

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)*

RULING OF THE DESIGNATED MEMBERS

The IRFU have requested a further Ruling with regard to quickly taken kicks after the collapse of a scrum:

The clarification which we seek is the continuation of play by way of quick tap PK/FK when a collapsed scrummage is still engaged.

In practice, at the higher levels of the Game and when all the correct requirements for a quick PK/FK are observed it is likely that the front rows will be disengaged.

However, if the front rows are not disengaged (and this may be more likely at the lower levels of the Game) we are concerned – under the following Laws – that the game be allowed to continue.

Law 6 A
9(g); 10(a); 10(c);

These do not state, per se, that play should not continue when a collapsed scrum is still engaged. However, there appear to be certain clear implications within these Laws which would place the referee (and others) in an extremely difficult legal situation in the event of a serious injury, if play continues under these circumstances.

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

Date: 14th April 2005

Ruling: 2: 2005

The FFR has requested a ruling with regard Law 6-Match Officials

Law 6 A.12 stipulates for "a ball in the in-goal touched by a non player". In such situation, the referee considers what would have had occurred after this incident and will blow for a try or a touch in goal where the ball would have been grounded.

However, nothing is stipulated in the event of a person who is not a player touching the ball, intentionally or not, in the field of play or hinders the ball carrier or any other player who is in the position to intervene in the play. Would you please rule on the following scenarios.

1. A person from the technical staff (coach, physio, doctor, water carrier) **unintentionally touches** the ball or **unintentionally hinders** the ball carrier or a player in a position to play the ball.
2. A person from the technical staff (coach, physio, doctor, water carrier) **intentionally touches** the ball or **intentionally hinders** the ball carrier or a player in a position to play the ball.
3. An exterior element (spectator) **unintentionally or intentionally touches** the ball or **unintentionally or intentionally hinders** the ball carrier or a player in a position to play the ball.
4. An exterior element (animal) **touches** the ball or **hinders** the ball carrier or a player in a position to play the ball.

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

Rulings

1. The referee shall judge what would have happened next. If either team gain an advantage, play will be brought back for a scrum with the team in possession at the time of the event to have the throw-in.
2. The above scenario in 1. is applied whether it was intentional or unintentional.
3. The referee shall judge what would have happened next. If either team gain an advantage, play will be brought back for a scrum with the team in possession at the time of the event to have the throw-in.
4. The above scenario in 3. is applied.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh H. Penman
Head of Council and Member Services