



To: Secretaries / CEOs of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership
From: David Carrigy, Head of External & Member Relations
Subject: Law Ruling by Designated Members of Rugby Committee
Date: September 24, 2008
Ruling: 4: 2008

The RFU has requested a ruling relating to Law 17

A maul is formed with Team A pushing their opponents (Team B) back towards their own goal line with the ball being clearly visible at the rear of the maul, all the defending side (Team B) bound to the maul voluntarily exit the maul, has the maul successfully concluded or is the maul still active?

Law 17 Maul, Definition

A maul occurs when a player carrying the ball is held by one or more opponents, and one or more of the ball carrier's team mates bind on the ball carrier. A maul therefore consists of at least three players, all on their feet; the ball carrier and one player from each team. All the players involved must be caught in or bound to the maul and must be on their feet and moving towards a goal line. Open play has ended.

The Designated Members have ruled the following in answer to the question raised:

The maul has not successfully concluded and it is not still active.

As the players of the team not in possession have all left the maul the maul ceases to exist and has not ended successfully or unsuccessfully as determined by the definition of a maul.

The maul has ceased to exist and the ball is now in open play and the relevant Laws apply

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Carrigy', is written over a light blue background.

David Carrigy
Head of External and Member Relations



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RULING 4 2008 (24 SEPTIEMBRE 2008)

La Federación Inglesa de Rugby ha solicitado una decisión en relación a la Regla 17

Se forma un maul con el equipo A empujando a sus oponentes (equipo B) hacia atrás hacia su propia zona de marca con el balón claramente visible en la parte de atrás del maul, todos los defensores (equipo B) agarrados al maul voluntariamente dejan el maul, ¿El maul ha terminado con éxito o todavía permanece activo?

Regla 17 Maul, Definición

Un maul se produce cuando un jugador portador del balón es sujetado por uno o más oponentes, y uno o más compañeros del portador del balón se agarran al mismo. Un maul por tanto se forma con al menos tres jugadores, todos de pie; el portador del balón y un jugador de cada equipo. Todos los jugadores involucrados deben estar dentro o agarrados al maul y deben estar sobre sus pies y moviéndose hacia una de las líneas de marca. El juego general ha terminado.

Los Miembros Designados han decidido lo siguiente en relación a la pregunta planteada:

El maul no ha terminado con éxito y ya no está activo.

Ya que los jugadores del equipo que no tenía la posesión del balón todos han abandonado el maul, el maul ha dejado de existir y no ha terminado con éxito o sin éxito tal y como se determina en la definición de maul.

El maul ha dejado de existir y el balón está ahora en juego y se aplican las reglas correspondientes.

Yours sincerely,

David Carrigy Head of External and Member Relations