

The IRFU has requested a ruling with regard Law 10-Foul Play

Current Law prohibits the tackling of a player who is in the air, either in the line out or in open play. The Law is designed to protect players, and to prevent them landing on the ground, on their heads or upper body.

It appears a serious anomaly, therefore, that a player(s) can deliberately lift an opponent off his feet and then may drop (or 'spear') the opponent so that he lands head down or on his upper body.

1. 10 4(e) Foul Play – Dangerous tackling.

Does the action of deliberately lifting an opponent off his feet in a tackle so that he may then be dropped (or 'speared') so that he lands on his head or upper body constitute tackling 'dangerously' as defined in this Law.

2. Law 10 – Foul Play

Does the action described in 1. by definition contrary to the letter and spirit of the laws and constitutes, per se, an act of foul play should it occur in general play; e.g. a player, on the fringes of ruck or maul, so lifted.

The Designated Members have ruled the following in answer to the questions raised:

Ruling

1. The act of lifting an opponent off his feet in a tackle AND dropping or 'spearing' that player so that his head and/or upper body comes into contact with the ground first, is a dangerous tackle.
2. The dangerous play described in 1. above is considered dangerous play no matter where it occurs in the game.

The ARU has requested a ruling with regard Law 3-Number of Players

On August 15, 2005 the IRB sent out a Law Ruling in response to a request from the Australian Rugby Union in relation to two scenarios relating to Law 3 - Numbers of Players. The ARU seek further clarification in relation to the ruling for Scenario 2.

The ruling provided by the IRB indicates that player 6 may return to the field at the end of the temporary suspension of player 3, but does not clearly indicate when player 3 can return to the field.

Can it be clarified when this player can return to the field? Is this at the end of his period of temporary suspension or when the temporary suspension for player 17 ends? Scenario 2 appears below.

Scenario 2

A front row player (No. 3) is temporary suspended. At the next scrum player No. 6 leaves the field to allow a replacement front row player (No. 17) to take the field. Player No. 17 is temporarily suspended (during the period of temporary suspension for player No. 3). At the

next scrum player No. 7 leaves the field to allow a replacement front row player (No. 18) to take the field.

When can players No. 3 and 6 return to the field; at the end of the temporary suspension for player No. 3 or must they remain off the field until the temporary suspension period for player No. 17 ends?

Is there any difference if the team does not have any further front row replacements (for No. 17)?

The Designated Members have ruled the following in answer to the questions raised:

Ruling on Scenario 2 (Ruling 4:2005)

Player No. 6 can return to the field of play at the end of the temporary suspension of player No. 3.

Player No. 17 cannot return to the field of play until his/her temporary suspension has ended. The temporary suspensions of players 3 and 17 are not linked but are separate temporary suspensions.

If Player No. 3 is temporarily suspended and player No. 17 replaces him, and is temporarily suspended during the period of player No. 3's temporary suspension, and the team has no further suitable replacements, then there will be uncontested scrums until player No. 3 returns to the field of play.

Ruling Clarification

Player No.3 and Player No.6 can return to the game after the 10 minute temporary suspension of Player No.3 has elapsed.

Player No.7 can return to the game after the 10 minute temporary suspension of Player No.17 has elapsed.