



Rugby Illinois Divisional Law Variations

March 30, 2023

Notes for CARFU Referees

Per RIL Coordinators for Spring 2023

Girls High School

- ▶ Unlimited subs/interchanges
 - ▶ This follows World Rugby approved Game On variations
 - ▶ Will revert to rostering 23 players and 12 interchanges for playoffs
- ▶ Match Length
 - ▶ 35-minute halves with half time break no less than 10 and no more than 15 minutes
- ▶ Developmental
 - ▶ If players are borrowed from another team, the team without enough players will forfeit the match. The game will be played as a “friendly”/non-league match
- ▶ **Foul play and disrespect is not tolerated**
 - ▶ **Ensure that respect for the game, the Referee, other players, and sidelines will be strictly enforced.**
 - ▶ **Any foul play or referee abuse should be reported and will be addressed.**

Boys Division 2

- ▶ Unlimited subs/interchanges
 - ▶ This follows World Rugby approved Game On variations
 - ▶ Will revert to rostering 23 players and 12 interchanges for playoffs
- ▶ Match Length
 - ▶ 35-minute halves with half time break no less than 10 and no more than 15 minutes
- ▶ Instructional Opportunities
 - ▶ Coaches can call the teams to sideline during scores to talk with them if needed
 - ▶ **NOTE: this period should not result in a long break/timeout. Allow for a short discussion and then regroup for continued play.**
- ▶ **Foul play and disrespect is not tolerated**
 - ▶ **Ensure that respect for the game, the Referee, other players, and sidelines will be strictly enforced.**
 - ▶ **Any foul play or referee abuse should be reported and will be addressed.**

Boys Freshman/Sophomore (F/S)

- ▶ Unlimited subs/interchanges
 - ▶ This follows World Rugby approved Game On variations
 - ▶ Will revert to rostering 23 players and 12 interchanges for playoffs
- ▶ Match Length
 - ▶ 35-minute halves with half time break no less than 10 and no more than 15 minutes
- ▶ Instructional Opportunities
 - ▶ Coaches can call the teams to sideline during scores to talk with them if needed
 - ▶ **NOTE: this period should not result in a long break/timeout. Allow for a short discussion and then regroup for continued play.**
- ▶ **Foul play and disrespect is not tolerated**
 - ▶ **Ensure that respect for the game, the Referee, other players, and sidelines will be strictly enforced.**
 - ▶ **Any foul play or referee abuse should be reported and will be addressed.**

Middle School - Senior Division (7th/8th U15)

▶ Ball Size

- ▶ Will use a size 5 rugby ball, but a size 4 can be used if agreed upon prior to the match.

▶ Pitch Size

- ▶ The Senior division plays on the full-size pitch.

▶ Match Length

- ▶ two 25-minute halves with half time break no less than 10 and no more than 15 minutes

▶ Scrums

- ▶ May be contested if both sides agree PRIOR to the match. **This should be a discussion held with both Head Coaches with the referee.**
- ▶ Will only move to uncontested scrums if there is a safety concern.
 - ▶ This will be via discussion with the Referee, Head Coach(es) or Rugby Illinois official
- ▶ Drive is limited to the front row going over the original referee mark. **This can be managed by the referee via discussion with the players and “hold” to stop the drive.**

Middle School - Senior Division (7th/8th U15)

▶ Lineouts

- ▶ Teams must make the declaration to lift or not PRIOR to the match with discussion with the Referee and Head Coach. **The Referee should ask for this decision during the pre-game chats.**
 - ▶ If either team elects not to lift, then no lifting at all by that team and the throws may be contested.
 - ▶ If a team opts to lift on their own lineouts, the lineout is uncontested. Defense may not lift to contest or players cannot jump to prevent the attacking side from execution of the lift.
 - ▶ The throwing team may not throw quick or intentionally not throw to the lifted jumper.
 - ▶ On a miss-throw or overthrow, play on. **This is determined by the Referee decision.**
- ▶ A team may only switch back to no-lifting if a safety issue.
 - ▶ This will be via discussion with the Referee, Head Coach(es) or Rugby Illinois official

Violations may result in applicable penalty or free kick by the Referee.

▶ Foul play and disrespect is not tolerated

- ▶ **Ensure that respect for the game, the Referee, other players, and sidelines will be strictly enforced.**
- ▶ **Any foul play or referee abuse should be reported and will be addressed.**

Middle School - Junior Division (5th/6th U13)

- ▶ Ball Size
 - ▶ Size 4.
- ▶ Pitch Size
 - ▶ Follows USA Rugby recommendations of a 70 x 35 m pitch.
 - ▶ Matches may be played inside the cone-marked full-size pitch or played sideways across the full-sized pitch.
 - ▶ If played sideways, the 40 m and scrum 5m lines will be used as sidelines and regular lineout 5m will be used as the try lines. The regular sidelines will be the dead ball lines.
- ▶ Match Length
 - ▶ Two 25-minute halves with half time break no less than 10 and no more than 15 minutes
- ▶ Scrums
 - ▶ Always uncontested scrums

Middle School - Junior Division (5th/6th U13)

- ▶ Lineouts
 - ▶ Contested with NO lifting permitted
 - ▶ No quick line outs
 - ▶ “Not-Straight” calls - the opposing team must take the lineout (**i.e. no option**). If that lineout is not straight, original throwing team will be awarded a scrum.
- ▶ Conversions
 - ▶ Kicker may center the ball to kick from in front of the posts on all conversion attempts, if desired.
- ▶ **Foul play and disrespect is not tolerated**
 - ▶ **Ensure that respect for the game, the Referee, other players, and sidelines will be strictly enforced.**
 - ▶ **Any foul play or referee abuse should be reported and will be addressed.**

Questions

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