



# Being a Better Boundary Umpire



## MATCH-DAY ROLE OF THE BOUNDARY UMPIRE

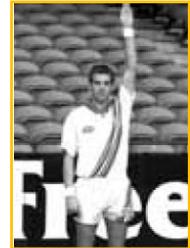
- Apply the laws relating to boundary umpiring and their interpretations with common sense and in accordance with the spirit of the game.
- Be the final judge of when the ball is out of bounds or out of bounds on the full

### 1. BALL OUT OF BOUNDS

To be out of bounds the ball must be **completely outside** the boundary line. If any portion of the ball is on or above the line, it is still in play.

If a player is inside the boundary line and holds the ball completely outside the boundary line the ball is out of bounds.

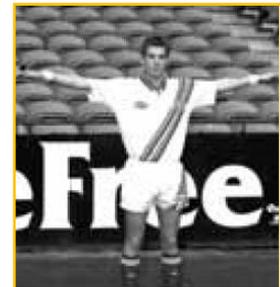
When a player attempts to mark the ball on or before it passes completely outside the boundary line, and the ball rebounds off the player's hands or chest and, is finally held after it has passed completely outside the boundary line, the ball is out of bounds. In such case the ball had not been marked until it was completely outside the boundary line and finally held by the player.



### 2. BALL KICKED OUT OF BOUNDS

If a player kicks the ball and it goes outside the boundary line without having touched the ground or being touched by another player of either side, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opposing player at the spot where the ball crossed the boundary line.

If the ball is kicked from within the playing area and it strikes the behind post on the full without having been touched by a player of either side, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest player.



### 3. BALL KICKED DIRECTLY OUT OF BOUNDS FROM A KICK OFF AFTER A BEHIND HAS BEEN SCORED.

If, after a behind has been scored, the player kicking off kicks the ball directly out of bounds (either on the full, or otherwise), without it being touched by a player of either side, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opposing layer at the spot where the ball crossed the boundary line.



### 4. BALL KNOCKED OUT OF BOUNDS ON THE FULL AFTER A RUCK CONTEST.

If the ball is knocked over the boundary line on the full after a ruck contest (either after a boundary throw in, or a ball up) without being touched being touched by another player, a free kick shall be awarded to the nearest opposing player. The free kick can be awarded against any player that causes the ball to cross the line on the full (not necessarily the ruckman) but must be the first person to touch the ball after the throw in or bounce

## 5. SIGNALS

When the ball goes out of bounds, the Boundary Umpire will blow his whistle and give the appropriate signal. However, it is the Boundary Umpires' responsibility to recognise when potentially volatile situations exist at or near the point where the ball went out of bounds, and to keep his eyes on the relevant players long enough to either see that no reportable offence occurs or to detect any reportable offence occurring in relation to that act of play, before turning towards the Field Umpire to obtain confirmation of the out of bounds signal.

### **i. Out of Bounds on the Full**

When the ball goes outside the boundary line on the full directly from a kick and not having been touched by another player (out of bounds on the full), the Boundary Umpire shall blow his whistle loudly and extend both arms horizontally straight out from the shoulder with fists clenched.

The Boundary Umpire shall face the Field Umpire until the Field Umpire confirms the free kick (or clearly pays an over-riding decision) Where appropriate, the Boundary Umpire will indicate where the ball crossed the line prior to moving to position from the resultant free kick.

The Boundary Umpire shall indicate the spot where the ball crossed the line whenever he is within 15 metres, and whenever the ball has been kicked along the boundary line for some distance.

### **ii Out of Bounds**

When the ball goes outside the boundary line after first having touched the ground or having been touched by a player (out of bounds) the Boundary Umpire shall blow his whistle loudly and extend one arm straight up with a fist clenched.

Should the ball be touched prior to going out of bounds on the full, the Boundary Umpire shall blow his whistle loudly and indicate as above, then tap the back of his fist three (3) times in the upright position.

