

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: 1: 2005

The IRFU has requested a ruling with regard Law 16-Ruck

1. To paraphrase the definition, it basically states that rucking can occur as long as players are not in contravention of Law 10 Foul Play.
In 16.3(f) it states that 'a player rucking for the ball must not ruck players on the ground'. It also states that 'a player must not intentionally step on players who are on the ground, and that 'a player rucking must do so near the ball'.
Is this then taken to mean that there are no exceptions or qualifications to the Law, and that rucking which is directed at a player to remove him as an obstruction or impediment to securing possession of the ball is illegal?
2. Can the Law also be taken to mean that so called 'mountain climbing' where a player is using his boots to climb on a players back/body, is illegal?
3. Can the Law also be taken to mean that rucking can only occur when a player is in a ruck and bound correctly {Law 16.2(b)} and that any player not caught in or bound in the ruck cannot be rucking for the ball and is therefore liable to penalty for Dangerous Play and Misconduct under Law 10.4(b) and/or (c) and/or 10.4(k).
4. Additionally, would inadvertent or unintentional contact with players in a ruck as an incident of legitimate rucking for the football (reckless and patently dangerous rucking apart) be considered legal and within the Laws of the Game?

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

Rulings

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. Yes

Yours sincerely,

Hugh H. Penman
Head of Council and Member Services

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

From: David Carrigy, Council & Member Services Manager

Subject: Law Ruling by Designated Members of Rugby Committee

Date: November 29, 2006

Ruling: 8: 2006

The FFR has requested a ruling with regard to Law 16 Ruck

1. Can the referee allow a defender coming from his side to intervene on an opponent as soon as his opponent has his hands on the ball, by diving over the players on the ground in front of him?
2. Can the referee allow a defender coming from his side to intervene on the ball as soon as it emerges from the ruck, by diving over the players on the ground in front of him?
3. Can the referee allow a player coming from his side to hit the arm of the opponent as this opponent has the ball in his hands, by diving over the players on the ground in front of him?
4. Can the referee allow a player coming from his side to hit the arm of the opponent as this opponent has the ball in his hands, by staying on his feet but being in contact with players on the ground in front of him?

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

1. No. See Laws 16.2(d) and 16.3(d).
2. No. See Laws 16.2(d) and 16.3(d).
3. No. See Laws 16.2(d) and 16.3(d).
4. Yes. If the player was on his feet and came from an onside position.

Yours sincerely,

**David Carrigy
Council & Member Services Manager**

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

From: David Carrigy, Head of Member Services

Subject: Law Ruling by Designated Members of Rugby Committee

Date: October 1, 2007

Ruling: 3: 2007

The GRU has requested a ruling with regard to Law 16.6 Successful end to a ruck

1. A ruck is formed and the ball is playable for Team A. All players in Team B now leave the ruck and step back. Is there still a ruck or has the ruck ended?

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

A ruck ends successfully when the ball leaves the ruck or when the ball enters in goal ie. on or over the goal line.

A ruck ends unsuccessfully when the ball becomes unplayable.

As there has been a ruck formed initially, AND the criteria for a successful or unsuccessful ruck have not been exhibited, then the ruck has not ended.

Yours sincerely,

David Carrigy
Head of Member Services

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

From: David Carrigy, Head of Member Services

Subject: Law Ruling by Designated Members of Rugby Committee

Date: November 7, 2008

Ruling: 3: 2007

The GRU has requested a ruling with regard to Law 16.6 Successful end to a ruck.

The question is:

A ruck is formed and the ball is playable for Team A. All players in Team B now leave the ruck and step back. Is there still a ruck or has the ruck ended?

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

1. A ruck ends successfully when the ball leaves the ruck or when the ball enters in goal ie. on or over the goal line.
2. A ruck ends unsuccessfully when the ball becomes unplayable.
3. As there has been a ruck formed initially, AND the criteria for a successful or unsuccessful ruck have not been exhibited, then the ruck has not ended.

Yours sincerely,

David Carrigy
Head of Member Services