



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

18th October 2012

Statement to clarify the tackle area in the U9 New Rules of Play

This statement runs alongside, and is backed up by, the U9 New Rules of Play which can be found at <http://www.rfu.com/managingrugby/newrulesofplay>.

These rules should be confirmed by both sets of coaches and the referee before each fixture in order that they and their players are clear. This will lead to a better quality of experience for the players, referee, coaches and spectators.

When a tackle is made which results in the ball carrier going to ground, if it is not offloaded off the floor, the next attacking player should pass the ball.

Although this might limit the decision making of the immediate support player it discourages pick and go and encourages the development of passing and catching, as well as agility and team work, through more players having the opportunity to play with ball in hand.

It should also be noted that following a tackle to ground where the ball is placed, the defending team should get onside (behind the hindmost part of the tackled player) and cannot come forward until the ball is passed off the floor by the attacking team.

If you have any questions please be in touch through the contact details below.

Yours sincerely

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