

Line Ball Your Call

A GUIDE TO ASSIST IN MAKING LINE BALL DECISIONS



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This booklet is a compilation of scenarios which will assist you in making line ball decisions with reference to the touch-line, the touch-in-goal line and the goal-line. The scenarios have been developed by leading referees from both Australia and New Zealand, and confirmed by recent IRB rulings. Although these rulings are not exhaustive, the scenarios provide a framework by which you can make decisions. Thanks to Hugh Carpenter and Peter Marshall for giving of their time for the photo session and also to both Peter and Wayne Erickson for their input into the booklet. Both referees and touch judges will gain benefit from a knowledge of these rulings. You can now be confident when it's a "line ball call".

Kim Lees

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scenario 1

Red player kicks the ball from the field-of-play towards his opponents' goal-line. Blue player, with one foot in the field-of-play and one foot in in-goal, catches the ball on the full and touches down.

Decision: 22-metre drop out

Note: Player with one foot in in-goal is deemed to be in-goal

**scenario 2**

Red player kicks the ball from the field-of-play towards his opponents' goal-line. Blue player, with one foot in the field-of-play and one foot in in-goal, catches the ball as it rolls towards him and touches down.

Decision: 22-metre drop out

Note: It is immaterial whether the ball is caught on the full or the bounce. It is a question of whether the player deemed to be in-goal received the ball.

**scenario 3**

Red player kicks the ball from the field-of-play towards his opponents' goal-line. It rolls to within 1 metre of his opponents' goal-line and stops. A blue player with one foot in the field-of-play and one foot in in-goal reaches out picks up the ball and touches down.

Decision: 5 metre scrum

Note: The blue player has taken the ball into in-goal



scenario 1



scenario 2



scenario 1

Scenario 1: In general play a red player on the half-way line kicks the ball into the in-goal area. A defending blue player standing with one foot in touch-in-goal catches the ball on the full or bounce or picks up the rolling ball.

Decision: Blue team has option of scrum at half way where ball was kicked, or a drop out

Scenario 2: In general play a red player on the half-way line kicks the ball into the in-goal area, where it stops one metre from touch-in-goal line. A defending blue player standing with one foot in touch-in-goal picks up the ball.

Decision: 22-metre drop out

Red player kicks the ball on the full from his 10 metre line into the arms of a blue player who is standing with one foot in touch and one in the field-of-play.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| (a) Is the ball in-touch? | YES |
| (b) Who has put the ball into touch? | Red kicker |
| (c) Where is the mark for the line-out? | Red 10m line |
| (d) Who throws in? | Blue |

player outside plane-of-touch & ball inside line-of-touch



scenario 2

Red player kicks off and blue player standing with one foot on the touch-line catches the ball on the full.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Is the ball in-touch? | YES |
| (b) Who has put the ball into touch? | Red kicker |
| (c) How does play restart? | Blue options from kick-off out on full i.e. scrum, line-out on halfway, re-kick |

player outside plane-of-touch & ball inside line-of-touch



scenario 3

Red player outside his 22m area kicks the ball downfield. It is caught directly by a blue player who has one foot on the touch-line.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| (a) Is the ball in-touch? | YES |
| (b) Who has put the ball in-touch? | Red kicker |
| (c) Where is the line-out? | Where ball was kicked |
| (d) Who throws in? | Blue |

player outside plane-of-touch & ball inside line-of-touch



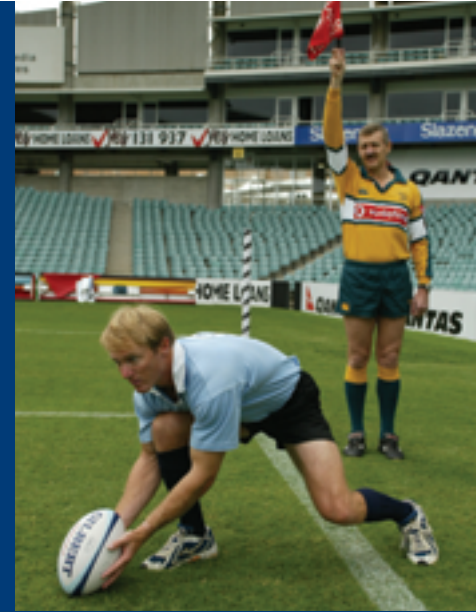
scenario 4

Red player kicks the ball from his own 10m line and it bounces downfield where blue player, with one foot in the field-of-play and one foot in-touch, catches the ball which has not crossed the touch-line.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| (a) Is the ball in-touch? | YES |
| (b) Who has put the ball in-touch? | Red player |
| (c) Where is the mark for the line-out? | Where the ball was caught |
| (d) Who throws in? | Blue |

Note: The only difference between a ball caught directly or on the bounce is to determine the place for the line-out. If the ball is caught it is immaterial whether the ball had crossed the touch-line or whether it was going to cross the touch-line.

