

Touch Down

第 51 回 日本ラグビーフットボール選手権大会 準決勝 神戸製鋼コベルコスティーラーズ vs パナソニックワイルドナイツ(*1) 雑感

2014/3/1 に行われた神戸製鋼とパナソニックのゲームでトライについてのビデオ判定 (TMO) が行われました。レフリーはプレーヤーの身体能力も含めてゲームの流れを予測して良い位置をとらねばなりません。走る距離を少なくするためにフィールドの内側よりプレーを見るように努めるのですが、このゲームを担当した原田レフリーは良く努めていたと思います。Law Amendment Trials の第 6 条でレフリーが TMO へ質問してもよいことになっていますが、そのことが通常のことになってしまわないことがレフリーにとって大切であるだけでなくプレーヤーにとっても観客にとっても大切でラグビーを楽しむ人間として **reasonable** であることを求め必要性を改めて考えさせられます。陸上の 100m 走で 1/00 秒単位の記録を競うのとは違うのです。

Touch Down に関する Law の歴史を調べてみますと (資料 1)、“run in” に始まり“putting his hand on the ball” とか “touched the ball down” 等々プレーの遍歴がわかります。

LAW II. TOUCHDOWN.

1866. In the “ Laws of Football as played at Rugby School ” it was defined as “ **When a player putting his hand on the ball on the ground stops it dead.** ”

1874. The R.U. had “ **A touch down is when a player, putting his hand upon the ball in touch or ingoal, stops it so that it remains dead or fairly so.** ”

This went on until **1888** when “ in touch ” was done away with, the definition reading “ **Is when a player putting his hand upon the ball on the ground in ingoal, stops it so that it remains dead or fairly so.** ”

1892. It was altered to “ **Is when a player touches down as for a try in his own ingoal** ” ; the try being “ is gained by the player who first puts his hand on the ball on the ground in his opponents' ingoal. ”

As the two, “ touch down ” and “ try, ” are so entirely opposite, the wording of such a simple matter as a “ touch down ” appears very poor, yet this continued until **1926**, when at a general revision of the Laws, it was altered to “ **A touch down is obtained by the act of a defending player who puts his hand on the ball on the ground in his own ingoal.** ”

Even here “ defending ” seems to be unnecessary, for “ in his own ingoal ” a player could not be anything else but on the defence, yet “ defending player ” is retained up to the present day.

1931. Owing to some Irish referees contending that any defending player who picked the ball up in his own ingoal for the purpose of kicking it out, was putting his hand on the ball on the ground, and was therefore “ touching down, ” a definition for “ Grounding ” was introduced and the definition was altered to “ **A touch down is obtained by the act of a defending player grounding the ball in his own ingoal** ” and even a more explanatory Note was added : “ **Picking up the ball from the ground is not grounding it** ” to the definition of “ Grounding. ”

LAW II. TRY.

In **1866** in “ Laws of Football as played at Rugby School, ” it was known as “ **Running in** ” and read “ **Running in is allowed to any player on his side provided he does not take the ball off the ground or through touch. When the ball goes into either goal and is touched down by one of the opposite side as nearly as possible between the goal posts.** ” “ **If the player runs with the ball until he gets behind his opponents' goal line and then touches down, it is called a ' Run in ' ; it is lawful to ' run in ' anywhere across the goal line.** ”

1874. The R.U. had “ **A side having touched the ball down in their opponents' goal, shall ' try at goal ' by a place kick or a ' punt out ' .** ”

1877. An extra definition was added : “ **A try is gained when a player touches the ball down in his opponents' goal.** ”

1885. “ Punt out ” was done away with and the definition altered to “ **If a player runs with the ball until he gets behind his opponents' goal line and there touches it down it is called a ' Run in ' .** ”

“ **A try is gained when a player touches the ball down in his opponents' goal.** ”

“ **A side having touched the ball down in their opponents' , goal should try at goal with a place kick.** ”

It was also laid down : “ **A player can score a try by touching the ball down in goal, though the ball has stopped moving.** ”

1892. A much simpler definition was adopted to read : “ **A try is gained by the player who first puts his hand on the ball on the ground in his opponents' ingoal.** ”

1894. Case Law : “ A player touches the ball down behind his opponents' goal line and picks it up again. ” At what spot is the try awarded ? The R.U. ruled at the first spot.

Case Law : “ Is it a try in the case of a player passing the ball back behind his own goal line and the ball is touched down by one of his opponents. ” It was ruled “ Yes. ”

1900. The R.U. retained this definition but the LB. laid down : “ **A try is gained by the first player who first puts his hand on the ball on the ground in his opponents’ ingoal.** ”

1906. The LB. adopted the R.U.’s definition.

1911. Many points *re* “ a try ” that had previously been laid down in Circular Letters from the LB. were brought into the definition in the form of “ Notes ” as follows :--

“ **It is a try if a player passes or kicks the ball back behind his own goal line and the ball is touched down by one of his opponents.** ”

“ **When an attacking side in a scrummage pushes the defending side over the goal line and touches the ball down, a try should be allowed ; but if the ball be touched down by the defending side, a touch down should be allowed.** ”

“ **If a player touches the ball down behind his opponents’ goal line and picks it up again, he should be allowed a try at the spot where it was first touched down.** ”

“ **In the case of a ball when over the goal line and touching a spectator before a player of either side has had time to touch down, the referee should (a) award a touch down if he considers the ball would have gone dead before any attacking player could have reached it, or that a defending player would have touched it first ; (b) award a try if he thinks but for the interference a try would have been scored ; (c) If in doubt give the point against the side responsible for the ground arrangements, and in doing so he shall regard all officials and spectators as offending players on the home side ; (d) A player who crosses an opponents’ goal line with the ball in his possession and before grounding it, touches the referee, shall be allowed a try on the spot ; (e) If the ball not in possession of a player strikes the referee or touch judge when in ingoal, a try should be awarded to the attacking side if in the referee’s opinion a try would undoubtedly have been obtained but for the ball touching the referee or touch judge. The referee shall award a touch down if he considers the ball would have gone dead or touched down by a defending player before any attacking player could have touched it.** ”

