



**ENGLAND RUGBY**

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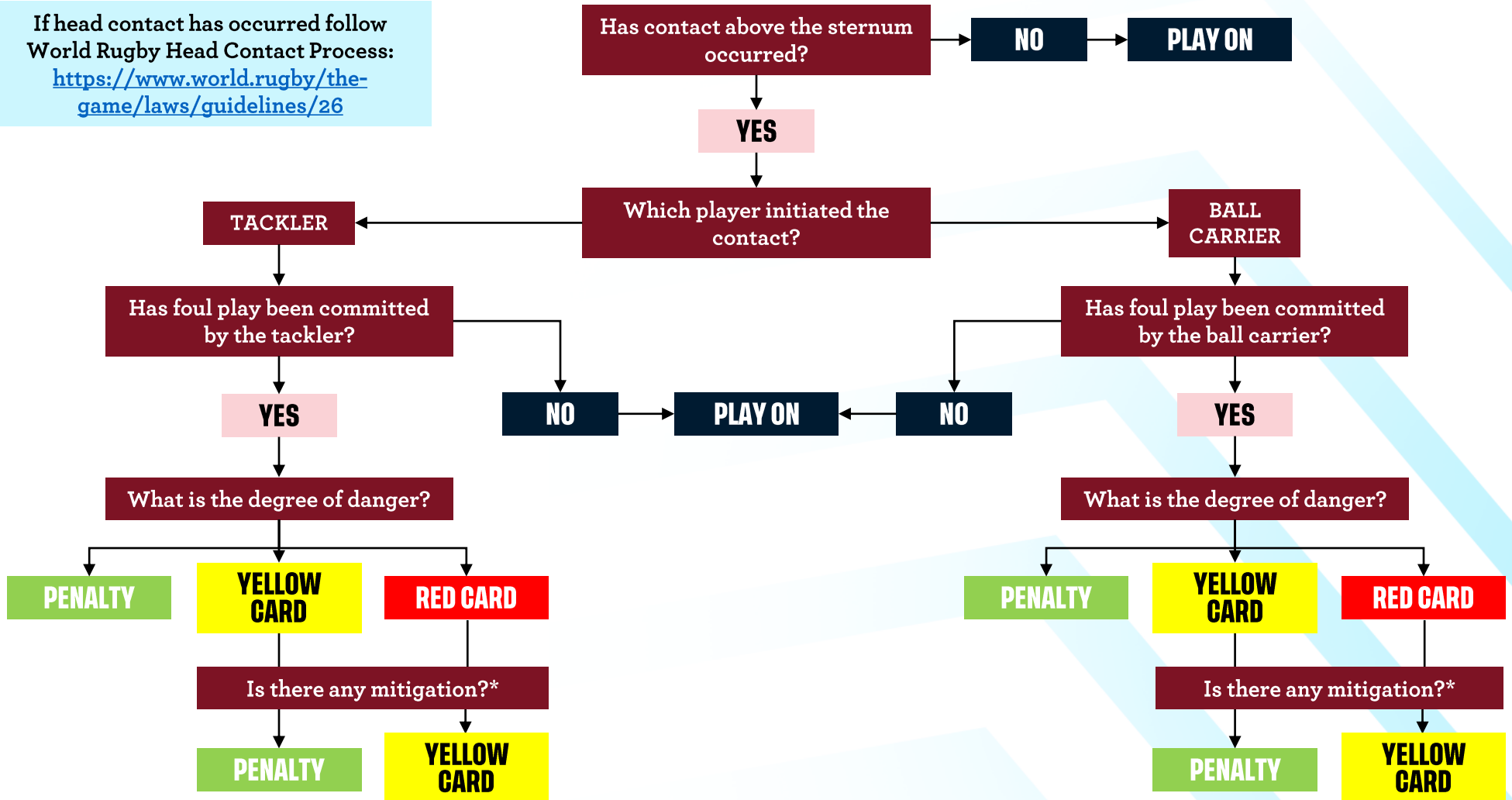
**TACKLE HEIGHT  
SANCTION  
FRAMEWORK**

