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RFU Regulations - U15s – Season 2026-27

Note – **Items in bold** indicate a change from last season's u14 rules.

	u15s
Number of players	15
Length of match	**30 mins per half** **-** Match ends if points difference rises to more than 50
Ball size	**5**
Pitch size	100m x 70 i.e Normal size pitch
Kick offs & restarts	Usual WR laws for kicks and restarts **Try Line Drop-outs as per adult law: (if no try when attack carry in, or ball kicked in to in-goal) -** - **Ball grounded in in-goal by defence** - **Ball taken in by attack and held up** - **Knock on in in-goal** - **Ball carrier tackled out over touch in goal/dead ball** **22m Drop-outs for:** ● **Failed kicks at goal from PK or DG** ● **Ball kicked in open play which goes dead through in-goal without being touched** **5m scrums for:** ● **Knock ons from field of play which go into in-goal - defence throw in** ● **Defence play/take/carry ball into own in-goal and the ball doesn't come out - attack throw in**
Scrum	8 players in 3,4,1 formation. "Crouch, Bind, Set" engagement sequence Both hookers may strike for ball Pushing - 1.5m only (FK for non-compliance). Referees should call "Hold the push/Stop the push" If turns 45° scrum is reset (no turnover) **Throwing in 9 - throws ball in with left shoulder on middle point** Defending 9 – cannot follow round, must stay in middle. (**now WR Global Law Trial for all rugby**)
Ruck and maul	As per full law (**inc WR Global Law Trials around protecting the player acting as scrum half as ball being played away**)

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Lineout	Uncontested lineout – **lifting and supporting permitted by side throwing ball in** **Contest for possession can start when catcher has safely returned to the ground with ball at chest height.(Pen)** **The 50:22 allowed - when kicked from their own half kick the ball and it bounces into touch in their opponents 22m area, the kicking side throw into the lineout.** **If the ball is passed back into the half and there hasn't been a tackle, ruck, maul or an opponent has touched the ball, the defending side throw the ball into the subsequent lineout.**
Fly hacking (kicking loose ball on floor)	Fly hack allowed
Kicking	All kicking allowed. Players in front of teammate must retire/retreat
Penalties	WR laws apply except: No squeezeball - Penalty Free kicks - no scrum option can be taken High tackle = above the base of the sternum (tummy/belly or below) Ball carrier must not go into contact with shoulders below hips, or dip down late and low or otherwise place their head into the headspace of opponent.
Sin bin length	**6 mins**
Subs	Rolling subs – unlimited Half Game rule applies

Correct as at 1 August 2026
Author: Keith Lewis - with info taken from Regulation 15 Appendix 9:
https://www.englandrugby.com/run/rules-governance/rfu-rules-and-regulations/regulation-15-age-grade-rugby/regulation-15-appendix-9-u15-u18-variations-to-the-laws-of-the-game

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