



# Dangerous Tackles

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## LAW 10.4 DANGEROUS PLAY AND MISCONDUCT

# Types of Dangerous Tackle

- High Tackle
- A 'stiff-arm tackle'
- Playing a player without the ball
- Tackling an opponent whose feet are off the ground.
- Tackling without trying to grasp that player./ No arms
- Tip Tackle



10.4 (e) **Dangerous tackling.** A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously.

A player must not tackle (or try to tackle) an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders. A tackle around the opponent's neck or head is dangerous play.



10.4 (e) **Dangerous tackling.** A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously.

A 'stiff-arm tackle' is dangerous play. A player makes a stiff-arm tackle when using a stiff-arm to strike an opponent.



10.4 (e) **Dangerous tackling.** A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously.

Playing a player without the ball is dangerous play.



10.4 (e) **Dangerous tackling.** A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously.

A player must not tackle an opponent whose feet are off the ground.



**10.4 (g) Dangerous charging.** A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without trying to grasp that player.



**i) Tackling the jumper in the air.** A player must not tackle nor tap, push or pull the foot or feet of an opponent jumping for the ball in a lineout or in open play.





(j) Lifting a player from the ground and dropping or driving that player into the ground whilst that player's feet are still off the ground such that the player's head and/or upper body come into contact with the ground is dangerous play.

The following is actual advice from Tony Lanaway an RFU Citing Commissioner :-

Start with a penalty whatever.

If the tip is executed but the landing is controlled by the tipper, I.e. lowered to ground, then think yellow.

If the tip is executed but the player is driven to ground or dropped to ground and head/upper body makes contact first then red, off he/she goes!



# IRB Memorandum 2009

Dangerous Tip Tackles

To summarise, the possible scenarios when a tackler horizontally lifts a player off the ground:

- The player is lifted and then forced or “speared” into the ground. A red card should be issued for this type of tackle.
- The lifted player is dropped to the ground from a height with no regard to the player’s safety. A red card should be issued for this type of tackle.
- For all other types of dangerous lifting tackles, it may be considered a penalty or yellow card is sufficient.

Referees **should not** make their decisions based on what they consider was the intention of the offending player. Their decision should be based on an objective assessment (as per Law 10.4 (e)) of the circumstances of the tackle.



# IRB Memorandum 2011

**Dangerous tackles (high tackles)**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to emphasise that as with tip tackles, they must be dealt with severely by Referees and all those involved in the off-field disciplinary process.

It is recognised of course, as with other types of illegal and/or foul play, depending on the circumstances of the high tackle, the range of sanctions extends from a penalty kick to the player receiving a red card. An illegal high tackle involving a stiff arm or swinging arm to the head of the opponent, with no regard to the player's safety, bears all the hallmarks of an action which should result in a red card or a yellow card being seriously considered.

Referees and Citing Commissioners should not make their decisions based on what they consider was the intention of the offending player. Their decision should be based on an objective assessment (as per Law 10.4(e)) of the overall circumstances of the tackle.



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Any Questions?



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