

It is the duty of the Referee when the ball is taken out of touch, under Law 12 (*b*), to see that it is scrummaged 10 yards from the touch line.

The attention of Referees is directed to the penalties of Law 8, sections (*e*) and (*f*).

It is important that Referees should more strictly enforce these penalties, and it should be observed that a Referee should award a free kick if he thinks a fair catch would have been made had not an off-side player, through his proximity and not retiring beyond the 10 yards limit, have rendered such catch more difficult. For instance, a player waiting to receive the ball fails to catch it properly and it drops from his hands to the ground. An opponent who is off-side and who is standing or has approached within 10 yards of him, immediately pounces upon him and prevents him recovering and playing the ball. A free kick should be awarded as it was the duty of the off-side player to have retired beyond the 10 yards limit.

Referees too often give offending players the benefit of unintentional off-side instead of inflicting the free kick penalty.

If a try has been scored, and after a charge by the defending side has been disallowed, the kicker touches the ball when it is on the ground, the Referee must order a drop-out, the illegal act of the kicker in so handling