



## MIAA Rugby 2021- Models of Play (Coaches and Referees)

*This document is intended to provide clarity around the modifications to some of the common areas of play in the sport of rugby and provide additional guidance for coaches and referees to ensure consistency throughout the year.*

### No live/contested scrums:

- Referees will indicate a minor infraction and announce advantage as usual.
- If no advantage is gained, the referee will bring the play back to the mark of the infraction and declare a scrum.
- The referee will arrange the forwards in a traditional shape. Neither team will bind (to each other or their own teammates) and players will be no more than one arm's length apart from the players they would usually bind with.
- The ball will be placed under the toe of the attacking team's 8-man during the scrum cadence.
- Players should be kneeling or crouching to simulate traditional scrum body position and to allow the defending forwards a safe and effective platform to defend.
- The referee will call the usual cadence (crouch, bind, set) and will then make a 4th call- 'play' alerting the attacking team to play the ball. The attacking 8-man or the scrumhalf must then play the ball by running with the ball or passing to a teammate.
- All other scrum rules remain (back line back 5m from 8-mans feet, cannot advance until the ball is played, etc.)

### No mauls off of lineouts:

- Both teams may compete for possession at the line-out
- Once a team gains possession they must play the ball immediately
  - Lineouts should either be off the top or 'down and pop' to an attacking player.

### Mauls in open play:

- Mauls should be avoided as much as possible and to reduce sustained contact.
- If a maul naturally occurs due to a player being held up, the referee should give immediate notice that a maul has been formed.
- The team in possession of the ball has one movement in which to play the ball (not the traditional one-stop and a second restart).

- If the ball is not cleared away by the attacking side the defending team will be awarded a scrum (modified) at the place of the maul.

**Rucks:**

- Referees will officiate rucks quickly and will verbally indicate when possession has been won (by either team).
- Neither team may join additional players at that time. If a team disobeys this call and additional players join, the non-offending team will receive a free kick. This may result in a full penalty for repeated infractions.

**Substitutions:**

- Due to the difficulties of playing rugby in masks teams will be allowed to substitute at each stoppage, and with referee permission.
- Substitutes must be members of the 23-person match roster.

**Mask/Water Breaks:**

- Mask breaks will occur at the stoppage closest to the midway point in each half, as well as at halftime.

All breaks will be 5 minutes and will be timed by the referee.

\*Updated 4/27/2021

**EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS**

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