

TERMS OF REFERENCE: LAWS ADVISORY PANEL

1. INTRODUCTION

The Laws Advisory Panel (LAP) has been mandated by International Rugby League to advise on amendments to the international Laws of rugby league (the 'Laws').

2. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 Review and make recommendations to the IRL Board concerning the Laws from time to time.
- 2.2 Provide a single, consistent lawbook.
- 2.3 To achieve the above by reducing the number of interpretations used for international competitions.

3. OPERATING GUIDELINES

- 3.1 The LAP will be chaired by one of its members, rotating on an annual basis.
- 3.2 The LAP will consist of the following panellists:
 - ARLC and RFL nominate one panellist each (2)
 - ARLC and RFL nominate one current or former woman international player each (2)
 - IRL Match Official Manager (1)
 - IRL CEO (1)
 - APRLC and RLEF nominate one panellist each who cannot be nominated from ARLC or RFL (2)
- 3.3 Each panellist shall have one vote, although, in the event of a tie, the Chair will have the casting vote.
- 3.4 Panellists may not be represented by alternates.
- 3.5 Quorum will be no fewer than four panellists, one of whom must be the Chair.
- 3.6 Meetings will be called by the Chair with a notice period of not less than ten working days.
- 3.7 The IRL shall also appoint a secretary to the panel to co-ordinate meetings, circulate agendas, record minutes and tend to any administration arising from the panel's decisions. The secretary shall be a non-voting member.
- 3.8 From time to time, and upon invitation by the LAP, other affiliates of the IRL, its members, international competition organisers or other experts may attend the committee in a non-voting capacity.
- 3.9 Meetings will take place as and when required, with at least three meetings per year, and using technology such as video and conference calling.

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 To take a whole of game approach before making recommendations which can, as far as possible, be applied to all levels of the game.
- 4.2 To harmonise the Laws globally.
- 4.3 Rugby league's fundamental, distinctive and recognisable characteristics and features will be retained to protect and preserve the sport's identity and culture. These include but are not limited to the play-the-ball, on-side pass, tackle, offside gap (including 'markers'), 13 players per side on the pitch and the scrum.
- 4.4 To adopt a transparent process for amending and adding to the Laws.



- 4.5 The Laws will always ensure the sport is fun to watch and play for everybody, despite gender, physique, skill level or age and attract as many people as possible to become involved with rugby league in whatever capacity they choose.
- 4.6 It is accepted that certain variations from the Laws will apply to youth rugby league, such as the length of the game.

5. ORGANISATION

- 5.1 The IRL will be responsible for the organisation and administration of meetings.
- 5.2 Minutes from the meetings shall be taken and circulated to the group in a timely fashion after the meeting.
- 5.3 Presentations and reference papers discussed in a meeting will be circulated immediately following the meeting if not already circulated.
- 5.4 An action log will be created and presented at each meeting to record the progress against identified actions arising from previous meetings.

6. LAWS AMENDMENT PROCESS

- 6.1 Laws amendments will follow a transparent process:
 - 6.1.1 Application: application to consider an amendment or addition to the Laws is submitted by an IRL Full Member to the LAP;
 - 6.1.2 Consultation: LAP consults with IRL members and other stakeholders (leagues, competitions, players, medical etc), for feedback on the application;
 - 6.1.3 Decision: LAP then has the following options:
 - (a) Recommends **adoption without amendment** directly to the Board, which can choose whether to adopt the proposals, which are then implemented in all rugby league competitions from 1 January of the next calendar year.
 - (b) Recommends **adoption with amendment** directly to the Board, which can choose whether to adopt the proposals, which are then implemented in all rugby league competitions from 1 January of the next calendar year. No amendment can substantively alter the original application.
 - (c) Recommends a proposed law is granted **Experimental Law** status, where it is trialled by a specified competition(s) for a limited time period, after which the results of the experimental phase are reported to LAP.
 - (d) **Postpone** a decision in order to undertake further investigation, testing or discussion.
 - (e) **Reject** the proposal.
 - 6.1.4 Amendment requiring urgent action: activated in exceptional circumstances such as legal or medical intervention. LAP empowered to convene in emergency session to consider the advice and options.

7. SCOPE

- 7.1 LAP shall conduct its business in line with the IRL constitution.
- 7.2 LAP is an advisory body without executive power.
- 7.3 LAP shall manage any proposed Laws changes in line with section 6 of these terms of reference.

