date: Effective immediately May 11, 2023**
- (3) Regulation 17: Discipline – Foul Play – [attached annex three \(page 8\)](#)  
**Implementation date: Effective from July 1, 2023**
- (4) Regulation 21: Anti-Doping – [attached annex four \(page 17\)](#)  
**Implementation date: Effective immediately May 11, 2023**

**World Bye-Laws**

- (1) Bye-Law 9: The Council – [attached annex five \(page 32\)](#)  
**Implementation date: Effective immediately May 11, 2023**

**Laws of the Game**

- (1) Opt-In Tackle Height Guideline Global Law Trial – [attached annex six \(page 38\)](#)  
**Implementation date: Effective immediately May 11, 2023**
- (2) Amendments to Law Review Process – [attached annex seven \(page 40\)](#)  
**Implementation date: Effective immediately May 11, 2023**

Yours sincerely,

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

**David Carrigy**  
**Chief International Relations and Participation Officer**



## **ANNEX ONE**

### **Regulation 4: Player Status, Player Contracts and Player Movement**

*Implementation date: July 1, 2023*

## **REGULATION 4. PLAYER STATUS, PLAYER CONTRACTS AND PLAYER MOVEMENT**

- 4.1** The Game is open to all and Persons may receive Material Benefit notwithstanding that for the majority of those participating in the Game will remain a non-vocational leisure activity.
- 4.2** The provisions of this Regulation 4 deal with the status and eligibility of Players and the movement of Players from one Union to another.
- 4.3** Subject to Regulation 4.4 below, each Union shall provide its own system for the movement of Players within its jurisdiction. Such system shall be governed by appropriate regulations and shall be provided to World Rugby on request.
- 4.4** The regulations referred to in Regulation 4.3 above shall include the Regulations and observe the general principles set out in Regulations 4.5, 4.8.1 and 4.9 below.
- 4.5 Status of Players and Contracts for Material Benefit**
- 4.5.1** Subject to Regulation 4.5.10:
- (a) a Player may receive Material Benefit from a Union;
  - (b) a Union may permit any Rugby Body or Club in membership of that Union to provide Material Benefit to any Player;
  - (c) any Player receiving Material Benefit from a Union, Rugby Body or Club must have in place a written agreement with such Union, Rugby Body or Club.
- 4.5.2** If a Union grants such permission as is referred to in 4.5.1 (b) above, then prior to any written agreement between a Rugby Body or Club and a Player taking effect within that Union, the written agreement must:
- (a) be agreed by the relevant parties;
  - (b) be concluded for a pre-determined period; and
  - (c) be in a form approved by the Union as notified in writing to the Rugby Body or Club.
- A copy of such written agreement shall be provided to the Union concerned and, on demand, made available to World Rugby.
- 4.5.3** Only written agreements (excluding financial terms) in a form approved in writing and distributed by the Union within whose territory the Player is Registered shall be used by Rugby Bodies and/or Clubs and recognised by the Union and/or World Rugby.
- 4.5.4** Only Players with written agreements that are in a form approved and distributed by the Union concerned shall be eligible to participate in competitions organised, recognised or sanctioned by that Union.

- 4.5.5 No Union, Rugby Body or Club shall enter in any written agreement and/or arrangement of any kind that provides for and/or in any way facilitates third party influence and/or control over a Player's playing relationship with his Union, Rugby Body or Club and/or his Registration.
- 4.5.6 Only a Player who is currently Registered with a Union shall be able to participate in competitions organised, recognised or sanctioned by that Union<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.5.7 Players who are Registered and are currently receiving, or who have received, Material Benefit shall be regarded as Contract Players (save for those Players who are no longer classified as Contract Players in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 4.8.1 below). All other Players who are Registered shall be regarded as Non-Contract Players.
- 4.5.8 A Player may not be registered simultaneously with more than one Union unless the Player is aged under 18 years old; or is ~~he is classified as a student that has reached the age of majority and is in full time education ("Student")~~ which for the avoidance of doubt excludes any Contract Player; or has reached the age of majority and is a ~~full~~ full-time member of the armed services (~~"Serviceman"~~ Military Personnel) ~~and has the prior written permission of his Home Union for Dual Registration<sup>2</sup>. The status of a Player shall be determined by the Home Union of the Student and/or Serviceman.~~
- 4.5.9 For the purposes of Regulation 4.5.8, the Home Union of the Player has absolute discretion to refuse a Student or ~~Serviceman~~ Military Personnel (as the case may be) permission for Dual Registration. Only players that are Students or ~~Servicemen~~ Military Personnel are entitled to apply for permission for Dual Registration. Where a Student or ~~Servicemen~~ Military Personnel Player is granted permission for Dual Registration by their Home Union:
- (a) The Dual Registration will not amount to a Clearance under Regulation 4.6 and must be:

<sup>1</sup> In respect of the lowest levels of its competitive structure only, a Union or Association may make a written application to the CEO for approval not to apply Regulation 4.5.6. A Union or Association must set out, in full, the reasons for the application and shall provide such further information. Documents and/or any other assistance that the CEO may deem necessary for the proper consideration of the application. The CEO shall have absolute discretion in relation to the approval or refusal of any such application by a Union or Association and the decision of the CEO, including, but not limited to any conditions of approval, shall be final and binding. The CEO may at his absolute discretion withdraw any approval granted to any Union or Association pursuant to this provision. For the avoidance of doubt, any application made pursuant to this provision shall only be considered by the CEO if it relates to the lowest levels of a Union or Association's competitive structures. Disputes arising out of Regulation 4 will, preferably, be adjudicated on by member(s) of the Judicial Panel who are experienced in player issues, including but not limited to training and development, and may include eminent ex-players.