1926. In a general revision of the Laws, all the Notes were withdrawn from the definition and placed in the Laws--the definition reading : “ **A try is obtained by the act of an attacking player who first puts his hand on the ball on the ground in his opponents’ ingoal.** ”

1931. Owing to some Irish referees contending that an attacking player, picking up the ball in his opponents' ingoal for the purpose of getting nearer to the goal posts, was putting his hand on the ball on the ground, and therefore a try, a definition for “ Grounding ” was introduced, and the definition changed to : “ **A try is obtained by the act of an attacking player first‘grounding’the ball in an opponent's ingoal.** ”

GENERAL

1954 It was decided that the definitions in Law 2 where appropriate should be inserted in their respective Laws in addition to appearing in Law 2.

1956 Rugby Football Union proposal to define Defending Team was approved. The definition read -- “ ‘ **DEFENDING TEAM** ’ means the team in whose half of the ground the stoppage of play occurs. ”

1962 Rugby Football Union proposal to define the “ Line out ” was deferred for consideration in 1963.

It was agreed to delete definitions in Law 2 where they are at the head of a Law and put the references to such Law in Law 2 and at the same time as far as practicable put definitions in alphabetical order.

1963 TOUCH-IN-GOAL was defined as follows, and the whole of Law 29 deleted --

Touch-in-Goal occurs when the ball touches a corner post or touches or crosses a touch-in-goal line or when a player carrying the ball, or the ball carried by him, touches a corner post, a touch-in-goal line or the ground beyond it.

The flag is not part of the corner post.

LINE-OUT was defined as follows --

A line-out is formed by a line of players from each team forming up in readiness for the ball to be thrown in between them.

The line-out stretches from five yards from the touch-line from which the ball is being thrown in, to the position of the farthest player in the line-out of the team throwing in the ball.

Any opponent of the team throwing in the ball who is further from the touchline than the said position is not participating in the line-out.

1967 A MAUL was defined as follows -- “A Maul is formed by one or more players from each team in physical contact and on their feet closing round the ball when it is being carried (subject to Law 16 -- Tackle). ”

1969 Rulings on the “ Maul ” were issued --

When a Maul ends. A Maul ends when the ball or a player carrying it emerges from the Maul, or the ball is deemed by the referee to be unplayable. If the ball is unplayable, the referee should order a scrummage to be formed.

Laws 2 and 30 -- Maul and Maul held In In-Goal

A Maul can only take place in the field-of-play. If play similar to a Maul takes place in In-Goal, Law 30 applies. (Ball held In-Goal.)

1969/70 Upon the revision of the Laws in 1969 those definitions considered necessary were included with the appropriate Law and **Law 2. Definitions** as such disappeared.

資料 1 (Sir Percy Royds 著 “The History of the Laws of Rugby Football” 1949 年発行)

(C. H.Gadney 著 “The history of the laws of Rugby Union football 1949-1972” 1973 年発行)

現在ラグビーについて画期的なものとされる 1974 年の Laws には Grounding について明確に規定していません（資料 2）。

<p>LAW 12. TRY AND TOUCH-DOWN.</p> <p>Grounding the ball is the act of a player who</p> <p>(a) while holding the ball in his hand (or hands) or arm (or arms) brings the ball in contact with the ground, or</p> <p>(b) while the ball is on the ground either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● places his hand(or hands) or arm (or arms) on it with downward pressure, or ● falls upon it and the ball is anywhere under the front of his body from waist to neck inclusive. <p>Picking up the ball from the ground is not grounding it.</p>
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資料 2（RFU 発行 “Laws of the Game” 1974 年発行）

今日の Law22.1 で “Grounding the ball” にある(a)と(b)の(b)に当たるケースです（資料 3）

英 文	和 文
<p>22.1 Grounding the ball</p> <p>There are two ways a player can ground the ball:</p> <p>(a) Player touches the ground with the ball. A player grounds the ball by holding the ball and touching the ground with it, in in-goal. ‘Holding’ means holding in the hand or hands, or in the arm or arms. No downward pressure is required.</p> <p>(b) Player presses down on the ball. A player grounds the ball when it is on the ground in the in-goal and the player presses down on it with a hand or hands, arm or arms, or the front of the player’s body from waist to neck inclusive.</p>	<p>22.1 グラウンディング</p> <p>グラウンディングには次の 2 通りの方法がある。</p> <p>(a) ボールを持って地面につけるボールを抱え、インゴール内で地面にボールをつける。「ボールを抱える」とは、手または腕でボールをもっている状態のことである。グラウンディングする際、下方に押しつける必要はない。</p> <p>(b) ボールを押えるインゴール内で地上にボールがある時、そのボールを手、腕、あるいは前半身のうち首から腰の間を使って、ボールを押える。</p>

資料 3（競技規則 2103 年度版 22 条インゴールより）

(a)は身体が壁になって判断しにくい状況もあります。だからという訳ではありませんが “No downward pressure is required.” となり(b)は “presses down on it” と分けています。Law の歴史は永い間におけるプレーヤー達の工夫の中にラグビーを楽しむ気持ちや姿勢が読み取れます。あの場面でレフリーが瞬間にノートライと判断した方が皆が納得し良かったと思っています。

レフリー、アシスタントレスリー、30 人の大男がビデオ判定を待って寒い中立っている風情は文字通り間の抜けたものです。

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