Season 2023/24

# ENGLAND RUGBY DLV TACKLE HEIGHT FRAMEWORK

If head contact has occurred follow World Rugby Head Contact Process:

<https://www.world.rugby/the-game/laws/guidelines/26>



## \*Mitigating factors (Tackler)

- Sudden or significant drop in height (ball carrier)
- Impacted line of sight
- Clear attempt to change height
- Level of control

## \*Mitigating factors (Ball Carrier)

- Attempting to score
- Ball carrier is static, shoulders below hips, receiving the ball
- Passive vs dynamic movement

# ENGLAND RUGBY DLV TACKLE HEIGHT FRAMEWORK

## If the tackle is above the base of the sternum:

- Was the tackler or ball carrier reckless or dangerous when an attempt to or tackle took place?
- Was there a sudden change in direction/dynamics by the ball carrier before the tackle in open play?
- Was there a sudden and significant drop in height by the ball carrier before the tackle in open play?
- Are there any clear and obvious mitigating factors? \*

## Factors to consider against mitigation:

- **No mitigation to be applied to highly reckless or intentional acts.**

## Mitigating factors:

(\* must be clear & obvious and can only be applied to reduce a sanction by 1 level, irrespective of the number of mitigating factors present)

- Tackler makes a definite attempt to change height in an effort to make contact below the base of the sternum.
- A sudden or significant drop in height by the ball carrier (e.g., From earlier tackle, trips/falls, dives to score).
- The impact of another player in the contact has caused a sudden and significant change in direction of the ball carrier.
- Tackler is unsighted prior to contact.
- “Reactionary” tackle, immediate release.
- Passive tackler (see below)

### Passive

- Tackler feet planted and body absorbs/falls backwards
- Zero forward movement into the ball carrier

### Dynamic

- Feet can be stationary or moving
- Body moves forwards or upwards with force through the hips/legs/shoulder

**Mitigation will NOT apply for highly reckless or always illegal acts of foul play**

# SUMMARY OF TACKLE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANTING RANGE OF SANCTIONS

## PENALTY

- Any yellow card offence where mitigation is applied (as per framework).
- Shoulder charge to the body above the base of the sternum (no head or neck contact), with low degree of danger.
- High tackle with first contact which starts below the base of the sternum and then slips or moves up resulting in minor contact to the ball carrier, with low degree of danger.
- High tackle with first contact which starts above the base of the sternum resulting in minor contact to the ball carrier, with low degree of danger.
- Ball carrier moving forward, lowers their height significantly with a low degree of danger.

## YELLOW CARD

- Any red card offence where mitigation is applied (as per framework).
- Shoulder charge to the body above the base of the sternum (no head or neck contact), with high degree of danger.
- High tackle with first contact which starts below the base of the sternum and then slips or moves up resulting in minor contact to the ball carrier, with low degree of danger and no mitigating factors.
- High tackle with first contact which starts above the base of the sternum resulting in minor contact to the ball carrier, with low degree of danger and no mitigating factors.
- Ball carrier moving forward, lowers their height significantly leading with elbow, forearm, head or shoulder with a low degree of danger and no mitigating factors.

## RED CARD

- High tackle with first contact which is above the base of the sternum to the ball carrier, with high degree of danger and no mitigating factors.
- Ball carrier moving forward, lowers their height significantly leading with elbow, forearm, head or shoulder with a high degree of danger and no mitigating factors.

# TRIGGER WORDS FOR MATCH OFFICIALS TO HELP IDENTIFY WHETHER A PLAYER IS AT FAULT, THE DEGREE OF DANGER INVOLVED AND WHETHER MITIGATION SHOULD BE APPLIED.

## PLAY ON

- Sudden or significant drop in height by the ball carrier
- Player had no time to re-adjust
- Involuntary collision

## PENALTY

## YELLOW CARD

### LOW Danger

- Indirect contact
- Low force
- Low speed

## RED CARD

### HIGH Danger

- Direct contact
- Lack of control
- High speed / dynamic
- Leading with head / shoulder / elbow / forearm / swinging arm
- Always-illegal act of foul play



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