<sup>2</sup> ~~NB: An attempt has been made to define Student and Servicemen narrowly. Operational experience will demonstrate whether further refinement to these Regulations is necessary to achieve the underlying purpose of this amendment.~~

- (i) For no longer than twelve months;<sup>3</sup> and
    - (ii) By way of a Standard Dual Registration Form.
  - (b) The Union with which the Player is first Registered retains all rights in relation to the Player concerned including, but not limited to, the right to seek compensation in respect of the Player pursuant to Regulation 4.7.
- 4.5.10 When leaving ~~his~~their Current Union, a Player shall not be treated as a Contract Player unless ~~he~~the Player was Registered as such with that Union.
- 4.5.11 Each Union shall maintain a register of all Contract Players and all Dual Registered Players under its jurisdiction and shall provide access to and/or copies of such register (or any part thereof) on demand, to World Rugby.
- 4.5.12 No Union, Rugby Body or Club shall enter into an agreement with any Player which enables the Player to receive Material Benefit unless:
- (a) such Player has reached the age of contractual majority within the jurisdiction of such Union, Rugby Body, or Club; or
  - (b) in the case of Players under the age of contractual majority who are aged 16 years or over, unless such Material Benefit takes the form of a non refundable financial grant to be applied only for the purposes of a Player's academic and/or vocational training for a period of 12 months or longer.
- 4.5.13 Each Union is entitled to establish appropriate regulations relating to the registration and development of Players below the age of contractual majority within the jurisdiction of such Union.<sup>4</sup>
- 4.5.14 Any regulations established by a Union pursuant to Regulation 4.5.13 above must be provided to World Rugby on request by World Rugby.
- 4.6 Movement of Players Between Unions**
- 4.6.1 A Player leaving or proposing to leave his Current Union to play in another Union shall not be Registered or eligible to participate in competitions organised, recognised or sanctioned by that New Union until the New Union has received the original version (or a facsimile copy of the original version) of a Clearance.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Consideration may need to be given to imposing a limitation on the number of times a Player may apply for Dual Registration. In practice this may present difficulties due to the length of degree courses and uncertainty with regard to Servicemen's tours of duty.

<sup>4</sup> To assist the Unions World Rugby may issue guidelines to Unions on the development and registration of young players.

<sup>5</sup> Clearance means the written consent (in the standard form) authorizing a Player to participate in the Game in a New Union at the request of such New Union and signed by:

(a) the Player's Current Union;

(b) the Union for whom the Player plays International Matches where such Player has represented that Union in a Match covered by Regulation 8.3 or 8.4; and



## **ANNEX TWO**

### **Regulation 8: Eligibility to Play for National Representative Teams**

***Implementation date: May 11, 2023***

## **Regulation 8 – Schedule 2. Olympic Events**

Council at its May 11, 2023 Annual Meeting of Council approved the amendment of Schedule 2 of Regulation 8 to reflect the 2024 Olympic Games events.

### **SCHEDULE 2. OLYMPIC EVENTS**

1. The Olympic Games 2024 – Paris
2. The Men’s Olympic Events:
  - World Rugby Sevens World Series 2022/2023
  - Designated Regional Olympic Qualification Tournaments (ROQTs) for the following Regions:
    - Africa
    - Asia
    - Europe
    - North America
    - Oceania
    - South America
  - World Olympic Final Qualification Tournament
3. The Women’s Olympic Events:
  - World Rugby Women’s Sevens World Series 2022/2023
  - Designated Regional Olympic Qualification Tournaments (ROQTs):
    - Africa
    - Asia
    - Europe
    - North America
    - Oceania
    - South America
  - World Olympic Final Qualification Tournament



## **ANNEX THREE**

### **Regulation 17: Discipline – Foul Play**

***Implementation date: July 1, 2023***



## APPENDIX 1. WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (REGULATION 17)

**Note:** Any act of foul play where the person committing the act of foul play makes contact with an opponent's which results in contact with the head and/or the neck, and that contact with the head and/or neck warrants a red card, shall result in at least a mid-range sanction<sup>5</sup>

**Note:** Where a Player receives a mid-range or top end sanction, a Disciplinary Committee/Judicial Officer/Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer may, at its discretion, agree that one week of the sanction may be replaced by a "Coaching Intervention" that complies with the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme<sup>6</sup>

**9.11** Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm, or jumping into, or over, a tackler.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.12** A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Intentional Contact with Eye(s) <sup>7</sup>	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Reckless Contact with Eye(s) <sup>8</sup>	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Contact with Eye Area <sup>9</sup>	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm, elbow or shoulder	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

<sup>5</sup> The note does not apply to ~~the following~~:

- (i) Laws ~~whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red card threshold~~ 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling) where the relevant entry points reflect the specific nature of the foul play;
- (ii) Where the Disciplinary Committee or Judicial Officer having completed steps 1-3 of Regulation 17.17-17.20 inclusive, and having taken into account the application of the Coaching Intervention Programme where relevant, considers that the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the offending player's fault and the consequences thereof.

<sup>6</sup> The World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme is only available for foul play offences occurring under the "Head Contact Process"

<sup>7</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

<sup>8</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

<sup>9</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

Striking with head <sup>10</sup>	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 16+ weeks/matches	Max: 104 weeks/matches
Striking with knee	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Stamping or Trampling	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Tripping	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Kicking	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

**9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.**

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.**

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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<sup>10</sup> Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.

**9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.**

Low-end: 6 matches/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 14+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.**

- a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
- b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
- c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
- d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.**

- a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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- b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.
- c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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- d. A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs.

<u>Low-end: 2 weeks/matches</u>	<u>Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches</u>	<u>Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches</u>	<u>Max: 52 weeks/matches</u>
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**9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:**

Hair pulling or grabbing	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Spitting at anyone	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Other	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

**9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.**

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.**

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.**

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 24 weeks/matches	Top-end: 48+ weeks/matches	Max: 260 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.**

Low-end: 24 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 48 weeks/matches	Top-end: 96+ weeks/matches	Max: Life
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In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 1 above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 1 and/or the provisions of Regulations 17.17 to 17.21 in cases where the player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officers and/or Disciplinary Committees may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

## WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (REGULATION 17) ADJUSTED FOR UNDERAGE RUGBY

**Note:** Any act of foul play where the person committing the act of foul play makes which results in contact with an opponent's the head and/or the neck, and that contact with the head and/or neck warrants a red card, shall result in at least a mid-range sanction<sup>12</sup>.

**9.11** Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm, or jumping into, or over, a tackler.

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

**9.12** A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

<b>Biting</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12 + matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
<b>Intentional contact with Eye(s)<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
<b>Reckless contact with Eye(s)<sup>14</sup></b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
<b>Contact with Eye Area<sup>15</sup></b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
<b>Punching or striking with hand, arm, elbow or shoulder</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>Striking with head<sup>16</sup></b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches:	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
<b>Striking with knee</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
<b>Stamping or Trampling</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

<sup>12</sup> The note does not apply to the following Laws whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red card threshold: 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling) where the relevant entry points reflect the specific nature of the foul play.

<sup>13</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

<sup>14</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

<sup>15</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

<sup>16</sup> Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.

Tripping	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Kicking	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches

**9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

**9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.**

- a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
- b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
- c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
- d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: warning <sup>17</sup>	Mid-range: 1 match	Top-end: 2+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

**9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.**

- a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

- b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.