player outside plane-of-touch & ball inside line-of-touch



scenario 5

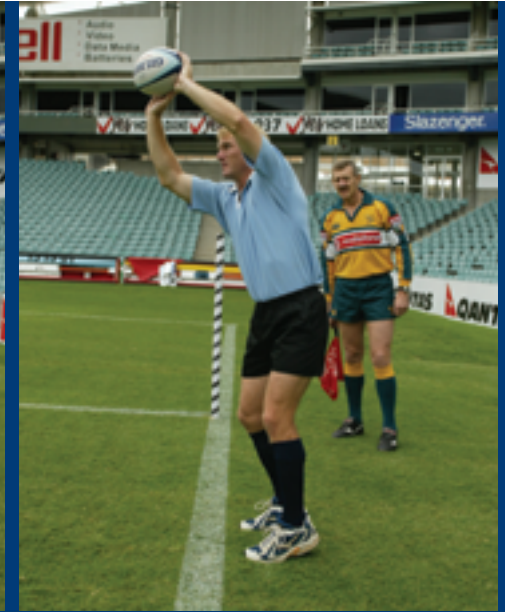
Scenario 5: Red player kicks the ball from his own 10 metre line where it bounces downfield and stops rolling 1 metre from touch. Blue player with one foot in-touch and one in the field-of-play bends down and picks up the stationary ball.

Who has taken the ball into touch? Blue

Scenario 6: Red player kicks the ball downfield. An opponent standing in-touch with both feet on the ground, slaps the ball, which is still in flight back in field before it has crossed the touch-line.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----|
| (a) Is the ball in-touch? | NO |
|---------------------------|----|

Note: Law 19 definition last paragraph



scenario 6

player in field-of-play & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 1

Blue player is running with the ball just inside the touch-line. A red opponent pushes the blue ball carrier towards the touch-line. The blue player leaps into the air and crosses the touch-line but before he touches the ground he is able to throw the ball back into the field-of-play.

(a) Is the ball in-touch?

NO

Note: Law 19 definition paragraph 5

player in field-of-play & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 2

Red player punts the ball downfield. The ball crosses the touch-line whilst still in flight. A blue player standing with both feet in the field-of-play reaches out over the touch-line and slaps the ball back into the field-of-play towards his own dead ball line.

(a) Is the ball in-touch?

NO

Note: If the ball crosses the touch-line and is caught by a player who has both feet in the playing area, the ball is not in-touch, such a player may also knock the ball into the playing area.

player in field-of-play & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 3

Red player punts the ball from outside his own 22m area and the ball crosses the touch-line on the full. An opponent standing in the field-of-play leaps in the air and before he crosses the touch-line slaps the ball back into the field of play. He then lands in touch.

(a) Is the ball in touch?

NO

Note: The determining factor in whether the ball is in touch is not whether the player was in the air or where he lands. It is simply whether the body was beyond the touch-line when the contact was made.

player & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 1

Red player punts the ball from outside his own 22m area and the ball crosses the touch-line on the full. A blue opponent standing in the field-of-play leaps in the air and after he crosses the touch-line slaps the ball back into the field of play.

(a) Is the ball in touch?

YES

(b) Where is the line-out?

The line-of-touch is where the red player kicked the ball

(c) Team to throw in

Blue

player & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 2

Red player kicks the ball for touch from a penalty. Blue player standing in the field-of-play dives across the touch-line and while in the air across the touch-line momentarily catches the ball and passes it back in to the field-of-play.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| (a) Is the ball in-touch? | YES |
| (b) Where is the line-out? | The line-of-touch is where the ball crossed the touch-line |
| (c) Team to throw in? | Red |

player & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 3

Blue player grubber kicks the ball and it rolls towards the touch-line. The ball crosses the touch-line in the air as another blue player chasing the kick dives across the touch-line and flicks the ball back infield.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| (a) Is the ball in-touch? | YES |
| (b) Where is the line-out? | The line-of-touch is where the ball crossed the touch-line |
| (c) Team to throw in? | Red (other team) |

player & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 4

Red player kicks the ball downfield. A blue opponent standing in touch with both feet on the ground, slaps the ball, which is still in flight back in-field after it has crossed the touch-line.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| (a) Is the ball in touch? | YES |
| (b) Where is the line-out? | The line-of-touch is where the ball crossed the touch-line |
| (c) Team to throw in? | Blue |

player & ball outside plane-of-touch



scenario 5

Red player punts the ball from outside his own 22m area and the ball crosses the touch-line on the full. A blue opponent standing in touch leaps in the air, and slaps the ball back in to the field-of-play and then lands in touch.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Is the ball in touch? | YES |
| (b) Where is the line-out? | Where the red player kicked it from |
| (c) Team to throw in? | Blue |

Note: The ball is in touch when it is not being carried by a player and it touches anyone on or beyond the touch-line. The same answer would apply if the opponent landed in the field-of-play.

- If the ball, which has crossed the plain-of-touch, touches a player beyond the touch-line, the ball is in-touch, regardless of whether the player is on the ground or jumping in the air. The ball has been put in-touch by the kicking team.
- If a player has one foot in the field-of-play and one foot in-touch, and catches the ball, the team that kicked the ball has put the ball in-touch. The non kicking team has the throw-in to the line-out.
- The only situation where play continues after the ball contacts a player beyond the touch-line is where the ball has not crossed the plane-of-touch and the player plays the ball but does not catch it.
(Law 19 Definition last paragraph)



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