

5 March 2008

Greg Peters  
Chief Executive  
Wellington RFU  
PO Box 7201  
**Wellington South 6242**

Dear Greg,

**Re: Experimental Law Variations and Community Level Rugby**

As you are aware the IRB are, with assistance from member unions, trialling a series of Experimental Law Variations (ELVs). The aim of the trial is to collect, analyse and evaluate the effect of the ELVs so recommendations can be made to their further implementation. The NZRU has trialled the ELVs in the 2007 Air New Zealand Cup Men's B competition and has agreed with our SANZAR partners to trial a limited number of ELVs in the 2008 Rebel Sport Super 14.

The NZRU has fielded several requests for the ELVs to be used in club and/or school competitions and we believe we are likely to field more over the lead up to the 2008 season.

Our ELV project team and a meeting of Provincial Union Amateur Rugby Managers, have discussed the pros and cons of such requests and have come to the conclusion that all community level rugby in New Zealand in 2008 will be played under existing laws and the ELVs are not to be used. The reasons for the decision are as follows:

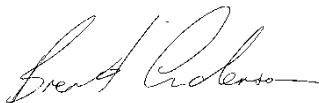
- The ELVs are still only experimental and are only operating under trial conditions. There is a possibility that some or all of the proposed changes will not be introduced by the IRB. If this occurs we would have to revert back to the existing laws and do not believe this would be in the best interests of the game;
- RugbySmart has already been produced for 2008 and any safety considerations required by the changes have not been included;

- Referee training and development resources and courses have not been updated nor have Referee Education Officers had the opportunity to adequately train referees in the ELVs; and
- Coach education courses have not been amended to take account of the ELVs.

If you wish to discuss this further please feel free to contact me on 04 494 0791 or [brent.anderson@nzrugby.co.nz](mailto:brent.anderson@nzrugby.co.nz)

Could you please forward this letter to all relevant staff and the relevant stakeholders in your union.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brent Anderson  
**General Manager Community and Provincial Union Rugby**