- c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

- d. A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

**9.25. A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.**

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:**

Hair pulling or grabbing	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Spitting at anyone	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 18+ matches
Other	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end:	Mid-range:	Top-end:

<sup>17</sup> A Warning shall form part of the Players disciplinary record while at Underage level but not extend into their senior disciplinary record.

		2 matches	4 matches	6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

### 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

#### 9.2.8 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

### 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

### 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches

### 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 12 matches	Mid-range: 24 matches	Top-end: 48+ matches





## **ANNEX FOUR**

**Regulation 21: Anti-Doping**

**Implementation date: May 11, 2023**

## **REGULATION 21. ANTI-DOPING**

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**APPENDIX 1 DEFINITIONS**

- (f) Generally, the Judicial Committee shall apply the “best evidence rule”. This means that first-hand accounts from persons present at the hearing as to their observations/knowledge of the alleged anti-doping rule violation in question should be preferred. Hearsay evidence may be accepted. However, caution shall be exercised before hearsay evidence is accepted in preference to first-hand evidence and generally less weight is likely to be given to hearsay evidence. Further, as a general rule, Judicial Committees should not permit the introduction of opinion evidence other than expert opinion evidence. Expert opinion evidence is only likely to be permitted when the evidence falls outside the everyday knowledge of members of the Judicial Committee.
- (g) The Judicial Committee shall be entitled to determine whether witnesses that give evidence are able to remain in the room and/or on the call when not giving evidence.
- (h) The Judicial Committee shall endeavour to ensure that proceedings are not heard in the absence of the Player or other Person subject to the proceedings. However, the non-attendance of a Player, or other Person or his representative, after notice of the hearing has been provided, will not prevent the Judicial Committee from proceeding with the hearing in his absence. In arriving at its decision, the Judicial Committee may, however, take into account any written statement submitted by the Player or other Person or his representatives.
- (i) At any hearing the Judicial Committee will not be bound by judicial rules governing the procedure or the admissibility of evidence, however, the hearing shall be conducted in a fair manner with a reasonable opportunity for the Player or other Person who is alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation to submit evidence, address the Judicial Committee and present his case.
- (j) In respect of any hearing in relation to an anti-doping rule violation before a Judicial Committee the following will apply:
  - (i) The hearing shall be held in private;
  - (ii) Decisions may be made by majority; and
  - (iii) The Judicial Committee’s deliberations on its decision shall take place in private.

21.8.1.2.9 The written decision of the Judicial Committee shall be advised by World Rugby (or its designee) to all parties as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the hearing. When it considers it appropriate, the Judicial Committee may deliver a short oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing with its reasons to be put in writing and communicated to the parties at a later date, or it may reserve its decision. The decision of the Judicial Committee shall be binding upon notification to the Player or

other Person concerned and/or his Union subject to the right of appeal to ~~the Post Hearing Review Body and/or the CAS as applicable.~~ CAS.

- 21.8.1.2.10 In the event that the Judicial Committee establishes that an anti-doping rule violation has been committed, the Judicial Committee shall impose sanctions on the Player or other Person concerned in accordance with Regulation 21.10. The Judicial Committee shall also invalidate other Player awards including forfeiture of any medals and prizes.
- 21.8.1.2.11 A Player's or other Person's costs associated with any proceedings before a Judicial Committee dealing with an anti-doping rule violation shall ordinarily be borne by the Player or other Person, including travel/accommodation costs of the Player or other Person, his representatives and his witnesses, as well as his legal costs.
- 21.8.1.2.12 A Judicial Committee dealing with an anti-doping rule violation may, in its discretion, make an award of costs against the Player or other Person in respect of costs incurred by the Judicial Committee or other costs in relation to the investigation and/or proceedings where a sanction is imposed on the Player or other Person by the Judicial Committee.
- 21.8.1.2.13 Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulations 21.8.1.2.11 and 21.8.1.2.12 above, the Judicial Committee shall retain absolute discretion in relation to the awarding of costs associated with the case and may make such order as to costs as it sees fit.
- 21.8.1.2.14 Copies of the written decision of the Judicial Committee shall be provided by World Rugby (or its designee) to the Player or other Person and to other Anti-Doping Organisations with a right to appeal under Regulation 21.13.2.3.
- 21.8.1.2.15 Any deviation or deviations from the procedures set out in this Regulation 21.8.1 shall not invalidate any finding or decision of a Judicial Committee unless it was such as to cast real doubt on the reliability of such finding or decision.
- 21.8.1.2.16 WADA, the relevant Union and the NADO of the Player or other Person may attend the hearing as observers. In any event, World Rugby shall keep them fully apprised as to the status of pending cases and the result of all hearings.

## **21.8.2 Notice of Decisions**

- 21.8.2.1 At the end of the hearing, or promptly thereafter, the Judicial Committee shall issue a written decision that conforms with Article 9 of the International Standard for Results Management and which includes the full reasons for the decision, the period of Ineligibility imposed, the Disqualification of results under Regulation 21.10.10 and, if applicable, a justification for why the greatest potential Consequences were not imposed.

Union under Regulation 19 or its successor regulation as in force from time to time.

- 21.12.3** Withhold some or all funding or other financial and non-financial support from Unions which are not in compliance with these Anti-Doping Rules, International Standards (including the International Standard for Education) and/or in order to meet the amounts of any fine pursuant to Regulation 21.12.2 which have not been paid by the Union within the time period stipulated by World Rugby and/or Judicial Officer or Judicial Committee, as applicable. Similarly, World Rugby may withhold from the Union any amount not paid by a Player or other Person pursuant to Regulation 21.10.12 and the Union may seek this amount in turn from the Player or other Person under its direct jurisdiction.
- 21.12.4** Require that Union or body to reimburse World Rugby for all costs (including but not limited to laboratory fees, hearing expenses and travel) related to a violation of these Anti-Doping Rules committed by a Player or other Person affiliated with that organisation or body.
- 21.12.5** Notwithstanding Regulations 21.12.1 to 21.12.4 above, World Rugby may instigate an investigation into the compliance of any Union with these Anti-Doping Rules at any time which the Union shall facilitate. As a result of such investigation World Rugby may direct a Union to take certain action to bring itself into compliance with these Anti-Doping Rules. A failure by a Union to comply with such direction(s) within the stipulated period may give rise to disciplinary action which shall be dealt with pursuant to Regulation 19 or its successor regulation as in force from time to time.

