**Variations in Refereeing U14 to U19 age groups.**

There are some subtle variations that apply at different age groups that you need to be aware of, not just the U19 law variations as shown in the law book, but different RFU directives. This guide should assist the referee in making sure their law and directive knowledge is up to date.

All age groups from U14 to U19

* Squeezeball is prohibited – Sanction = Penalty
* There is no extra time played. Injury time is permitted.
* If the score reaches a 50 point difference, the match is over.

Only if both teams agree, the match may continue until normal time as a non-scoring friendly.

* The Number 8 must bind between the locks only – Sanction = Free Kick
* An unintentional wheel of 45° at a scrum is a reset.
* A scrum may only be pushed 1.5 meters – Sanction = Free Kick
* Any age grade player may choose to wear full length ‘tights/leggings’ (as long as RFU approved)
* If a scrum is reduced to 7 players for any reason, BOTH teams must drop their number 8 and scrum down in a 3-4 formation.
* If a scrum is reduced to 6 players for any reason, BOTH teams must drop their flankers and scrum down in a 3-2-1 formation.
* If a scrum is reduced to 5 players for any reason, BOTH teams must drop their number 8 and flankers and scrum down in a 3-2 formation.

U16 up to U19.

* Playing time is 70 minutes (35 minute halves)
* Sin bin duration is 7 minutes
* U16 players may play in U18 games, but not in the front row.

U15

* Playing time is 60 minutes (30 minute halves)
* Sin bin duration is 6 minutes.
* Defending team’s scrum half may not cross the centre line (the tunnel) at the scrum. Sanction = Penalty
* Lifting is permitted at line out, however, the defending team may not contest for the ball

U14

* Playing time is 50 minutes (25 minute halves)
* Sin bin duration is 5 minutes
* A size 4 ball is used.
* Defending team’s scrum half may not cross the centre line (the tunnel) at the scrum. Sanction = Penalty
* Lifting is not permitted in the line out

HALF GAME RULE

It is now an expectation (in some cases a rule of the competition) that each member of the playing squad plays at least 50% of the playing minutes that day. We are not expected to enforce this as a referee. However, a reminder before play often helps.