



To: **Secretaries/Chief Executive Officers of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership of the IRB**

From: **David Carrigy
Head of External and Member Relations**

Date: August 8, 2008

Re: **ELV Ruling 2, 2008**

The FIR has requested a Ruling from the Designated Members with regard to ELV Law 20.12 (d) and (e).

ELV Law 20.12 – OFFSIDE AT THE SCRUM

- (d) The scrum half whose team does not win possession of the ball must not move to the opposite side of the scrum and overstep the offside line for that scrum half that runs through the hindmost foot of that player's team in the scrum.
- (e) The scrum half whose team does not win possession of the ball must not move away from the scrum and then remain in front of the offside line for that scrum half that runs through the hindmost foot of that player's team in the scrum.

The above considered we submit the following queries:

- (1) Is the scrum half whose team has won possession of the ball allowed to move away from the scrum, from the throw-in side without crossing the offside line that runs through the ball or from the opposite side without crossing the offside that runs from the hindmost foot of his team's hindmost player in the scrum so he can receive a pass from his team's number 8 playing the scrum, provided the same number 8 does so with no delay whilst the scrum half moves away from the scrum?



- (2) Must the scrum half whose team has been awarded the scrum remain at a distance no greater than 1 metre from the scrum on both sides, namely the throw-in side and the opposite, until his team's number 8 plays the ball from his feet in the scrum?

Ruling:

The Designated Members have ruled:

- (1) The scrum half of the team who has won possession of the ball is allowed to move away from the scrum without crossing the offside line that runs through to the hindmost foot of the hindmost player in the scrum so that the scrum half can receive a pass from the no. 8
- (2) The scrum half of the team who wins possession does not have to stay at a distance of no greater than 1 metre from the scrum as indicated in (1) above, but the scrum half of the team that does not gain possession must stay close to the scrum.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carrigy', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Carrigy
Head of External and Member Relations