## **21.13 RESULTS MANAGEMENT: APPEALS<sup>61</sup>**

### **21.13.1 Decisions Subject to Appeal**

Decisions made under the Code or these Anti-Doping Rules may be appealed as set forth below in Regulation 21.13.2 through 21.13.76 or as otherwise provided in these Anti-Doping Rules, the Code, or the International Standards. Such decisions shall remain in effect while under appeal unless the appellate body orders otherwise.

#### **21.13.1.1 Scope of Review Not Limited**

The scope of review on appeal includes all issues relevant to the matter and is expressly not limited to the issues or scope of review before the initial decision maker. Any party to the appeal may submit evidence, legal arguments and claims that were not raised in the first instance hearing

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<sup>61</sup> [Comment to Regulation 21.13: The object of the Code is to have anti-doping matters resolved through fair and transparent internal processes with a final appeal. Anti-doping decisions by Anti-Doping Organisations are made transparent in Regulation 21.14. Specified Persons and organisations, including WADA, are then given the opportunity to appeal those decisions. Note that the definition of interested Persons and organisations with a right to appeal under Regulation 21.13 does not include Players, or their federations, who might benefit from having another competitor Disqualified.]

so long as they arise from the same cause of action or same general facts or circumstances raised or addressed in the first instance hearing.<sup>62</sup>

#### **21.13.1.2 CAS Shall Not Defer to the Findings Being Appealed**

In making its decision, CAS shall not give deference to the discretion exercised by the body whose decision is being appealed.<sup>63</sup>

#### **21.13.1.3 WADA Not Required to Exhaust Internal Remedies**

Where WADA has a right to appeal under Regulation 21.13 and no other party has appealed a final decision within World Rugby's process, WADA may appeal such decision directly to CAS without having to exhaust other remedies in World Rugby's process.<sup>64</sup>

### **21.13.2 Appeals from Decisions Regarding Anti-Doping Rule Violations, Consequences, Provisional Suspensions, Implementation of Decisions and Authority**

A decision that an anti-doping rule violation was committed, a decision imposing Consequences or not imposing Consequences for an anti-doping rule violation, or a decision that no anti-doping rule violation was committed; a decision that an anti-doping rule violation proceeding cannot go forward for procedural reasons (including, for example, prescription); a decision by WADA not to grant an exception to the six (6) months' notice requirement for a retired Player to return to Competition under Regulation 21.5.6.1; a decision by WADA assigning Results Management under Article 7.1 of the Code; a decision by World Rugby not to bring forward an Adverse Analytical Finding or an Atypical Finding as an anti-doping rule violation, or a decision not to go forward with an anti-doping rule violation after an investigation in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management; a decision to impose, or lift, a Provisional Suspension as a result of a Provisional Hearing; World Rugby's failure to comply with Regulation 21.7.4; a decision that World Rugby lacks authority to rule on an alleged anti-doping rule violation or its Consequences; a decision to suspend, or not suspend, Consequences or to reinstate, or not reinstate, Consequences under Regulation 21.10.7.1; failure to comply with Regulation 21.7.1.4 and 21.7.1.5 of the Code; failure to comply with Regulation 21.10.8.1; a decision under Regulation 21.10.14.3; a decision by World Rugby not to implement another Anti-Doping Organisation's decision under

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<sup>62</sup> [Comment to Regulation 21.13.1.1: The revised language is not intended to make a substantive change to the 2015 Code, but rather for clarification. For example, where a Player was charged in the first instance hearing only with Tampering but the same conduct could also constitute Complicity, an appealing party could pursue both Tampering and Complicity charges against the Player in the appeal.]

<sup>63</sup> [Comment to Regulation 21.13.1.2: CAS proceedings are de novo. Prior proceedings do not limit the evidence or carry weight in the hearing before CAS.]

<sup>64</sup> [Comment to Regulation 21.13.1.3: Where a decision has been rendered before the final stage of World Rugby's process (for example, a first hearing) and no party elects to appeal that decision to the next level of World Rugby's process, then WADA may bypass the remaining steps in World Rugby's internal process and appeal directly to CAS.]

Regulation 21.15; and a decision under Article 27.3 of the Code may be appealed exclusively as provided in this Regulation 21.13.

#### **21.13.2.1 Appeals Involving International-Level Players or International Events**

In cases arising from participation in an International Event or in cases involving International-Level Players, the decision may be appealed exclusively to CAS ~~subject to Regulation 21.13.7 and Regulation 21.13.1.3.~~<sup>65</sup>

#### **21.13.2.2 Appeals Involving Other Players or Other Persons**

In cases where Regulation 21.13.2.1 is not applicable, the decision may be appealed to an appellate body, in accordance with rules adopted by the NADO having authority over the Player or other Person or, in the absence of a NADO which is a Signatory, the National Olympic Committee of the relevant country acting as the NADO.

The rules for such appeal shall respect the following principles: a timely hearing; a fair, impartial, Operationally Independent and Institutionally Independent hearing panel; the right to be represented by counsel at the Person's own expense; and a timely, written, reasoned decision.

If no such body as described above is in place and available at the time of the appeal, the decision may be appealed to CAS in accordance with the applicable procedural rules.

#### **21.13.2.3 Persons Entitled to Appeal**

##### **21.13.2.3.1 Appeals Involving International-Level Players or International Events**

In cases under Regulation 21.13.2.1, the following parties shall have the right to appeal to CAS: (a) the Player or other Person who is the subject of the decision being appealed; (b) the other party to the case in which the decision was rendered; (c) World Rugby; (d) the NADO of the Person's country of residence or countries where the Person is a national or license holder; (e) the International Olympic Committee or International Paralympic Committee, as applicable, where the decision may have an effect in relation to the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games, including decisions affecting eligibility for the Olympic Games or Paralympic Games; and (f) WADA.

##### **21.13.2.3.2 Appeals Involving Other Players or Other Persons**

In cases under Regulation 21.13.2.2, the parties having the right to appeal to the national-level appeal body shall be as provided in the NADO's rules but, at a minimum, shall include the following parties: (a) the Player or other Person who is the subject of the decision being

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<sup>65</sup> [Comment to Regulation 21.13.2.1: CAS decisions are final and binding except for any review required by law applicable to the annulment or enforcement of arbitral awards.]



- (b) If such a request is made within the fifteen (15) day period, then the party making such request shall have twenty-one (21) days from receipt of the file to file an appeal to CAS.

