



WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (REGULATION 17) ADJUSTED FOR UNDERAGE RUGBY

Note: Any act of foul play where the person committing the act of foul play makes contact with an opponent's head and/or neck, and that contact with the head and/or neck warrants a red card, shall result in at least a mid-range sanction¹.

9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others including leading with the elbow or forearm, or jumping into, or over, a tackler.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/ match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/ matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/ matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches

9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12 weeks/ + matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 weeks/ matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 14+ weeks/ matches
Intentional contact with Eye(s)²	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 14+weeks/ matches
Reckless contact with Eye(s)³	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches
Contact with Eye Area⁴	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm, elbow or shoulder	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
Striking with head⁵	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches:	Top-end: 6+ weeks/ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches
Striking with knee	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches

¹ The note does not apply to Laws 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling) where the relevant entry points reflect the specific nature of the foul play.

² The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

³ The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

⁴ The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

⁵ Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.

Stamping or Trampling	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches
Tripping	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
Kicking	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches

9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

Please see Appendix 2a for the Law Trial which will apply to all community games at age-grade (from U12) to Premiership (Women's and Girls) and Championship (Male) in the community game for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches

9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches

9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches

9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/ match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/ matches

9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 week/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.

- a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
- b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
- c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
- d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: warning ⁶	Mid-range: 1 week/match	Top-end: 2+ weeks/ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/ match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches

9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.

- a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches

- b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.

c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/ match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches

- d. A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs

⁶ A Warning shall form part of the Players disciplinary record while at Underage level but not extend into their senior disciplinary record.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/ match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/ matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/ matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/ matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches

9.25. A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches

9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:

Hair pulling or grabbing	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/ matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
Spitting at anyone	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches
Other	Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 week/match	Mid-range: 2 weeks/matches	Top-end: 4+ weeks/matches

9.2.8 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 weeks/ matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/ matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 24 weeks/matches	Top-end: 48+ weeks/matches