



YORKSHIRE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION FEDERATION of REFEREES' SOCIETIES

Federation Website: www.yrs.co.uk

August 2008

Federation Newsletter Launched

A message from Peter Farrell

Federation Chairman

Fellow Officials

Welcome to the first version of the Federation Newsletter which will hopefully keep you in touch with a variety of issues across the broad acres. The game has improved leaps and bounds in the 20 odd years I have been in the society. As the game has expanded the demands on officiating in terms of pace, technical expertise (including the range of games) has increased exponentially. The ELVs which come into operation on the 1st August are a case in point they will throw up new challenges and I would strongly encourage all of us to get some practice games under our belts before the season starts, every club and coach is watching to do the same! Anyone who thinks they can turn up and officiate without some practice is in for a substantial shock. We may have personal views on any/all of the ELVs however "our is not to reason why etc", and our role is to implement all the agreed ELVs without exception. I wish all of you the best for the forthcoming season and I thank you in anticipation for your contribution to our great game!

Peter

Experimental Law Variations

Paul Renton: Federation T&D Officer

I'm sure that no one can claim that they are not aware of the introduction of the ELVs! This first edition of Federation News has been produced to ensure that all members are aware of their introduction and to highlight where information can be gained so that everyone is prepared for the start of the season.

In order for everyone to hit the deck running, a number of options are available:

- To attend meetings where the ELVs are discussed;
- To ensure familiarity with ELVs by reading the IRB guidance and watching the IRB DVD;
- To be aware of the variations decided by the RFU in Youth Rugby; and
- To watch the ELVs being refereed in pre-season games.

Can I urge all members to participate in as many of these options as possible! If you're a referee, as a bare minimum, you **must** read and be fully familiar with the IRB guidance before blowing the whistle on the field in any match.

Whilst not wishing to be complacent about these experimental Law changes, let's not over-complicate things. I'm sure we all watch games where we think the referee gets something wrong in Law – even at the highest level! This will always be the case. I remember the time when a raft of Law changes was the norm every year and inevitably it took time at the start of the season to settle down. Our duty therefore at the start of this season is to be as well prepared as possible and then to take on a 'educational role' in supporting the game, and particularly the players, in getting to grips with the changes. Therefore, let's not forget when setting about this task that one of the main aims of the ELVs is to make the game easier and more enjoyable to play, coach and referee.

RFU ORGANISED MEETINGS

The RFU are organising sessions across the Country for Club Coaches and Referees. In the North West these are as follows:

Date	Venue	Time
21 st July	Morley RFC	1900 – 2030
23 rd July	Malton & Norton RUFC	1900 – 2030
6 th August	Ashville College Harrogate	1900 – 2030

Anyone wishing to attend should confirm their attendance via email to

FEDERATION MEETINGS

~~Andy Taylorson will be leading the first Main Meeting of the season on the ELVs. This is to be held at Aspull on Tuesday, 2nd September 2008.~~

In addition a number of pre-season games have been identified which will be refereed by some of our senior referees who will be available to discuss the any issues after the match. At the time of going to press, the following games have been identified but please watch the Federation Website for additions or alterations:

~~Thursday, 14th August: Macclesfield v Manchester – Andy Taylorson~~

~~Saturday, 16th August: Fylde v Sterling County – Graham Baneroft~~

~~Saturday, 23rd August: Manchester v Burroughmuir – Trevor Fisher~~

~~Friday, 29th August: PGH v Penrith – Rob Sheard~~

~~Saturday, 30th August: Fylde v Tynedale – Andy Taylorson~~

The RFU have set up an ELV Implementation Task Group. Below is a copy of a letter from its Chairman, Chris Cuthbertson, which indicates what the RFU are doing re the ELVs:

Dear colleague

Experimental Law Variations

By now I am sure that you will be aware that the iRB has decided to trial a number of Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) in our game during the 2008/2009 season.

In total there are thirteen ELVs and these are explained on the enclosed DVD.

Please note: the RFU has decided that ELV2 and ELV3 will not be trialled in England at Under 19 level and below.

Whilst the DVD is very informative, further details about the ELVs, including an iRB Guide, can be found in the ELVs section on www.rfu.com

To ensure that the whole game is informed about the ELVs before the start of the season the RFU has set up the ELV Implementation Task Group. The first action of this group has been to organise a series of meetings around the Country. The aim of these meetings, which are open to all, is to discuss how the referees will interpret the ELVs and to consider what impact the ELVs are likely to have on our game. I hope that you will be able to attend at least one of the meetings. Details of all of the meetings can be found on the RFU website.

If you visit the RFU website you will also find a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section, which hopefully will deal with most of the questions that you may have. We plan to update this as more questions arise. However if your question is not covered, or you would simply like to comment on the ELVs, then please contact us using the online ELV Forum.

During the course of the season we will be trying to understand the impact that the ELVs have on our game and will be keen to receive feedback from all sections of the game and everyone who is involved in it be they spectators, referees, coaches, players or volunteers. So when the time comes please do not hesitate to let us have your views.