The above notwithstanding, the filing deadline for an appeal filed by WADA shall be the later of:

- (a) Twenty-one (21) days after the last day on which any other party having a right to appeal could have appealed, or
- (b) Twenty-one (21) days after WADA's receipt of the complete file relating to the decision.

#### **21.13.6.2 Appeals Under Regulation 21.13.2.2**

The time to file an appeal to an independent and impartial body in accordance with rules established by the NADO shall be indicated by the same rules of the NADO.

The above notwithstanding, the filing deadline for an appeal filed by WADA shall be the later of:

- (a) Twenty-one (21) days after the last day on which any other party having a right to appeal could have appealed, or
- (b) Twenty-one (21) days after WADA's receipt of the complete file relating to the decision.

An election by World Rugby to appeal a decision under the rules of a NADO shall be taken by a representative(s) of World Rugby's Anti-Doping Advisory Committee having been provided all available documentation by the Anti-Doping Manager. For the avoidance of doubt, World Rugby may, for expediency and to comply with applicable timelines, initiate an appeal prior to the Anti-Doping Advisory Committee representative(s) making such election, provided that where no such election is subsequently forthcoming, it withdraws such appeal.

#### **~~21.13.7 Appeals to the Post-Hearing Review Body~~**

##### **~~21.13.7.1 Decisions as specified in Regulation 21.13.2 may be appealed to the Post-Hearing Review Body.~~**

~~In circumstances where the Player or other Person has been subject to a period of Ineligibility or Provisional Suspension, Regulation 21.10.14 applies pending the decision of the Post-Hearing Review Body. WADA's right to appeal directly to CAS under Regulation 21.13.1.3 remains unaffected.~~

##### **~~21.13.7.2 Persons entitled to appeal under Regulation 21.13.2.3 may appeal a decision to the Post-Hearing Review Body by filing a notice with the Judicial Panel Chairman (or his designee) in compliance with this Regulation 21.13.7.2 within seven (7) days from the date of notification~~**

~~of the respective decision. The notice of from the person seeking the post hearing review shall specify:~~

- ~~(a) The name of the person seeking the review;~~
- ~~(b) The decision to be the subject of the review;~~
- ~~(c) The date of the decision; and~~
- ~~(d) The specific grounds for the referral request. Except as provided, no specific form of notice of review is required.~~

**21.13.7.3** ~~Upon receipt of a valid notice under Regulation 21.13.7.2, the Judicial Panel Chairman or his designee shall, appoint a Post Hearing Review Body from members of the Anti-Doping Judicial Panel to resolve, hear and adjudicate on appeals to the Post Hearing Review Body. The Post Hearing Review Body is Operationally and Institutionally Independent of World Rugby. For the avoidance of doubt no person connected to World Rugby may act as clerk to the Post Hearing Review Body. No member of a particular Post Hearing Review Body shall have previously considered any TUE application, Results Management decision in the same case or otherwise had any prior involvement in such case nor have the same rugby nationality (by reference to Regulation 8) as the Player or other Person alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation.~~

~~The Post Hearing Review Body shall ordinarily consist of three members, comprising:~~

- ~~(a) A senior legal practitioner who shall act as chairman;~~
- ~~(b) An experienced medical practitioner; and~~
- ~~(c) Either a second person from category (a) or (b) above or an ex-Player or current or ex-sports administrator.~~

**21.13.7.4** ~~Upon appointment by the Judicial Panel Chairman (or by the relevant independent equivalent person for a Delegated Third Party which has been delegated hearing management, as applicable) to a particular Post Hearing Review Body each member must also sign a declaration that there are no facts or circumstances known to him which might call into question their impartiality in the eyes of any of the parties, other than those circumstances disclosed in the declaration.~~

**21.13.7.5** ~~If one or more members of the Post Hearing Review Body is/are unable or unwilling, for whatever reason, to conduct the review, then the Judicial Panel Chairman may in his absolute discretion:~~

- ~~(a) Appoint a replacement(s);~~
- ~~(b) Appoint a new Post Hearing Review Body; or~~

- ~~(c) Allow the remaining member(s) of the Post-Hearing Review Body to conduct the review.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.6** The Post-Hearing Review Body shall determine the basis upon which any review will proceed. It may, however, in its discretion rehear the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Judicial Committee, if applicable, as it considers appropriate.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.7** Where any question of fact arises on any review before the Post-Hearing Review Body it may be determined by reference to the record of proceedings before the Judicial Committee, if applicable. However, the Post-Hearing Review Body, in its discretion, may rehear or receive written evidence in respect of the whole or any part of the evidence given before the Judicial Committee, if applicable, as it considers appropriate.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.8** The Post-Hearing Review Body shall have the power to conduct and regulate the review proceedings as it sees fit having regard to the circumstances of the case. Although the Post-Hearing Review Body is entitled to regulate its own procedure it shall conform to the procedures stated in these Anti-Doping Rules and with the procedural guidelines set out below:~~
- ~~(a) The review shall be conducted in a timely fashion;~~
- ~~(b) The parties shall have the right to be represented by counsel at their own expense; and~~
- ~~(c) The decision shall be timely, written and reasoned in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.9** The Post-Hearing Review Body shall be entitled to call on experts to provide specialist advice, including legal advice.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.10** The Post-Hearing Review Body shall have full discretionary power to hear and receive such further evidence as it thinks fit, provided it is established by the party wishing to lead such new evidence that such evidence was not, on reasonable enquiry, at the time of the original hearing.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.11** In any case where a witness required by the Post-Hearing Review Body refuses or fails to attend before the Post-Hearing Review Body, the Post-Hearing Review Body may decide whether or not to allow the evidence of that witness to be given in any other form.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.12** Save where the Post-Hearing Review Body decides to hear the entire case de novo (in which circumstances the applicable first instance standards and burdens shall apply), the party seeking review shall have the burden of proving that the decision being challenged should be overturned or varied.~~
- ~~**21.13.7.13** The Post-Hearing Review Body may request that a World Rugby representative attend the hearing before the Post-Hearing Review Body.~~

- ~~21.13.7.14~~ The decision of the Post-Hearing Review Body shall be promptly notified by World Rugby to the Player or other Person and to other Anti-Doping Organisations with a right of appeal under Regulation 21.13.2, and shall promptly be reported into ADAMS. When it considers it appropriate, the Post-Hearing Review Body may deliver a short oral decision at the conclusion of the hearing with its reasons to be put in writing and communicated to the parties at a later date, or it may reserve its decision.
- ~~21.13.7.15~~ Costs associated with any proceedings before the Post-Hearing Review Body shall, ordinarily, be borne by the party seeking review. The Post-Hearing Review Body shall, however, have full discretion in relation to the costs of Post-Hearing Review Body proceedings and may order any party or parties to pay some or all of the costs of proceedings under this Regulation 21.13.7 including the cost of holding the review, the cost of any interpreters and/or the legal and/or travel/accommodation costs of the members of the Post-Hearing Review Body and/or the parties.
- ~~21.13.7.16~~ In exercising its jurisdiction the Post-Hearing Review Body shall have power to quash, suspend, vary, or increase the decisions and/or sanction reviewed, subject always to the provisions of Regulation 21.10.
- ~~21.13.7.17~~ Decisions of the Post-Hearing Review Body may be appealed to CAS under Regulation 21.13.

