



Managing the Breakdown

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Ball on the ground no tackle

- **DEFINITIONS**
 - **This situation occurs when the ball is available on the ground and a player goes to ground to gather the ball, except immediately after a scrum or a ruck.**
 - **It also occurs when a player is on the ground in possession of the ball and has not been tackled.**
 - **The Game is to be played by players who are on their feet. A player must not make the ball unplayable by falling down. Unplayable means that the ball is not immediately available to either team so that play may continue.**
 - **A player who makes the ball unplayable, or who obstructs the opposing team by falling down, is negating the purpose and Spirit of the Game and must be penalised.**
 - **A player who is not tackled, but who goes to ground while holding the ball, or a player who goes to ground and gathers the ball, must act immediately.**
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Tackle

- **DEFINITIONS**
- A tackle occurs when the ball carrier is held by one or more opponents and is brought to ground.
- A ball carrier who is not held is not a tackled player and a tackle has not taken place.
- Opposition players who hold the ball carrier and bring that player to ground, and who also go to ground, are known as tacklers.
- Opposition players who hold the ball carrier and do not go to ground are not tacklers.

Ruck

- **DEFINITIONS**

- A ruck is a phase of play where one or more players from each team, who are on their feet, in physical contact, close around the ball on the ground. Open play has ended.
- Players are rucking when they are in a ruck and using their feet to try to win or keep possession of the ball, without being guilty of foul play.

Discuss within your
Group how you
prioritise the tackle

1.Tackler & Tackle Assist

2.Tackled Player

3.Other Players

Law 15.4 The Tackler

- (a) When a player tackles an opponent and they both go to ground, **the tackler must immediately release** the tackled player.
- (b) **The tackler must immediately get up or move away** from the tackled player and from the ball at once.
- (c) **The tackler must get up before playing the ball** and then may play the ball from any direction.

15.5 THE TACKLED PLAYER

- (a) A tackled player **must not lie on, over, or near the ball** to prevent opponents from gaining possession of it, and **must try to make the ball available immediately** so that play can continue.
- (b) A tackled player must **immediately pass the ball or release it**. That player **must also get up or move away from it at once**.
- (c) A tackled player may **release the ball by putting it on the ground in any direction**, provided this is done immediately.
- (d) A tackled player may release the ball by **pushing it along the ground in any direction except forward**, provided this is done immediately.
- (e) If opposition players who are on their feet attempt to play the ball, the tackled player **must release the ball**.

Law 15.6 Other Players

- **All other players must be on their feet** when they play the ball. Players are on their feet if no other part of their body is supported by the ground or players on the ground.
- **Players on their feet may attempt to gain possession** by taking the ball from the ball carrier's possession.
- **Players in opposition to the ball carrier who remain on their feet who bring the ball carrier to ground so that the player is tackled must release the ball and the ball carrier.** Those players may then play the ball providing they are **on their feet** and do so from **behind the ball and from directly behind the tackled player** or a tackler closest to those players' goal line.
- At a tackle or near to a tackle, other players who play the ball must do so from **behind the ball and from directly behind the tackled player** or the tackler closest to those players' goal line.

Law 15.6 Other Players

- e) Any player who gains possession of the ball at the tackle **must play the ball immediately** by moving away or passing or kicking the ball.
- (f) Any player who first gains possession of the ball **must not go to the ground** at the tackle or near to it unless tackled by an opposition player.
- (h) After a tackle, any player lying on the ground **must not prevent an opponent from getting possession of the ball.**
- (i) After a tackle, any player on the ground must not tackle an opponent or try to tackle an opponent.

11.9 Loitering

A player who remains in an offside position is loitering. A loiterer who prevents the opposing team from playing the ball as they wish is taking part in the game, and is penalised. The referee makes sure that the loiterer does not benefit from being put onside by the opposing team's action

Discuss within your
Group ways in which
you can manage the
tackle area

Preventative Management:

- Number / Colour / Action
- Other verbal commands such as Encouraging the players to arrive up

Punitive Management:

- Advantage
- Penalty
- Further escalation

Unplayable:

- Establish why
- Who feeds the following scrum

Discuss within your
Group how play
transforms from tackle
to ruck

Discuss in your groups
how can you referee
that transition?

Recap

- Is it a tackle
- Prioritise and manage if possible tackle and tackle area
- Establish when tackle becomes ruck
- Manage transition from tackle to ruck.



Any Questions?

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