
Memo

To: Secretaries/CEO's of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership
From: Hugh H. Penman-Head of Council and Member Services
Subject: Law Ruling by Designated Members of Rugby Committee
Ruling: 10: 2004
Date: 23rd December 2004

The WRU has requested a ruling with regard Law 19-Touch & line-out and Law 21 Penalty and Free Kicks

1. A player of the attacking team kicks the ball indirectly into touch just outside the defenders 22 metre area. A defender gathers the ball, runs a few metres (still in touch) to a place behind his 22 metre line where he throws the ball straight infield. He gathers it and kicks direct to touch. What is the correct decision?

2. A player in possession of the ball drops it onto his thigh and propels it forward. What is the correct decision?

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

Rulings

1. The defender is allowed to take the quick line-out in the manner specified. A line-out at the place where the ball went into touch from the defenders kick is the correct decision.
2. If this occurred in general play the following would apply. By definition 'A kick is made by hitting the ball with any part of the leg or foot, except the heel, from the toe to the knee but not including the knee...'. In the case described the ball has not been kicked but has been dropped onto the thigh and this is ruled as a knock-on or throw forward. If the action as described was taken by a player after his team had been awarded a penalty kick or free kick, then a PK or FK has not been correctly taken. Under Law 21.3(b) bouncing the ball on the thigh can in this case be taken to include the knee as this is also in the definition above. Thus, the player has infringed this Law and a scrum to the opposing team should be ordered.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh H. Penman
Head of Council and Member Services