## **21.14 CONFIDENTIALITY AND REPORTING**

### **21.14.1 Information Concerning Adverse Analytical Findings, Atypical Findings, and Other Asserted Anti-Doping Rule Violations**

#### **21.14.1.1 Notice of Anti-Doping Rule Violations to Players and other Persons**

Notice to Players or other Persons of anti-doping rule violations asserted against them shall occur as provided under Regulation 21.7 and 21.14.

If at any point during Results Management up until the anti-doping rule violation charge, World Rugby decides not to move forward with a matter, it must notify the Player or other Person, (provided that the Player or other Person had been already informed of the ongoing Results Management).

Notice to a Player or other Person may be sent by email and/or other means directly and/or via his Union. If the notification takes place via the Union, the Union shall confirm the notification to World Rugby.

#### **21.14.1.2 Notice of Anti-Doping Rule Violations to NADOs and WADA**

Notice of the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation to the Player's or other Person's NADO and WADA shall occur as provided under Regulation 21.7 and 21.14, simultaneously with the notice to the Player or other Person.

Any such Use or Possession may amount to a breach of the World Rugby Code of Conduct which may result in disciplinary action pursuant to Regulation 18.

- 21.22.5** Notwithstanding any potential breaches of this Regulation 21, offensive conduct towards a Doping Control official or other Person involved in Doping Control by a Person, may amount to a breach of the World Rugby Code of Conduct which may result in disciplinary action pursuant to Regulation 18.

## **21.23 INTERPRETATION OF THE CODE**

- 21.23.1** The official text of the Code shall be maintained by WADA and shall be published in English and French. In the event of any conflict between the English and French versions, the English version shall prevail.
- 21.23.2** The comments annotating various provisions of the Code shall be used to interpret the Code.
- 21.23.3** The Code shall be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to the existing law or statutes of the Signatories or governments.
- 21.23.4** The headings used for the various Parts and Articles of the Code are for convenience only and shall not be deemed part of the substance of the Code or to affect in any way the language of the provisions to which they refer.
- 21.23.5** Where the term “days” is used in the Code or an International Standard, it shall mean calendar days unless otherwise specified.
- 21.23.6** The Code shall not apply retroactively to matters pending before the date the Code is accepted by a Signatory and implemented in its rules. However, pre-Code anti-doping rule violations would continue to count as “First violations” or “Second violations” for purposes of determining sanctions under Regulation 21.10 for subsequent post-Code violations.
- 21.23.7** The Purpose, Scope and Organisation of the World Anti-Doping Programme and the Code and Appendix 1, Definitions, shall be considered integral parts of the Code.

## **21.24 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 21.24.1** Where the term “days” is used in these Anti-Doping Rules, it shall mean calendar days unless otherwise specified.
- 21.24.2** These Anti-Doping Rules shall be interpreted as an independent and autonomous text and not by reference to existing law or statutes.
- 21.24.3** These Anti-Doping Rules have been adopted pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Code and the International Standards and shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with applicable provisions of

the Code and the International Standards. The Code and the International Standards shall be considered integral parts of these Anti-Doping Rules and shall prevail in case of conflict.

- 21.24.4** The Introduction and Appendix 1 shall be considered integral parts of these Anti-Doping Rules.
- 21.24.5** The comments annotating various provisions of these Anti-Doping Rules shall be used to interpret these Anti-Doping Rules.
- 21.24.6** These Anti-Doping Rules shall enter into force on ~~1 January 2021~~**[DATE]** 11 May 2023 (the "Effective Date"). They repeal World Rugby's Anti-Doping Rules that came into effect on 1 January ~~2015~~2021.
- 21.24.7** These Anti-Doping Rules shall not apply retroactively to matters pending before the Effective Date. However:
- 21.24.7.1** Anti-doping rule violations taking place prior to the Effective Date count as "first violations" or "second violations" for purposes of determining sanctions under Regulation 21.10 for violations taking place after the Effective Date.
- 21.24.7.2** Any anti-doping rule violation case which is pending as of the Effective Date and any anti-doping rule violation case brought after the Effective Date based on an anti-doping rule violation which occurred prior to the Effective Date, shall be governed by the substantive anti-doping rules in effect at the time the alleged anti-doping rule violation occurred, and not by the substantive anti-doping rules set out in these Anti-Doping Rules, unless the panel hearing the case determines the principle of "lex mitior" appropriately applies under the circumstances of the case. For these purposes, the retrospective periods in which prior violations can be considered for purposes of multiple violations under Regulation 21.10.9.4 and the statute of limitations set forth in Regulation 21.16 are procedural rules, not substantive rules, and should be applied retroactively along with all of the other procedural rules in these Anti-Doping Rules (provided, however, that Regulation 21.16 shall only be applied retroactively if the statute of limitation period has not already expired by the Effective Date).
- 21.24.7.3** Any Regulation 21.2.4 whereabouts failure (whether a filing failure or a missed test, as those terms are defined in the International Standard for Results Management) prior to the Effective Date shall be carried forward and may be relied upon, prior to expiry, in accordance with the International Standard for Results Management, but it shall be deemed to have expired twelve (12) months after it occurred.
- 21.24.7.4** With respect to cases where a final decision finding an anti-doping rule violation has been rendered prior to the Effective Date, but the Player or other Person is still serving the period of Ineligibility as of the Effective Date, the Player or other Person may apply to World Rugby or other Anti-Doping Organisation which had Results Management responsibility for

the anti-doping rule violation to consider a reduction in the period of Ineligibility in light of these Anti-Doping Rules. Such application must be made before the period of Ineligibility has expired. The decision rendered may be appealed pursuant to Regulation 21.13.2. These Anti-Doping Rules shall have no application to any case where a final decision finding an anti-doping rule violation has been rendered and the period of Ineligibility has expired.

