



To: Secretaries/CEO's of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership

From: David Carrigy, Head of Member Services

Subject: Law Ruling by Designated Members of Rugby Committee

Date: March 12, 2007

Ruling: 2: 2007

The IRFU has requested a ruling with regard to Law 3 Number of Players

1. A penalty kick is awarded to White team. Before the kick is taken, can White team make a substitution? (If so, we assume that the substitute can take the penalty kick.)
2. A penalty kick is awarded to White team. Before the kick is taken can a previously sin-binned White player return; given that the 10 minutes have fully elapsed? (If so, we assume that the returning player may take the penalty kick.)

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

A substitution can only be made when the ball is dead. A referee must not let a player rejoin the match until the ball is dead. The ball is dead when the ball is out of play. This happens when the ball has gone outside the playing area and remained there, or when the referee has blown the whistle to indicate a stoppage in play, or when a conversion kick has been taken.

In both cases outlined above, the ball is dead, and therefore the answer to each question is in the affirmative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carrigy', is written over a light blue background.

David Carrigy
Head of Member Services