

— 1871 —

RUGBY FOOTBALL  
UNION.

Proposed Laws

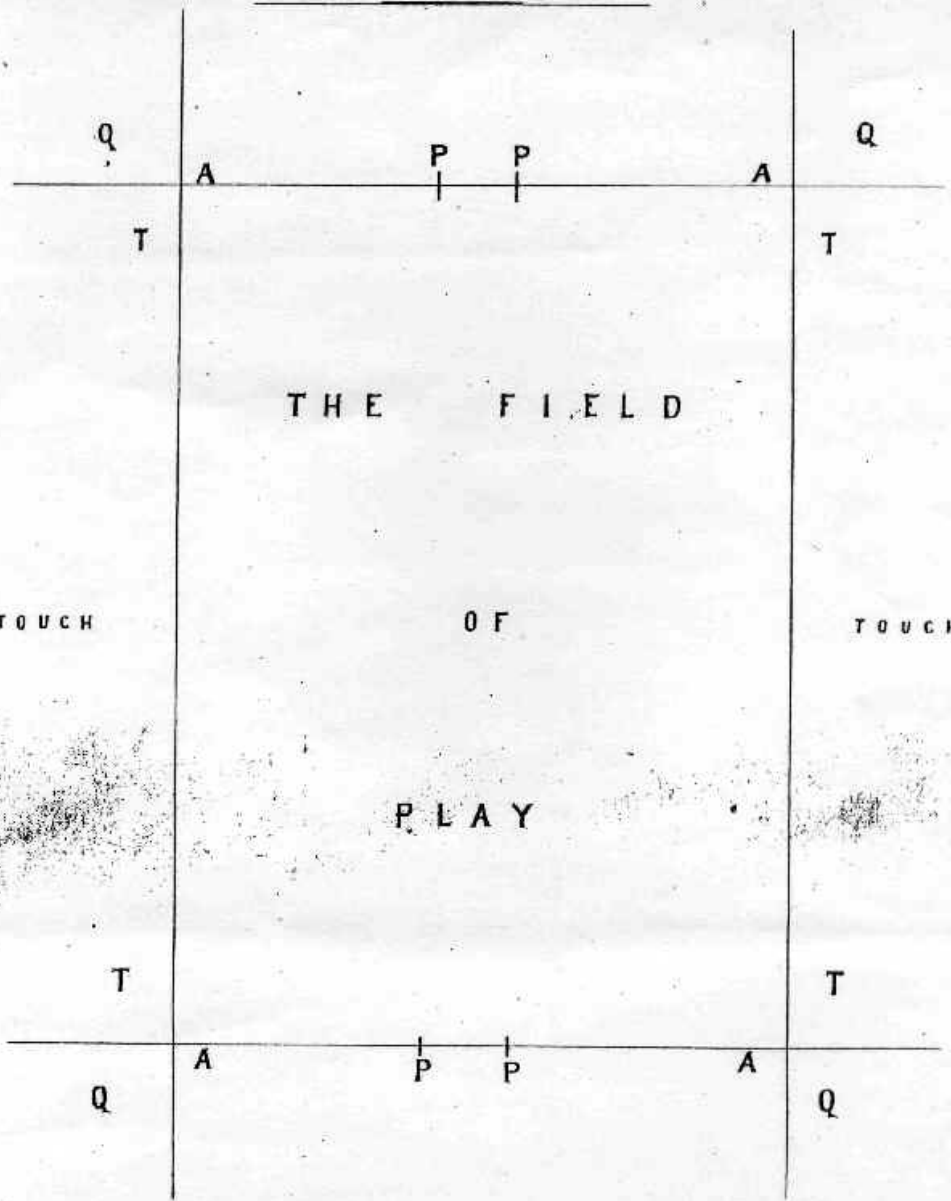
OF THE

Game

*E. Carlisle Hutchinson & Son*  
*12 Bedford Row*

*W.C.*

# 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**

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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 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 (i.e. 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 <sup>only</sup> 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 rest  
in fairly 10' - but see  
Rule 9. if these words  
are struck out, that rule  
is dead and it will work  
inserted by the Com. Sec.

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 <sup>in front of them</sup> 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 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 <sup>the ball being</sup> fairly held he must at once or  
V run down and there <sup>it</sup> put the ball down.

19 A 'maul in goal' is when the holder of the ball is tackled inside goal line or being tackled immediately on 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 pushing 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.

