



U14 and U15 Lineout FAQs – September 2016

	U14	U15
When can the non-throwing team contest possession?	The contest for possession can start once the player who catches the ball has safely returned to the ground. The non-throwing team cannot contest possession whilst the ball is in the air.	
When does the ball become playable / contestable again?	<p>No different from previous laws.</p> <p>The lineout ends when the ball or a player carrying it leaves the lineout. This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the ball is thrown, knocked or kicked out of the lineout, the lineout ends. • When the ball or a player carrying the ball moves into the area between the 5-metre line and the touchline, the lineout ends. • When a lineout player hands the ball to a player who is peeling off, the lineout ends. • When the ball is thrown beyond the 15-metre line, or when a player takes or puts it beyond that line, the lineout ends. • When a ruck or maul develops in a lineout, and all the feet of all the players in the ruck or maul move beyond the line of touch, the lineout ends. 	
Does the team throwing in always have to win the ball?	Yes - If the ball is thrown straight and assuming a player from the throwing team catches it cleanly. If it is knocked on, normal laws apply.	If it is thrown straight and caught cleanly then the team throwing in the ball must win it. If it's knocked on / not thrown straight, normal laws apply.
What happens if the ball lands in the arms of the non-throwing team?	This means the ball hasn't been thrown straight. In this instance a throw in is immediately awarded to the non-throwing team. If the throw in is not straight again, a scrum will be awarded to the original throwing team on the 15m line.	This means the ball has not been thrown straight, so advantage is awarded to non-throwing team – assuming it is safe to do so.
If the ball goes over the intended catcher, what happens?	Assuming the ball has been thrown straight, the throw in remains uncontested. If the ball is not thrown straight, a line out is immediately awarded to the non-throwing team.	If the throw in is straight but misses the intended catcher it is still an uncontested line out and throwing in team must still win it (the line out is still in play).
If they don't lift, does that mean we (as the defending team) can contest?	N/A	No. Lifting is permitted, not mandatory, and remains uncontested.
What happens if the ball hits the floor?	The lineout is over. Assuming there has been no foul play and that the ball is thrown straight, possession may be contested if the ball hits the ground.	





<i>Can a maul be formed from the lineout?</i>	Yes, but the player must return safely to the ground before the opposition can contest the ball. Normal World Rugby Laws apply.	Yes, but the player must have been returned safely to the ground before the opposition can contest the ball. Normal World Rugby Laws apply.
<i>Can I score from a maul that has been created from a lineout?</i>	Yes.	Yes.
<i>What happens if a team compete for the ball?</i>	Free kick to non-offending team, unless there has been an act of dangerous play (as detailed by World Rugby) in which case a penalty would be awarded.	
<i>If the throw isn't straight and the other team catch it what happens?</i>	A lineout is immediately awarded to non-throwing team. If the throw in is not straight again, a scrum will be awarded to the original throwing team on the 15m line.	Advantage is awarded to non-offending team, assuming it is safe to do so.
<i>Do numbers in the line out have to be equal?</i>	The opposing team may have fewer lineout players but they must not have more.	The opposing team may have fewer lineout players but they must not have more.
<i>How many players can we have in the lineout?</i>	The team throwing in the ball decides the maximum number of players in the lineout. At least two players from each team must form a lineout, with a maximum of thirteen.	The team throwing in the ball decides the maximum number of players in the lineout. At least two players from each team must form a lineout, with a maximum of thirteen.
<i>Do I have to lift at U15?</i>	N/A	No – lifting is permitted, not mandatory. If the players are confident and competent than they may lift.
<i>Why should we lift at U15?</i>	N/A	This stage is vital in the progression of the lineout for both teams. This progression allows the opportunity to develop the skill of lifting in a competitive environment, without the pressure of opposing players contesting possession. It also provides a springboard for attacking play. In defence this allows players the opportunity to develop the skills needed which will be utilised from U16.

Please also refer to the following links for further information:

www.englandrugby.com/regulations

www.englandrugby.com/agegraderugby

<http://www.englandrugby.com/news/countdown-begins-for-age-grade-rugby/>

<http://laws.worldrugby.org/?law=19>

