



NSW/ACT

Boundary

Umpire Guide

This handbook is designed to introduce people to boundary umpiring and for those with experience, refresh some of the specifics around this discipline of umpiring.

BOUNDARY UMPIRE DUTIES

- Judging whether a football is Out of Bounds or Out of Bounds on the Full and signaling to the field Umpire when that has occurred;
- Throwing the football back into play if it has gone Out of Bounds, when directed to do so by a field Umpire;
- Determining whether a player has incorrectly entered the Centre Square in contravention of Law 11.3.4 including notifying the field Umpire of Centre Square infringements;
- Bringing the football back to the Centre Square after a goal has been scored;
- Reporting a player or official who commits a Reportable Offence; and
- Assisting goal Umpires to determine a score

1. LAWS

CENTRE SQUARE INFRINGEMENT

Prior to the field umpire bouncing/throwing up the ball at the start of a quarter or after a goal, the players will set themselves up either inside or outside the centre square. Once the square is 'set' that is, all players are in position, the field umpire will start the motion of throwing up/bouncing the ball.

Until the ball is released from the hand(s) of the field umpire, no player is permitted to run into the centre circle. Should a player enter the circle, even partially, the boundary umpire shall blow their whistle, indicate in the direction of the infringement and run in the direction of the free kick.

The only exception to this rule is if an opposing player pushes the player who enters the square. Then the free kick will be given to the player who was pushed.

OUT OF BOUNDS ON THE FULL

If the ball goes over the boundary line as the direct result of a kick and is not touched by a player or does not bounce, the ball is out of bounds on the full.

The boundary umpire should blow their whistle loudly and extend both arms out horizontally to either side of the body with fists clenched.

The boundary umpire shall wait until the field umpire acknowledges the decision (or overrides it with a free kick). The boundary umpire, if positioned within 15m of the ball crossing the boundary line, will run to that spot and indicate where the ball crossed the line, prior to moving to position for the free kick.

OUT OF BOUNDS FROM A BEHIND OR KNOCKED OUT OF BOUNDS DIRECTLY FROM A RUCK CONTEST

When a ball is kicked out of bounds from a kick out without being touched by another player (it doesn't matter whether or not it was kicked), the boundary umpire should blow their whistle loudly and extend both arms out horizontally. Exactly the same as the out of bounds on the full.

If the Ball Hits The Point Post

If the ball hits the point post on the full (that is without it bouncing), the boundary umpire will indicate that the ball is out of bounds on the full.

If the ball is touched, or bounces before hitting the point post, the boundary umpire should indicate that the ball is out of bounds, tap the post three times and throw the ball back into play. If the boundary umpire is not in position when it hits the point post, the goal umpire will assist.

IF THE FIELD UMPIRE DOESN'T SEE YOUR DECISION

If the boundary umpire signals that the ball is out of bounds and the field umpire does not hear or see the decision, the boundary umpire should run after the field umpire and notify him that the ball was out of bounds and where this occurred. When notified, the field umpire shall indicate that the ball be thrown in or award the free kick dependent on the decision of the boundary umpire.

If the field umpire awards a free kick before the boundary umpire can notify them of the out of bounds, the decision becomes voided and the boundary umpire should take up the appropriate position to continue with play.

If a goal or behind is scored (but no free kick), the boundary umpire shall still notify the field umpire of the out of bounds. The field umpire will then direct the goal umpire to annul the score.

BOUNDARY THROW INS

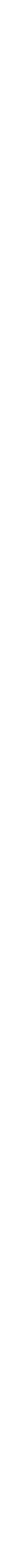
THROW-INS

The boundary umpire will throw the ball back into play in the spot where the ball crossed the line. Following the signaling of the decision, the boundary umpire will wait for the field umpire to acknowledge the decision before picking up the ball. The boundary umpire shall face with their back to the arena, before throwing the ball over their head into play.

The ball needs to land 10-15m from the boundary line and reach a height of at least 3m. If the boundary umpire cannot achieve this distance, they are permitted to move in from the boundary line the necessary distance in order for the players to have a fair ruck contest.

If the ball does not reach the required height and distance, the field umpire may direct you to re-throw the ball.

Under no circumstances are you to leave the playing arena to retrieve the ball. Request a player or official to do this for you. Seek help from the field umpire if necessary.



SIGNALING

OUT OF BOUNDS



TOUCHED OUT OF BOUNDS



OUT OF BOUNDS ON THE FULL



HITTING THE POST (TAP THE POST 3 TIMES)



SIGNALING

OUT OF BOUNDS (BALL HITTING POINT POST)



OUT OF BOUNDS ON FULL (BALL HITTING POINT POST)



2. COMMUNICATING WITH OTHER UMPIRES REGARDING DECISIONS

The boundary umpire is the sole judge of when the ball is out of bounds except when a field umpire awards a mark before the ball crosses the boundary line or awards a free kick.

A goal umpire may overrule the boundary umpire if the discrepancy surrounds a score.

Despite this, it is important that all umpires work as a team! Communication is important.

If the boundary umpire is 'out of position' the goal umpire may assist the boundary umpire in the following ways:

- May signal that the ball is out of bounds.
- May signal that the ball is out of bounds on the full.
- May signal that the ball hit the post on the full.
- May signal that the ball hit the post after bouncing/being touched.

The goal umpire is there to assist you. If the signal one of the above, as a boundary umpire, if you see this, you need to blow your whistle and indicate the out of bounds or out on the full decision. The only exception to this is if you believe you were in the correct position to make the correct decision without assistance.