The Boundary Umpire shall face the Field Umpire until the Field Umpire indicates that the ball should be thrown in (or clearly gives an over-riding decision)

Upon receiving confirmation from the Field Umpire, the Boundary Umpire will then receive the ball and throw it in from where it crossed the line.

### **iii. Out of Bounds Directly from Kick Off After Behind**

When the ball goes outside the boundary line without having been touched by a player the Boundary Umpire shall blow his whistle loudly and signal as per (i) above.

The Boundary Umpire shall face the Field Umpire until the Field Umpire acknowledges the signal. The Boundary Umpire will indicate where the ball crossed the line prior to moving to position from the resultant free kick.

### **iv Out of Bounds Directly from a Ruck Contest**

When the ball goes outside the boundary line without having been touched by another player the Boundary Umpire shall blow his whistle loudly and signal as per (i) above.

The Boundary Umpire shall face the Field Umpire until the Field Umpire acknowledges the signal. The Boundary Umpire will indicate where the ball crossed the line prior to moving to position from the resultant free kick.

Should the ball be touched prior to going out of bounds on the full, the Boundary Umpire shall blow his whistle loudly and indicate as in (ii) above, then tap the back of his fist three (3) times in the upright position.

## **6. BOUNDARY UMPIRE IS THE SOLE JUDGE (BUT CO-OPERATION IS IMPORTANT)**

The Boundary Umpire is the sole judge of when the ball is out of bounds, except when the field Umpire awards a mark before the ball passes completely outside the boundary line or awards a free kick, or the Goal Umpire over-rides the Boundary Umpire in relation to a score or when the ball hits or goes directly over the behind post. (in which case the Goal Umpire directs the Boundary Umpire that the ball is out of bounds.)

The Goal Umpire may over-rule the Boundary Umpire if he considers that the ball has passed across the goal or behind lines and the Boundary Umpire signals the ball out of bounds, or the Goal Umpire considers that the ball has not passed across the goal or behind lines and the Boundary Umpire is of the opinion that it has.

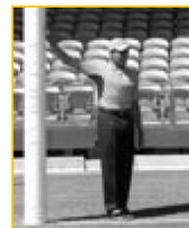
The ball goes outside the boundary line near the behind post and the Boundary Umpire appears to be 'out of position' the Goal Umpire is required to assist the Boundary Umpire by indicating as follows:

**i. (Goal Umpire Assists) Ball Out of Bounds on the Full**

When the Goal Umpire is to give an out of bounds on the full indication he will face the Boundary Umpire and extend his outside arm straight and level with the shoulder with his fist clenched.

**ii. (Goal Umpire Directs) Ball Hits Behind Post on the Full**

When the ball hits the behind post on the full or goes directly over the behind post from a kick without being touched by a player, the Goal Umpire shall give the out of bounds on the full indication, as per (i) above until acknowledged by the Boundary Umpire. The Goal Umpire will then hit the inside of the behind post three (3) times if the ball hits the post.



**iii. (Goal Umpire Assists) Ball Out of Bounds (having touched the ground or being touched by a player)**

When the Goal Umpire is to give an out of bounds indication, he will face the Boundary Umpire and extend his outside arm straight up with his fist clenched.

**Iv (Goal Umpire Directs) Ball Hits Behind Post (having first touched the ground or being touched by a player)**

When the ball hits the behind post, or goes over the behind post after first being touched by a player, the Goal Umpire shall give the out of bounds indication, as per (iii) above until acknowledged by the Boundary Umpire. The Goal Umpire will then hit the inside of the behind post three (3) times if the ball hits the post.

## **7. OUT OF BOUNDS NOT SEEN BY THE FIELD UMPIRE**

If the Boundary Umpire signals the ball out of bounds and the signal is not seen or heard by the Field Umpire and play goes on, the Boundary Umpire **should run after the Field Umpire and notify him that**

**the ball has crossed outside the boundary line.** On receipt of his advice the Field Umpire would order the ball to be thrown in, or award a free kick if the ball has been kicked out on the full, unless in the meantime he had awarded a free kick for a breach of the laws or imposed a 50 metre penalty: In such case the out of bounds decision lapses. If the Boundary Umpire observes the Field Umpire award a free kick or 50 metre penalty, he should immediately resume his normal duties.

