

— 1871 —

RUGBY FOOTBALL
UNION.

Proposed Laws

OF THE

Game.

E. C. Ashton, Hon. Secy. & Secy.
12, 13, & 14, Pall Mall

1871

Plan OF THE Field.



AA. AA. Goal Lines
 TT. TT. Touch Lines

PP. PP. Goal Posts
 QQ. QQ. Touch in Goal

The Touch 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 on after it has been placed in a nick 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 11 ft in height from the ground and placed on 18 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 (is without touching the dress or person of any player of either side,) over the cross bar

of the opponents' goal, whether it touch such cross-bar or the posts or not: but if the ball goes directly over either of the 'goal posts' it is called 'a poster' and is not a goal.

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

Exact object but decided by Division

7 A match shall be decided by a ^{only} majority of goals ~~and~~

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

9 A 'Touch down' is when a player putting his hand upon the ball on the ground in touch or in goal stops it so

Exact happens to suit in fairly so - but see Rule 10 - if these words are struck out, that rule, the 'scattered' will now be inserted by the Law Com.

that it remains dead or fairly 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 being in the field of play puts it down on the ground ^{in front of them}

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

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12 A player may take up the ball whenever it is rolling or bounding 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 - whenever 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 circumstances whatever

15 It is lawful for any player who has the ball to run with it, and if he does 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 in touch

18 In the event of any player holding or running with the ball being tackled and ^{the ball being} fairly held he must at once or cry down and there put ^{it} the ball down.

19 A 'maul in goal' is when the holder of the ball is tackled inside goal line or being tackled immediately or 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 in goal those players only who are touching the ball with their hands when it crosses the goal line may continue in the maul in 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 dragged 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 tackled him 'simultaneously' they only may join in the maul.

21 'Touch in 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

Swart considers
rules 21 & 29
contradictory but
they are comparing apples
with oranges.

brought out as provided by Rules ~~41 and 42~~ 41 and 42.

22. Every player is 'on side' but is put 'off side' if he enters a scrumage from his opponents side or being in a scrumage 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 whatever, either in or out of touch or goal, or in any way interrupt or 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 5 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 when behind him

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

Scrummage and
count Every player
is on side etc. &
read: A player is
off side etc. - but
draft is correct.

Scrummage proposed
to meet and needs
but this was decided
on division

has run 5 yards.

26 'Throwing back'. It is 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 time behind him in accordance with the rules of on side

27 'Knocking on', i.e. deliberately hitting the ball with the hand and 'Throwing forward', i.e. throwing the ball in the direction of the opponents goal line are not lawful. ^{and then put it down}

28 A 'Fair Catch' is a catch made direct from a kick or a throw forward or a knock on by one of the opposite side, or from a punt out or a punt on (see Rules 29 and 30) 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 (see Rule 31)

29 A 'Punt out' is a 'punt' made after a touch down by a player from behind his opponents goal line and from touch in 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 in' or 'drop

x
as provided by
the rules of the
game of soccer

Opp

Insert the note
to 27

Consider expediency
of amending the rules
and also

a goal ⁴⁴ or ⁴⁵ = 49 & 51.

30 'A Punt on' is a punt made in a manner similar to a punt out and from touch if necessary, by a player who has made a fair catch from a punt out or another punt on

Swart objects to punt on - no kind of ground

31 Touch (see plan) If the Ball goes into Touch the first player on his side who touches it down must bring it to the spot where it crossed the touch line, or if a player when running with the Ball cross or put any part of either foot across the touch line, he must return with the Ball

X

Swart's proposal add to plan - he says it is better to have a line drawn across the touch line by which the player must return

32 either case must himself or by one of his own side, either

Swart objects to kicking away touch, but he has failed to notice that the ball must first be bounded on the touch line

bound it out in the Field of Play and then run with it or
i. Kick it or throw it back to his own side or
ii. throw it out at right angles to the touch line or
iii. walk out with it at right angles to the touch line any distance not less than 5 or more than 15 yards and there put it down first declaring how far he intends to walk out.

X
Swart's proposal omit this

33 If two or more players holding the ball are pushed

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