

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE LAW?

The objective is to avoid head-to-head and head-to-shoulder contact occurring between the tackler and the ball-carrier during execution of the tackle.

THE NEW LAW

TACKLER: 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, **or tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the base of the sternum while either player is running in open field play. PK**

BALL CARRIER: 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, **or leading with the head into an opponent while running in open field play. PK**



HEAD CONTACT PROCESS

Where there is head or neck contact, in any scenario, use of World Rugby's existing Head Contact Process has not changed. This tackle height law should not result in any more, or any less, penalties, yellow cards, or red cards through use of this Process.

OPEN FIELD PLAY - NEW

The term "open field play" is used in the new law in recognition of the fact that the body positions of players in the immediate vicinity of a ruck or in a maul may not be compatible with the new law.

Collisions in this aspect of the game (i.e. 'pick and drive') are not at high speed and are rarely dangerous, so the new law does not apply to those situations. It also recognizes that players attempting to ground the ball in-goal are often diving downward.

BALL CARRIER LOWERING HEIGHT - NEW

If the ball carrier lowers their body position immediately prior to contact, and the tackler makes contact above the sternum, the tackler will not be penalized. There is no sanction against a ball-carrier in this scenario (unless dangerous).

DANGEROUS ACTIONS BY THE BALL CARRIER - NEW

If the ball carrier attempts to prevent the tackler from making a legal tackle by bending at the waist and leading with the head into contact in open field play, this is considered dangerous play per amended Law 9.11. PK

TWO TACKLERS - NEW

A secondary tackler must also tackle below the ball carrier's sternum. Players may compete for the ball, and may form a maul.

PLAY ON SITUATIONS

OPEN FIELD PLAY

HIGHER SPEED COLLISIONS



BALL CARRIER LOWERING HEIGHT

PICK & DRIVE / IMMEDIATELY LOWERING HEIGHT BEFORE CONTACT



TWO TACKLERS

BOTH MUST TACKLE BELOW THE STERNUM



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