

TPSRA New Image Rules (reviewed March 2019)

New Image Rugby is a 7-a-side non-kicking game

Tackling, Passing and Offside

A tackle is made using a simultaneous two-handed touch on the ball-carrier on opposing sides of the body, below the shoulders and above the waist. There should be no pushing or shirt pulling and the ball carrier may not fend off or barge a potential tackler. If there is no illegality (eg offside) the ref. shouts 'Tackle' and the ball carrier must stop and then pass the ball within 3 seconds. Once a ref. has called 'Tackle' the ball carrier may not take any steps to score, but if he/she is tackled in the act of scoring the try will stand (see Scoring).

A pass must be made backwards. Passes cannot be made if the ball carrier is not on his/her feet. This includes in the try area.

When a tackle is called the defending players must move to their goal line side of the ball and allow the player to make the pass i.e. stay onside. A player may intercept a pass provided they start from an onside position.

Infringements

For any infringement the ball goes to, or is retained by, the non-offending side. The referee may either call 'Play On/Advantage' or award a free pass; whereupon all members of the offending team must retire 5 metres from the ball on a line parallel to their own try line. The match then restarts with a pass.

Infringements include:

- A knock-on, where the ball is dropped forward and touches the ground or an opponent
- A forward pass
- Offside, deliberate or unintentional, where a player is interfering with play, eg obstructing a pass or tackling
- Playing the ball whilst off the feet
- Diving to score
- Deliberately running on after 'Tackle' has been called or failing to pass within 3 seconds
- Snatching the ball from, barging or handing off, pulling the shirt of an opponent
- Obstruction (crossing) where a player runs behind a team mate thus, in the referee's opinion, preventing a tackle being made

If a player questions decisions the referee may, at his/her discretion, award a penalty pass. Persistence could result in the penalty advancing 5 metres and continued infringements would necessitate the referee 'sin binning' the player for a period of time determined by the referee.

Touch

If the ball, or player carrying the ball, goes on or over the sideline, play restarts with a free pass to the opposing team at the point where the ball or player went into touch. The opposing team must retire 5 metres from this point, although no pass shall be closer to a try line than 5m. The free pass must be made backwards and travel at least 2 metres.

Scoring

A point is scored for each try, whereby the ball is grounded on or behind the try line with hand, ball and ground in simultaneous contact. If a tackle is called and the player then grounds the ball in the try area this is not a knock-on, provided the ball is still retained. The game restarts with a 5 metre free pass to the attacking team. A try will be disallowed on safety grounds if a player scores by diving.

Fair Play

Referees and their decisions must be supported at all times. Opponents should also be treated with respect.