Yours sincerely

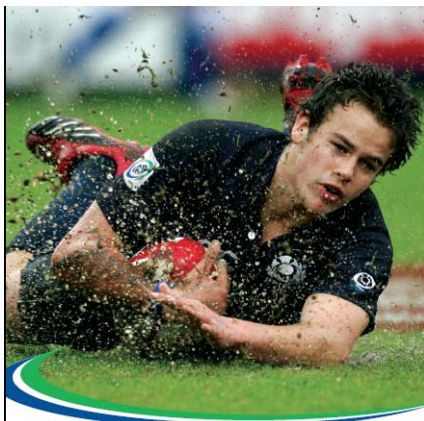


Chris Cuthbertson

Chairman

Experimental Law Variations Implementation Task Group

IRB Guidance



The IRB Guide to
Experimental Law Variations
August 2008



The IRB has produced guidance on the ELVs. This is available direct from the IRB website www.irb.com in the Laws & Regulations section or it can be obtained from the Society's site via a link on the front page. Alternatively, it can be downloaded from the 'documents' tool bar on the top of the front page of the MadRef site.

The IRB have also produced a DVD. We understand that 2000 copies will be made available to Societies in England. When we know how many copies will be available to Manchester, these will be distributed accordingly.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN ENGLAND

Youth Rugby

Please note that the RFU issued a press release on the 2nd June 2008 which stated that the RFU Management Board approved the recommendation of the ELV Task Group that ELV 2 (shoulders must not be lower than the hips at the maul) and ELV 3 (pulling down the maul) should not be trialled in England at Under 19 level and below

Treasurer's Message

Travel and Administration Expenses

Members are reminded that a flat rate of up to 38 pence per mile or actual out of pocket expenses may be claimed as follows:-

Notes:

1. Referees and Touch Judges appointed to matches by the Federation, or by a Member Society should:-
 - a) Level 7 and above.
 - a. Claim in full on the day from the Home Club for fixtures within Yorkshire at Level 7 (Yorkshire 1 or Durham & Northumberland 1) and above.
 - b. For these clubs' 2nd team matches and below, claim a maximum of £25.00 from the Home Club – any balance above £25.00 must be claimed from the Federation Treasurer.
 - b) Level 5.
 - a. For Level 5 League Games, NO claim must be made from the club. Expenses for these games should be claimed through MODCONE via its Treasurer, Roger Bowden (roger.bowden@lineone.net). For Non League matches of these clubs, travel expenses must be claimed from the Home Club on the day.
 - b. Assessors and Coaches involved with Level 5 League matches should claim their travel expenses directly from the Federation Treasurer; however the expense form for Level 5 League Games must show the Level 5 status, to allow for financial control and RFU reporting purposes.
 - c) County Matches, County Cup, Shield & Trophy Finals.
 - a. Referees, Touch Judges and 4th Officials appointed by the Federation to County matches within Yorkshire and/or to Yorkshire County Cup, Shield and Trophy Finals, should claim travelling expenses from the Federation Treasurer. At the end of the season, the Federation Treasurer will invoice the YRFU for the cost of such expenses

2. Level 8 games & below.

For matches at Level 8 within Yorkshire (Yorkshire League 2 or Durham & Northumberland 2) and below, claim a maximum of £25.00 from the Home club. Any balance to be claimed from the Federation Treasurer.

3. For Federation Exchanges **outside** Yorkshire, **all** claims must be made to the Federation Treasurer. **No** expenses must be claimed from the Home club.
4. For any locally arranged exchanges out of Yorkshire (arranged by Member Societies), any expense claims must be submitted to the appropriate Member Society Treasurer.
5. **All** expense claims, for other than straight mileage claims, must be accompanied by a receipt as proof of payment. For example – overnight accommodation; meals; postage; batteries and stationery.
6. Claims for reimbursement of telephone calls must have a copy of the summary sheet of the quarterly bill attached. **Do not** include the full detailed bill.
7. For a Federation Exchange involving a return journey in excess of 300 miles, one night's accommodation claim is permissible. On exchanges requiring more than one night away, prior approval must be sought from the Federation Treasurer.
8. When rail travel is chosen the best value Standard Class return ticket must be purchased.
9. When a party of referees is sent on exchange all must, wherever practicable, travel together. Individuals wishing to travel alone, do so at their own expense unless there are exceptional circumstances. **The senior referee** of an exchange group is normally expected to be responsible for co-ordinating travel arrangements.
10. All expense claims must be submitted currently and **NO later** than the month following that in which the expenses were incurred. If not submitted within these guidelines, the expenses **will not be paid.**

Any matter not covered by the above must be referred to the Federation Treasurer

West Meetings

All our meetings are planned for Keighley RFC from 7.45pm on the following Thursdays:

Aug 28	Jan 29
Sept 25	Feb 26
Oct 30	Mar 26
Nov 27	14 May AGM

Tudor Griffiths