

To: Secretaries/CEO's of Unions and Regional Associations in Membership

From: Hugh H. Penman
General Manager/ Secretary

Date: 5 September 2002 **No. of Pages** 2 *(including cover page)*

Law 21

4 – (i) & (j) Kick taken quickly;

These Laws require the players of the kicker's team to be retiring, and that they then become on –side when they run behind the team mate who took the penalty or free kick, or when a team mate carrying the ball runs in front of them.

Again, in practice, if the collapsed front rows are not disengaged, then these players – who are not retiring – become support players who have not been on-side.

Perhaps if all players were required to be retiring (i.e. on their feet) prior to quick taps then these issues would be covered.

The Designated Members have ruled:

In practical terms the referee will whistle immediately for a collapsed scrum and give his decision. If the referee has awarded a kick as a result of a penalty provision, and provided there are no reasons why the game should not continue, a quick tap kick can be taken.

If there is a reason why a quick tap should not be taken the referee will blow his whistle a second time, and the quick tap will not be taken. Reasons for such an action would be an injury to a player, or a situation where the referee believes an injury may have occurred.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh H. Penman
General Manager/Secretary

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

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
Date: 30th June 2005
Ruling: 3: 2005

The FPR has requested a ruling with regard Law 21-Penalty & Free Kicks

Black team are penalised for a tackle infringement 30 metres from their goal line.; Blue team opt for a kick at goal, placing the ball on the mark and informing the referee as to this intention. Black team gather behind their goal posts. Blue team kicks (chips) the ball forward a few metres from the mark, allowing for an on-side team member to gather the ball and run unhindered across the goal line to score a try.

1. Law 21.5(b) states that 'If the kicker indicates to the referee the intention to kick at goal, the kicker must kick at goal. Once the kicker has made the intention clear, there can be no change of the intention. The referee may enquire of the kicker as to the intention.' Does this mean that the abovementioned scenario is illegal, and if so how would the referee restart the match? Can the interpretation of Law 21.5(b) be that once the kicker has made his intention to kick at goal clear, he may not then change his intention by then kicking to touch, taking a tap kick and passing or running with the ball himself? If this is correct then the abovementioned situation is legal and the referee should award a try.

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

Ruling

The abovementioned scenario is illegal, and the referee would order a scrum at the place of the original penalty, with the put in to the black team.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh H. Penman
Head of Council and Member Services

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
Date: 10th January 2006
Ruling: 2: 2006

The FFR has requested a ruling with regard Law 21 Penalty and Free Kicks

Finally, Law 21.4 (d) requires for "kicking for touch. The kicker may punt or drop kick for touch but must not place kick for touch."
Following a penalty kick and after the ball was kicked, the ball hits the goal post and goes into touch without having been touched by another player. What decision should the referee give?

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

If the penalty kick is for goal, then it is a lineout defending team to throw in. Law 21.4(d).

If the penalty kick is for touch, therefore no place kick, then it is a lineout attacking team to throw in.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh H. Penman
Head of Council and Member Services