



Experimental Law Variations Including Tackle for Under 8's

A number of experimental law variations developed by the Brisbane Junior Rugby Union were endorsed by the Brisbane clubs at a meeting held on 9th November 2008.

Walla Rugby will now be played in U.6 and 7, Mini in U.8 and 9 and Midi in U.10 and 11.

Brothers Junior Rugby Union Club fully supports these changes including the introduction of Mini rugby rules, and therefore tackle, from U.8. Some of the reasons for doing so include:

- 'Rugby Pathways' has been designed to gradually introduce all of the rules and concepts of Rugby to players over their junior years of participation
- Walla Rugby was originally designed for two years participation only, namely U.7 and U.8 as there was no U.6 when Walla was introduced
- Players starting rugby at age 5 have been playing at least 3 years of Walla and some 4 years.
- While 'tag' is a good introduction to the game, more than 2 years of tag leads to bad habits being formed, in particular, poor body positioning
- By the end of U.7, it is noticeable that the players are bored with tag and start pulling opposition children down even though they are penalized for doing so
- There is no evidence that the introduction of tackle leads to a higher incidence of injuries
- Tackling, per se, does not cause injury – poor tackling technique is what can lead to injury as the boys get older
- Our coaches will have the opportunity to teach the players how to tackle properly before poor habits become too engrained
- Introducing tackle in U.8 brings the BJRU into line with every other state in Australia and with school rugby.
- Rugby league tackle from U.6

We believe this improvement to Rugby Pathways will enhance the children's enjoyment of the game

If you have any questions please email bjuniors@bigpond.net.au or refer your queries through your team management.

Regards

Mark Stanton
President