What concerns  
rules 21 & 29  
contradictory - but  
they are complementary.

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

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

Scrummage and  
count every blow  
in side as a  
read: A player is  
off side - but  
draft is correct.

22. Every player is 'on side' but is put 'off side' if he enters a scrummage from his opponents 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 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

Rule 24 proposes  
to omit words underlined  
but this was decided  
in Division.

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

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 own 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.

As provided by the rules of the game

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

Least 21

Consider antecedent of game of football and 1880

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



a goal <sup>40'</sup> or <sup>45'</sup> 49 & 51.

30 'Put on' is a punt made in a manner similar

*Swart objects to  
kicking or - no limit  
that it is the rough  
game*

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

31 Touch (see plom) If the Ball goes into Touch the

X

first player on his side who touches it down must bring  
it  
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 an

*Swart objects and  
is from there to return it  
into play  
first rule "they  
opposite to kicking  
as to 2000*

either foot across the touch line, he must return with the  
Ball to the spot where the line was so crossed and in

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

*Swart objects to kicking  
into touch, but he has put  
to notice that the ball must  
first be bounded a the  
first of play*

bound it out in the field of play and then run with it

kick it or throw it back to his own side or ii throw

X  
*Swart objects to  
no*

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.

33 If two or more players holding the ball are pushed

into touch the ball shall belong in touch to the player  
who first had hold of it when in the Field of play and  
has not released his hold of it

*Swart's opinion  
that if kicking out  
of touch is allowed (which  
it is not) the words  
in Rules 34 & 35 be  
added here - Clarified.*

34 If the ball when thrown out of touch be not thrown  
out at right angles to the touch line, <sup>the Captain of</sup> either side may at  
once claim to have it thrown out again

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

36 'Kick off' is a place back 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.

37 The Ball shall be 'kicked off' i. at the commencement of  
the game. ii. ~~after change of goals as provided by the next~~  
~~Rule 34~~ after a goal has been obtained

*Smithman  
amend.  
but decided in  
Paris in  
Honor in the Rules  
Article by the last Committee  
By rule 36 & 37 may  
also be*

38 The sides shall change goals ~~and only during a match~~  
as often as and whenever a goal is obtained  
~~and upon the expiration of half the whole time agreed~~  
~~upon for the duration of the match unless by the agreement~~  
~~of the Captains before the~~ <sup>it has been</sup> ~~possession of one or another~~

~~a goal is obtained unless~~ otherwise agreed  
by the Captains before the commencement of the match

39) The Captains of the respective sides shall toss up before  
the commencement of the match: the winner of the toss

Further and perhaps  
"or toss" if choice  
of goals or kick off  
is made.

is allowed shall have the choice of goals ~~and~~ <sup>or</sup> the kick off ~~after~~  
~~of goals at half time: the loser shall have the first kick off~~

40) Whenever a goal shall have been obtained the side  
which has lost the goal shall then kick off ~~and~~

Further and  
omit. V  
C.

~~Rule 39~~

41) '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 into whose touch in goal the ball has gone (Rule 21) and  
is the mode of bringing the ball again into play, and  
cannot count as a goal

42) 'Kick out' must be a drop kick and from not more  
than 25 yards outside the kickers goal line, ~~and not~~

Esant does not  
understand this  
if it is not to  
go into touch:

~~of the ball when kicked out go into touch if it touches~~  
If the Ball when kicked out <sup>touches in</sup> touch it must  
~~be taken back and kicked out again. The kickers~~

Further and  
if the ball when kicked  
out goes into touch  
it shall be taken  
back & kicked out  
again -  
that is the  
kick

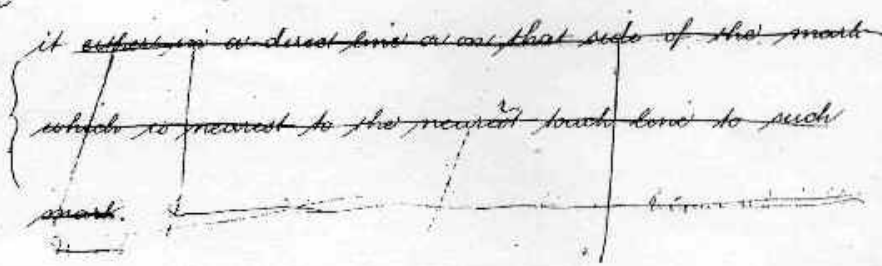
side must be behind the ball when kicked out