**21.24.7.5** For purposes of assessing the period of Ineligibility for a second violation under Regulation 21.10.9.1, where the sanction for the first violation was determined based on rules in force prior to the Effective Date, the period of Ineligibility which would have been assessed for that first violation had these Anti-Doping Rules been applicable, shall be applied.<sup>74</sup>

**21.24.7.6** Changes to the Prohibited List and Technical Documents relating to substances or methods on the Prohibited List shall not, unless they specifically provide otherwise, be applied retroactively. As an exception, however, when a Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method has been removed from the Prohibited List, a Player or other Person currently serving a period of Ineligibility on account of the formerly Prohibited Substance or a Prohibited Method may apply to World Rugby or other Anti-Doping Organisation which had Results Management responsibility for the anti-doping rule violation to consider a reduction in the period of Ineligibility in light of the removal of the substance or method from the Prohibited List.

**21.24.7.7** Notwithstanding Regulation 21.13, at the moment these Anti-Doping Rules enter into force on **11 May 2023**, a party may file an appeal with the former Post-Hearing Review Body in accordance with Regulation 21.13.7 of the now repealed World Rugby Anti-Doping Rules, which came into effect on 1 January 2021, provided that a first instance decision from a Judicial Committee Panel has been rendered and the deadline to file an appeal therefrom has not expired. Pursuant to Regulation 21.13.7.17 of the now repealed World Rugby Anti-Doping Rules, such an appeal decision rendered by the Post-Hearing Review Body may then be appealed directly to CAS.

**21.24.8** These Anti-Doping Rules shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law and, subject to the dispute resolution processes set out herein, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

**21.24.7.98** World Rugby may amend these Anti-Doping Rules from time to time.

## **21.25 WORLD RUGBY ANTI-DOPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

<sup>74</sup> [Comment to Regulation 21.24.7.5: Other than the situation described in Regulation 21.24.7.5, where a final decision finding an anti-doping rule violation has been rendered prior to the Effective Date and the period of Ineligibility imposed has been completely served, these Anti-Doping Rules may not be used to re-characterise the prior violation.]



## **ANNEX FIVE**

### **World Rugby Bye-Laws**

**Implementation dates: May 11, 2023**



## BYE-LAW 9. THE COUNCIL

### 9.1 Composition of Council

The Council shall consist of:

- (a) two Representatives from each of: (i) the Foundation Unions, (ii) Unión Argentina de Rugby, and (iii) the Federazione Italiana Rugby, and (iv) any other Member Union which has been categorised as a High Performance Union in accordance with the criteria approved by Council criteria who . In each case the Representatives must be or have been a member of or hold an official position within the governing body of that Member Union;
- (b) one Representative from each of the following Member Associations: Asia Rugby, Rugby Africa, Rugby Europe, Oceania Rugby, Sudamericana Rugby (Rugby Americas South) and Rugby Americas North, who must be or have been a member of or hold an official position within the governing body of that Member Association;
- (c) the Chair as a non-voting member of Council save for when given a casting vote in accordance with these Bye-Laws;
- (d) the Chief Executive Officer as a non-voting member of Council;
- (e) one additional Representative from:
  - (i) each Member Union set out in Bye-Law 9.1(a); and
  - (ii) each of the Member Associations set out in Bye-Law 9.1(b); and
  - (iii) each of the Member Unions set in Bye-Law 9.1(f) and who are entitled to an additional vote in accordance with Bye-Law 9.4(d).

~~in both cases~~each case, provided such additional Representative is female (who is not required to be or have been a member of the governing body of that Member Association or Member Union); and
- (f) any Representative appointed in accordance with Bye-Law 9.2.

The Representatives set out above shall be elected by their Member Unions or Member Associations (as the case may be) and must be Eligible to hold such a position in World Rugby.

### 9.2 Applying to join Council

- (a) All Member Unions other than those set out in Bye-Law 9.1(a) wishing to appoint a representative to Council may apply to the Nominations Committee at any time.
- (b) Such Member Unions will be subject to review and recommendation by the Nominations Committee and must comply with the criteria required for Eligibility for Consideration of Membership to Council (the "Criteria").

- (c) The Criteria (which must for the avoidance of doubt be complied with by all Member Unions who are already in membership of Council and/or applying to become members of Council) may be reviewed from time to time but include the requirement for the relevant Member Union to demonstrate compliance with the provisions below:
- (i) for applicant Unions who have never been in membership of Council: it has qualified for the two most recent Rugby World Cup Finals prior to the date of application to the Nominations Committee (note that the criteria which apply to a Member Union maintaining membership of Council in relation to qualification for the Rugby World Cup Finals is a different test as set out in Bye-Law 9.3(c));
  - (ii) for applicant Unions who were once in membership of Council: it has qualified for the Rugby World Cup Finals prior to the date of the application to the Nominations Committee;
  - (iii) it fully complies with World Rugby Membership Criteria as applicable at the time of application;
  - (iv) it is in good standing with World Rugby (and in particular it has filed and continues to file all appropriate paperwork/reports required by World Rugby and has paid all fees which are due for its membership or the renewal thereof);
  - (v) it is a member of a Member Association;
  - (vi) it is in good standing with its National Olympic Committee and/or National Sports Ministry
  - (vii) it is able to demonstrate that good governance practice is in operation including but not limited to the following areas:
    - Constitution, Bye-Laws and Regulations are fully applied;
    - Three years of unqualified audited accounts or, where such accounts are qualified, such qualification(s) is not material to the Member Union's compliance with the Criteria, as determined by the Nominations Committee;
    - Three years of AGM Minutes provided;
    - Transparent links with membership evident;
    - Satisfactory confirmation that the Member Union has jurisdiction and control over players and the professional game in their Member Union territory; and
    - Comply with any national or regional legislation, regulations or codes in the area of good governance for sporting bodies.
- (d) The Executive Board and Council shall be given notice of the Nominations Committee's recommendations in accordance with Bye-Law 9.12 and Council shall make any final decision(s) in relation to Council membership which shall take effect from the first day of January following Council's decision (unless Council implements its decision to take effect from a different date).

