1871

RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION.

Proposed Laws of the Game

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Plan of the Field.

Q
A
P
P
A
Q
T
A
P
P
A
T
T
T
Q
A
P
P
A
Q

THE FIELD
TOUCH
OF
TOUCH
PLAY

AA. AA. Goal Lines
TT. TT. Knock Lines
PP. PP. Goal Posts
QQ. QQ. Knock in Goal

The Knock Lines and Goal Lines should be cut out of the Turf.
The Laws
of the
GAME of FOOTBALL
AS PLAYED BY
THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

1. A Drop Kick or Drop is made by letting the ball fall from the hands and kicking it the very instant it rises.

2. A place kick or Place is made by kicking the ball after it has been placed on a mark made in the ground for the purpose of keeping it at rest.

3. A punt is made by letting the ball fall from the hands and kicking it before it touches the ground.

4. Each goal shall be composed of two upright posts exceeding 12 ft. in height from the ground and placed 10 ft. 6 in. apart, with a cross bar 10 ft. from the ground.

5. A goal can only be obtained by kicking the ball from the field of play direct (i.e. without touching the crossbar or person of any player of either side) over the cross bar.
of the opponent's goal whether it touch such cross-bar or the posts or not, but if the ball go directly over either of the goal posts it is called a posted and is not a goal.

6. A goal may be obtained by any kind of kick except a front.

A match shall be decided by a majority of goals.

8. The ball is dead when it rests absolutely motionless on the ground.

9. A kick down is when a player putting his hand upon the ball on the ground in touch with goal stops it so that it remains dead as fully so.

A tackle is when the holder of the ball is held by one or more players of the opposite side.

11. A scrummage takes place when the holder of the ball is in front of them

being in the field of play puts it down on the ground and all who have closed round on their respective sides endeavour to push their opponents back and by kicking the ball to drive it in the direction of the opposite goal line.
12. A player may take up the ball whenever it is rolling on the ground except in a scrummage.

13. It is not lawful to take up the ball when dead except in order to bring it out after it has been touched down in touch or in goal, for any purpose whatever. When the ball shall have been so unlawfully taken up, it shall at once be brought back to where it was so taken up and there put down.

14. In a scrummage, it is not lawful to touch the ball with the hand under any circumstance whatever.

15. It is lawful for any player who has the ball to run with it, and if he do so it is called a run. If a player runs with the ball until he gets behind his opponents goal line and then touches it down, it is called a run-in.

16. It is lawful to run in anywhere across the goal line.

17. The goal line is in goal and the touch line is on touch.

18. In the event of any player holding or running with the ball, the ball being touched and fairly held he must at once carry down and then put the ball down.
19 A maul or goal is when the holder of the ball is tackled across or outside the goal line, or being tackled immediately outside, is carried or pushed across it and he or the opposite side or both endeavour to touch the ball down.

20 In case of a maul or goal three players only, who are touching the ball with their hands when it crosses the goal line may continue in the maul on goal and when a player has once released his hold of the ball after it is inside the goal line he may not again join in the maul and if he attempts to do so may be drawn out by the opposite side.

But if a player, when running in, is tackled inside the goal line then only the player who first tackled him or if two or more tackle him simultaneously they only may join in the maul.

21 "Krouch on goal" (see plan) Immediately the ball whether in the hands of a player (except for the purpose of a punt-out see Rule 29) or not goes into touch in goal it is at once dead and out of the game and is
22. Every player, as 'on side' but is 'put off side' if he enters as scrummage from his opponent's side or being in a scrummage gets in front of the ball, or, when the ball has been kicked, touched, or is being run with, by any of his own side behind him (i.e., between himself and his own goal line).

23. Every player when 'off side' is out of the game and shall not touch the ball in any case, whether it at any time gets 'on side' or not, or in any way obstruct any player, until he is again 'on side'.

24. A player being 'off side' is put 'on side' when the ball has been run 3 yards with or kicked by or has touched the dress or person of any player of the opposite side or when one of his own side has run in front of him either with the ball or having kicked it either behind him.

25. When a player has the ball, none of his opponents who at the same are 'off side' may commence or attempt to run, kick or otherwise interrupt such player until he
has run 4 yards.

20. "Throwing back. Is it lawful for any player who has
the ball to throw it back towards his own goal, or to pass
it back to any player of his own side who is at the
end behind him in accordance with the rules of our side?

21. "Knocking on" i.e. deliberately hitting the ball with the
hand and "Throwing forward," is throwing the ball in the
side in which one is playing; the captain of the forward may agree
with the back when the decision of the opponent's goal line are not lawful.

22. A "Catcher" is a catch made direct from a back
or a throw-forward or a knock-ons by one of the opposite
side or from a punt-out or a punt-on (see Rules 29 and
20) provided the catcher makes a mark with his heel
at the spot where he has made the catch and no other
of his own side touch the ball.

23. A "Punt-out" is a punt made after a knock down by
a player from behind his opponent's goal line and from
touch on goal if necessary towards his own side who must
stand outside the goal line and endeavour to make a
fair catch or to get the ball and run on or drop.
and he shall be the host, shall belong to the person who first held hold of it when on the field of play and has not released his hold of it.

If the ball when thrown out of bounds be not thrown out at right angles to the touch line either side, may at once claim to have it thrown out again.