13 A player who has made and claimed a fair catch shall thereupon either ~~kick~~ take a 'drop kick' or a 'punt' or 'place' the ball for ~~another of his side to kick~~ <sup>catch</sup>

14 After a fair catch has been made ~~that ball shall be~~ <sup>the opposing side may come up to the mark</sup> ~~and must in every case be to the catcher's side~~ <sup>the Ball shall be</sup> ~~within the Ball shall be~~

Scullough +  
but it does not  
provide for kicking  
elsewhere than in  
a direct line.  
add the condition  
hence  
the distance to

15 ~~It shall be kicked either from the mark made by the catcher or~~ <sup>in a direct line</sup> from a spot any distance (not being in touch) behind



16 A player may touch the ball down in his own or goal at any time

Scullough +  
but it is not  
in rule 52

16 A side having touched the ball down in their or opponents goal, shall 'try at goal' either by a place kick or a punt out.

Under 14  
have not put case

17 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 end opposite <sup>subject to rule 48</sup>

& then make a mark <sup>1200</sup> on the goal line  
 to 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 he thinks proper and there place it for  
 another of his side to kick. The kickers 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 54 and 55)

54 If the ball has been touched down between the goal  
 posts, it <sup>may</sup> be brought out in a straight line from  
 either of such posts but ~~not~~ <sup>if brought out</sup> from between them in which  
 case the opponent may charge ~~in~~ <sup>at once</sup> (see rule 54)

55 If the 'try at goal' be by a 'punt out' (see Rule 29)  
 a player of the side which has touched the ball down  
 shall bring it straight up to the goal line opposite to the  
 spot where it was touched down and there make a mark on  
 the goal line and then 'punt out' from <sup>any spot within the goal line</sup> ~~from~~ ~~any~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~goal~~ ~~line~~  
~~from any part behind the goal line not nearer to the~~  
~~goal post than such mark, beyond which mark it is~~  
<sup>or from touch in goal if necessary</sup>  
 not lawful for the opposite side who must keep behind or

The word nearest  
 must refer to  
 goal - not touch  
 in goal where the  
 mark is made

their goal line to pass until the ball has been kicked

(see Rules ~~51~~ and ~~52~~)

49 If a fair catch be made from a 'punt out' or a 'punt

on' the catcher may either proceed as provided by Rules

~~42~~ and ~~43~~ or <sup>44</sup> himself take a 'punt on' in which case the

mark made on making the fair catch shall be regarded

(for the purpose of determining as well the position of

the player who makes the 'punt on' as of the other players

of both sides) as the mark made on the goal line in the

case of a 'punt out'

50 A catch made in touch from a 'punt out' or a 'punt

on' is not a fair catch the ball must then be taken or

thrown out of touch as provided by Rule ~~51~~ <sup>32</sup> but if the

catch be made in touch in goal the ball is at once dead

and must be 'kicked out' as provided by Rule 21

51 When the ball has been touched down in the opponents

goal none of the side in whose goal it has been so touched

down shall touch it or in any way displace it or interfere

with the player of the other side who may be taking it up or out

53 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

the word or  
position of  
any is  
5 Hawley  
low light

54 'Charging' is rushing forward to kick the ball or tackle a player, is lawful for the opposite side in all cases of a place kick after a fair catch or upon a 'try at goal' immediately

the ball is placed on the ground; and in cases of a drop kick or punt after a fair catch as soon as the player having

is full

or the ball has touched the ground the ball commences to run or offers to kick but he may always draw back and unless he has dropped the ball or actually

will be and  
adopt part  
the second part  
7 and is proof  
by that rule

touched it with his foot they must again return to his mark

(see Rule 55) The opposite side in the case of a punt out or a punt on, and the kickers side in all cases may not charge until the ball has been kicked

55 If a player having the ball when about to 'punt' is out' goes outside the goal line or when about to 'punt'

Ball is in  
own hand  
of opponent  
at this point.

on advances nearer to his own goal line than his mark made on making the fair catch, or if after the ball has been touched down in the opponents goal or a fair catch has been made more than one player of the side which has so touched it down or made the fair catch, touch the ball before it is again kicked the opposite side may charge at once.

is in own  
hand for here  
to touch -  
No.

56 In cases 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 such touch line. In 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.

57 No hacking or hacking over or tripping up or ...



shall be allowed under any circumstances

57 No one wearing projecting nails, iron plates or guttae percha 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.