### 9.3 Ceasing to fulfil Council Membership Criteria

- (a) Ordinarily by the end of January following each Rugby World Cup Finals Tournament, each Member Union in membership of Council shall be reviewed by a nominee of the Nominations Committee (which, for the avoidance of doubt, may be a World Rugby staff member) to confirm each Member Union's continued compliance with the applicable Criteria. For the avoidance of doubt such review could take place outside of the ordinary review cycle if it is believed that a Member Union may no longer comply with the Criteria.
- (b) The Nominations Committee shall consider a compliance report with respect to each Member Union ordinarily at its meeting in or about March of the year following each Rugby World Cup Finals Tournament. Ordinarily at that meeting the Nominations Committee shall make recommendation(s) with respect to the membership of Council in consideration of the Criteria set out in Bye-Law 9.2(c). The Executive Board and Council shall be given notice of the Nominations Committee's recommendations in accordance with Bye-Law 9.12 and Council shall make any final decision(s) in relation to Council membership which shall take effect immediately following Council's decision (unless Council implements its decision to take effect from a different date).
- (c) In the event that a Member Union already a member of Council fails to qualify for the Rugby World Cup Finals, that Member Union shall, subject to a review in accordance with Bye-Law 9.3(a), continue to be entitled to appoint a representative to Council and have the opportunity to qualify for the next edition of the Rugby World Cup Finals. If such Member Union fails to qualify for the next Rugby World Cup Finals (i.e. two Rugby World Cup Finals in succession), that Member Union shall automatically lose its right to appoint a representative to Council and shall leave Council on the last day of December following the (second) Rugby World Cup Finals for which the relevant Member Union has failed to qualify.

### 9.4 Voting Rights on Council

The voting rights on Council are as follows:

- (a) each Member Union entitled to appoint a Representative to Council pursuant to Bye-Law 9.2 shall have one vote;
- (b) each Member Union entitled to appoint two Representatives to Council pursuant to Bye-Law 9.1(a) shall have two votes. which:  
~~has qualified for the two most recent Rugby World Cup Finals prior to the date of the vote; and~~

~~plays in either the Six Nations Championship or SANZAAR Rugby Championship or has been categorised as a High Performance Union in accordance with the criteria approved by Council shall have one additional vote;~~

- (c) each Member Association set out in Bye-Law 9.1(b) shall have two votes;
- (d) Member Unions which have qualified for the two most recent Rugby World Cup Finals prior to the date of the vote and satisfy the criteria below shall have one additional vote:
  - (i) contribute to the Game by having a Member Union audited average annual turnover greater than £20 million or an equivalent amount in the relevant Member Union's territory taking into account an appropriate purchasing-power parity index <sup>1</sup> over the previous four-year period (to reflect its investment in the Game);
  - (ii) bid to host (as voted at Council) or hosts a Major Event in the eight (8) year period prior to the date of the vote or is scheduled to do so in the succeeding four (4) year period after the date of the vote;
  - (iii) have in place a sustainable Women's sevens and/or fifteens programme with national team participation in the Women's Rugby World Cup Finals and/or Rugby World Cup Sevens Finals and/or qualification process for either tournament in the eight (8) year period prior to the date of the vote; and
  - (iv) have in place a sustainable Men's sevens programme, or Women's sevens programme, reflected by (at a minimum) participation in Member Association competitions and/or the Sevens World Series (male and female).
- (e) the Chair shall have a casting vote;
- (f) if a Member Union or Member Association has the right to appoint multiple Representatives pursuant to Bye-Law 9.1 but only one Representative is present at any meeting that Representative will receive the full number of allotted votes to the Member Union or Member Association under this Bye-Law 9.4;
- (g) if a Member Union or Member Association has multiple Representatives present at any meeting, such Representatives shall determine how to cast the total number of votes allotted to that Member Union or Member Association under this Bye-Law 9.4 (including for the avoidance of doubt utilising the votes for and/or

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<sup>1</sup> For this purpose, the Nominations Committee shall determine an equivalent amount to £20 million in London, England, in the country of the Member Union using an established purchasing-power parity index such as the Economist's Big Mac Index or other index deemed suitable by the Nominations Committee.

against a particular matter, provided that: (a) no more than the total number of votes allotted to such Member Union or Member Association are cast; and (b) no single vote can be split into a half vote);

- (h) unless otherwise specified in these Bye-Laws, decisions on any matters before Council shall:
  - (i) if decided at a meeting, be determined by a simple majority of the votes allocated to the Representatives present at the meeting and entitled to vote pursuant to this Bye-Law 9.4; or
  - (ii) if decided by way of written resolution, be determined by a simple majority of the votes allocated to the Representatives entitled to vote pursuant to this Bye-Law 9.4; and
- (i) under no circumstances shall a Representative, Member Union or Member Association be entitled to vote by proxy at a meeting of Council and for the avoidance of doubt a Representative casting multiple votes pursuant to Bye-Law 9.4(f) shall not be a proxy vote.
- (j) The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with fulfilling the relevant criteria to vote as set out in this Bye-Law 9.4. If the Nominations Committee believes that a Member Union is no longer complying with the relevant criteria to vote, the Nominations Committee shall prepare a compliance report with its recommendations. The Executive Board and Council shall be given notice of the Nominations Committee's recommendations in accordance with Bye-Law 9.12 and Council shall make any final decision(s) in relation to voting rights which shall take effect immediately following Council's decision (unless Council implements its decision to take effect from a different date).

(k) For the avoidance of doubt no Member Union may have more than three votes on Council.

## 9.5 Quorum

The quorum for any meeting of the Council shall be Representatives representing at least fifty per cent (50%) of the Member Unions and Member Associations which have a Representative on Council.



## **ANNEX SIX**

**Opt-In Tackle Height Guideline Global Law Trial**

**Implementation dates: May 11, 2023**

## **Tackle Height Guideline**

Council at its May 11, 2023 Annual Meeting approved an opt-in global law trial to lower tackle height in the community and age grade game. The trial window will be for 2 years after which all metrics will be reviewed and a revised tackle height potentially mandated.

World Rugby will support Unions with:

- Consultation with stakeholders within Unions
- Developing educational tools for coaches, players & referees
- Advising on research protocols & partners
- Collation and tracking of trials



## **ANNEX SIX**

### **Law Review Process**

**Implementation dates: May 11, 2023**



## **Law Review Process**

Council at its May 11, 2023 Annual Meeting approved the adoption of a revised law review process which negates the need for a separate Law Review Group. The new model embraces the multitude of consultation events, four new Rugby committees and the Shape of the Game workshops. In summary form the process is:

1. Formal consultation at the various World Rugby conferences and via Union & competition proposals
2. Review, consolidate & make trial recommendations via the Shape of the Game conference
3. Trial proposals in dedicated law laboratories or via the normal closed trial process
4. The four Rugby Committees track & monitor the law trials
5. Council approve global law trials and inclusion into permanent law.