

## **New Rugby Laws August 2007**

Rugby around the world is introducing new laws that are designed to make the game easier to understand and encourage a faster, more open game.

These Laws have been trialed in South Africa in the Stellenbosch University competition.

This year some of the rules were introduced into the Sydney Grade competition with mostly positive reviews.

The New Australian Rugby Championship ( ARC) which begins on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2007 will be playing all the new rules as outlined below.

The New rules have removed the confusing issues that occur at the breakdown in relation to rucks and mauls. It has removed as many as 30 infringement rules from the break down, ie not rolling away, playing the ball on the ground, collapsing the maul, hands in the ruck, not releasing, diving over, squeeze ball, truck and trailer, etc etc etc.

By changing most penalties to free kicks will mean far less kicks for touch and therefore a reduced number of lineouts in the game. This will result in more quick taps which will result in a much faster game.

Modern Rugby will be a faster and more dynamic game due to these rule changes.

Tickets to the Central Coast Rays have been supplied to the club by the ARU so it would be a great opportunity to see the new rules in action over the next 3 months.

The ARU and Sydney Juniors RU will be making a decision as to when the laws will be implemented into our local competition. It is envisaged that they will most likely be part of our game from next season. I believe this will be very positive for our game.

### **The Basic rule changes are**

1. At the breakdown, players can use their hands at all times. They must come into the breakdown "through the gate". No foul play is allowed. Otherwise, anything goes. The side that takes the ball into the breakdown and can't release it is penalised.
2. Either side can use as many players as they like in the lineout, at any time, providing they fit inside the 15-metre line.
3. If the ball is passed or run back into the 22 and then kicked out, the lineout is taken from where the kick was made.
4. Long-arm penalties are to be given only for offside and foul play. All other penalties are short-arm penalties (free kicks).
5. The maul can be collapsed by defending sides.
6. Touch judges are to become "flag referees" with a primary responsibility, like a football touch judge, of policing the offside lines

Regards,

**Rod Salmon**

President-Hunters Hill Rugby Club