

Approved Domestic Safety Law Variations (DSLVS)

Effective: 1 March 2019

Background

The NZ Rugby Domestic Safety Law Variations (DSLVS) have been in place for many years. The DSLVS are primarily developed to enhance player safety, and other logistical issues re the playing of and participation in the game, particularly in age grade/junior rugby.

A review of the Domestic Safety Law Variations (DSLVS) was undertaken in 2018. NZR then convened a specialist Working Group to consider the recommended changes arising from the Review.

The NZR Board has now approved implementation of the following new DSLVS effective 1 March 2019.

New DSLV Laws

(1) Law 3: Temporary Replacement - Blue Card (Sevens Variation)

At all levels of Domestic Sevens rugby in which the Blue Card Initiative is in operation, a player issued a Blue Card:

- a) Leaves the field of play: and
- b) Is replaced (even if all the replacements have been used)

Rationale:

Enhances player welfare and provides for an equal contest when a team is reduced in numbers as a result of a player sustaining a suspected concussion injury.

Creates consistency with NZR DSLV XV's Law and World Rugby Sevens Variations for players at International level who are referred for sideline medical assessment.

(2) Law 19: Scrum

Secondary School Rugby - Scrum (Sevens Variation)

At all levels of Domestic Sevens rugby (excluding Small Blacks), contested scrums are permitted:

Rationale:

Creates consistency with NZR DSLV XV's Law and clarifies the confusion which currently exists re the playing of contested scrums in Sevens tournaments, particularly in Secondary School Girls competitions. Provides consistency with current practice.

(3) Law 19: Scrum

Secondary Schoolgirls Rugby - Scrum

DSLVLV scrum law may be applied in all grades of Secondary Schoolgirl rugby, provided coaches and front row players of teams have attended a Front Row Factory - scrummaging course.

NZR Protocols applying to application of this DSLV

The implementation and application of this law will be at the discretion of the Provincial Union responsible for managing and administering the competition, taking into account the relative experience and capability of the front row players in the teams participating in the competition.

Provincial Unions must display flexibility in implementing contested scrums at this level. Where relevant a phased/progressive introduction, similar to or consistent with that applying at Small Blacks level, should be applied. Player safety is paramount with team coaches and players consulted to ensure all parties mutually agree to the application of contested scrums.

Rationale:

Currently only 1st XV Secondary Schoolgirl level games are permitted to play DSLV Scrum law (contested scrums) subject to the requirement for coaches and front row players of teams to have attended a Front Row Factory - scrummaging course.

Introduction of DSLV scrum law at other levels will provide suitable development for girls moving from age grade rugby into Secondary School 1st XV level and club rugby. Application of contested scrums in accordance with the NZR protocols will manage player safety, which remains paramount.

(4) Law 19: Scrum

Premier Womens' Rugby - Scrum

The application of full International Scrum Law is permitted in Premier Womens' Club rugby competitions involving players eligible for selection to play in the Farah Palmer Cup competition.

NZR Protocols applying to application of this DSLV

The implementation and application of this law will be at the discretion of the Provincial Union responsible for managing and administering the competition, taking into account the relative experience and capability of the front row players in the teams participating in the competition.

Provincial Unions must display flexibility in implementing fully contested scrums at this level. Where relevant a phased/progressive introduction, similar to or consistent with that applying at Small Blacks level, should be applied. Player safety is paramount with team coaches and players consulted to ensure all parties mutually agree to the application of fully contested scrums.

In addition two additional criteria which must be strictly applied are:

- *All applicable World Rugby regulations relating to teenagers participating in adult rugby, be complied with.*
- *All team coaches and front row players in Premier Women's competitions implementing full International Scrum Law must have attended a Front Row Factory - scrummaging course.*

NZ Rugby Guideline:

It would be normal to expect that teams playing in Premier Women's competitions applying full international scrum law, are able to comply with the requirements at this level of the game. Specifically, teams should regularly be able to nominate a squad of 22 players, with a minimum of 5 players who are trained to play in the front row.

Rationale:

Currently only matches at Farah Palmer Cup level games are permitted to play full International Scrum Law. Closely managed introduction of full International scrum law in Premier level Women's rugby will provide suitable development for players moving from club rugby into Farah Palmer Cup and International rugby. Application of contested scrums in accordance with the NZR protocols and guidelines will manage player safety, which remains paramount.