A catch made when the ball is thrown out of touch is not a 'fair catch'.

Kick off is a place kick from the centre of the field of play and cannot count as a goal. The opposite side must stand at least 10 yards in front of the ball until it has been kicked.

The ball shall be kicked off at the commencement of the game or after change of goals as provided by the rules.

After a goal has been obtained the side shall change goals, and this may be effected as often as a goal is scored.

Whenever a goal is scored the captain of both the teams shall agree within 15 minutes unless by the agreement of the captains before the start of the match the rules for the duration of the match, unless by the agreement of the captains, before the start of the match, unless by the agreement of the captains.
as goals are obtaining two

The Captains of the

The Captains of the respective sides shall have up before

shall have the chance of goals and the kick out subsequent

Whenever a goal shall have been obtained the side

which has lost the goal shall play back off neutral ground.

'Kick out' is a drop kick by one of the players of the side

which has had to touch the ball down in their own goal

or who whose touch in goal the ball has gone! Mike Ward

is the mode of bringing the ball again into play and

cannot count as a goal.

'Kick out' must be a drop kick and from not more

than 25 yards outside the kicker's goal line.
side must be behind the ball when kicked out

48. A player who has, made and claimed a fair catch shall thereafter either kick or a drop kick or a point kick or place the ball for a run of his rival to kick when the opposite side are none of it the mark.

After a fair catch has been made and before it is kicked or before, either, another player of the opposing side is kicked or kicked either from the mark made by the catcher or in a direct line from a spot any distance past lying on touch behind it.

If it enter in a direct line across that side of the mark which is nearest to the nearest touch line to each side.

47. A player may touch the ball down on his own or an opponent's goal at any time.

46. A side being fouled for having down on their own or an opponent's goal, shall try at goal, either by a place kick or a punt kick.

45. If a try at goal be made by a place kick a player of the side who has touched the ball down shall bring it up to the goal line in a straight line from each opposite
If there make a mark in the goal line in the spot where the ball was touched down and then walk straight out with it at right angles to the goal line such distance as the 'lenta' proper and then place it for another of his side to kick. The 'lenta' side must be behind the ball when it is kicked and the opposite side must remain behind their goal line until the ball has been placed on the ground (see Rules 27 and 28).

If the ball has been touched down between the goal posts it must be brought out on a straight line from either of such posts but must remain between them or within the attacking zone whichever is less (see Rule 57).

If the 'lenta' side by the 'point out' (see Rule 27) a player of the other side, who has touched the ball down shall bring it straight up to the goal line opposite to the spot where it was touched down and then make a mark on the goal line and then 'point out' from such mark beyond which mark it is not lawful for the opposite side who must keep behind
their goal-line to pass until the ball has been kicked

[Note: Rules 54 and 55]

19. If a fair catch be made from a punt out or a punt on the catch be made as provided by Rules, the ball is to be played in the position which the mark made on making the fair catch shall be regarded for the purpose of determining as well the position of the play of both sides so the mark made on the goal line in the case of a punt out.

A catch made in touch from a punt out or a punt out is not a fair catch if the ball must first be taken or thrown out of touch as provided by Rule 26; but if so the play made or played is good the ball is at once dead and must be kicked out as provided by Rule 21.

20. When the ball has been touched down on the opponents goal, none of the side must return goad without the field, and except the goal behind, it has been so knocked down, shall touch it or in any way interfere or interfere
with the players of the other side, who may be taking it up or out.

33. The Ball is dead, whenever a goal has been obtained, but if a 'try at goal' be not successful the kick shall be considered as only an ordinary kick in the course of the game.

'Charging' is rushing forward to kick the ball or tackle a player, as lawful for the opposite side in all cases of a player back after a few catches or after a 'try at goal' immediately.

Another is a 'fumble' the ball, when losing the ground, and in cases of a drop kick or punt after a few catches he must as the player throws or the ball has touched the ground.

The ball continues to run or offside to kick, but he may always draw back and unless he has dropped the ball or actually kicked it, with his foot, they must again return to his mark.

59. The opposite side in the case of a punt out of a punt on, and the fumble side in all cases may not change, until the ball has been kicked.

65. If a player having the ball when about to 'punt' is out, goes outside the goal line or when about to 'punt'
on, advance nearest to his own goal line from his mark
made on making the fair catch, or if after the ball has
been kicked down, or the opponents goal on a fair catch
has been made more than one player of the side which
has so kicked it down or made the fair catch, touch the
ball before it is again kicked, the opposite side may charge
at once.

In case of a fair catch the opposite side may come up
to and stand anywhere on or behind a line drawn through
the mark made by the player who has made the catch
and parallel to their own goal line; but in the case of
a fair catch from a punt out or a punt on they may
not advance further in the direction of the touch line
nearest, to such mark than a line drawn through such
mark to their goal line and parallel to their touch line.

For all cases (except a punt out and a punt on) the
kickers side must be behind the ball when it is
kicked, but may not charge until it has been kicked.

No kicking or hacking over or stepping up a
shall be allowed under any circumstances

57. No one wearing projecting nails, nor plates or gutted

porches on any part of his boots or shoes shall be

allowed to play in a match

58. The Captains of the respective sides shall be the

sole Arbiters of all disputes.