

Uncontested Scrums – EDF Energy: National Trophy, Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase.

Due to a conflict that has been identified RFU Game Regulation 7, clause 7.3.1(c) last picadot “Cup Competitions” on page 205 has been replaced with immediate effect. The revised regulation is now:

“Cup Competitions (including finals) - on any occasion, the match will continue with uncontested scrums and the result will stand subject to Game Regulations 7.3.1 (d).”

Explanatory Notes:

In order for the Union to deviate from the IRB Laws of the Game on reduction of numbers of players in the case of uncontested scrums, the Union is required to request an Experimental Law Variation (ELV) in accordance with iRB Bye-Law 9.10.

The Rugby Football Union has drafted such a request which will be considered at the IRB’s annual meeting in April 2007 but are endeavouring for this to be dealt with sooner.

This matter became prominent following on from our joint request by the RFU and Premier Rugby Limited to follow the French Premier Clubs’ competition regulations whereby there will be a reduction of numbers of players in the case of uncontested scrums – It is understood that in French Premier Clubs’ competition in seasons 2004 and 2005 that this Variation of the Laws of the game has been applied with great success. The FFR have also amended their regulations to comply with the IRB’s directive.

It was therefore important for the RFU to be consistent and ensure that all of our competitions are administered accordingly.

To the best of our knowledge there have been no instances in RFU Cup Competitions where a game has been completed using the old regulation requiring the reduction of numbers of players in the case of uncontested scrums

For the avoidance of doubt, EDF Energy: National Trophy, Intermediate Cup, Senior Vase and Junior Vase matches played on weekend of 18th November 2006 and all further rounds will follow this regulation.