This applies even if a goal or a behind is scored before the Field Umpire notices that the Boundary Umpire's signal. In such instances, the Field Umpire shall direct the Goal Umpire to annul the score.

## **8. THROW IN BY THE BOUNDARY UMPIRE**

The Boundary Umpire shall, when directed by the Field Umpire, throw the ball in, without waiting for the players to take up positions, at the spot where the ball crossed the boundary line. The Boundary Umpire should stand on the boundary line with his back to the arena and throw the ball in over his head towards the centre of the ground. The ball should be thrown in to a distance of between 10 and 15 metres and not less than 3 metres high.

If the ball is not thrown in to a reasonable height and distance the Field Umpire may stop play and request that the ball be thrown in again.

The Boundary Umpire **must not climb over the fence to retrieve the ball.** if necessary, he will request players/officials in the vicinity to retrieve it., (Seek assistance from the Field Umpire if required)

## **9. BALL STRIKES UMPIRE, TRAINER OR RUNNER**

In The case of the ball having been kicked from within the playing arena, and without having touched the ground or being touched by another player, strikes an umpire, trainer or runner or any other official and then crosses outside the boundary line, or strikes a behind post on the full is regarded as having being kicked out of bounds on the full.

## **10. PLAYERS OVER THE CENTRE SQUARE LINES**

The Boundary Umpire is the sole judge as to whether the player has stepped completely over the line at the centre square. The player may lean over the line but immediately his foot completely crosses the line the Boundary Umpire will blow his whistle, point to the offending player, and if possible, call out his number or name of club, then quickly move off in the direction of the scoring zone of the team which has been awarded the free kick.

Players are not permitted to enter the square after the Field Umpire has commence his approach to bounce, or throw up, the ball until the ball touches the ground in the act of bouncing or is thrown up.

## **11. POSITIONING**

### **i. Centre Square**

For every centre bounce, start of each quarter and after a goal has been scored Boundary Umpires will position themselves on diagonally opposite corners of the centre square. Each Boundary Umpire is responsible for supervising the centre square lines that intersect at his corner. Immediately the ball has been bounced or thrown up, the Boundary Umpire must run forward at an angle of 25-40 degrees from the corner of the square toward the boundary line.

**ii. Set Kick at Goal**

Where a player is taking a set kick for goal from a mark or free kick, Boundary Umpires should position themselves behind the behind posts to lend support to the Goal Umpire. The Goal Umpire is the sole judge of a score and can over-rule a Boundary Umpire if necessary.



Any communication from the Boundary Umpires to Goal Umpires in these situations must be verbal; no physical indication should be given.

**iii. General Play**

Boundary Umpires must follow the ball from goal to goal, avoid interfering with players and position themselves so that they have a good view of the boundary line when play is close to the boundary line. When play is on the other side of the ground, the Boundary Umpire is advised to move inside the playing arena, however, no further than his side of the centre square.

The Boundary Umpire shall not place himself between the players and the ball.

**iv. Observation of the Ball**

Taking into account the need to keep players under observation When potentially volatile situations exist after the ball has gone out of bounds, as well as the need to look towards the Field Umpire after signalling out of bounds, the Boundary Umpire is required to have the ball under observation at all times i.e., never have his back to the ball of the player with the ball.

**v. After a Behind Has Been Scored**

- (a) From a set kick, when the Boundary Umpire has been positioned behind the behind post, he must back off along the boundary line.
- (b) From general play, when the Boundary Umpire is still running toward the goal, he will immediately back off to the boundary line.



**vi. Ball Up/Throw-in in the Vicinity of the Goals**

Where there is ball-up (field bounce) within 15 metres directly out from goal or behind lines, the Boundary Umpires will position themselves behind the behind posts. Where the ball is further out directly from the goal or behind lines, they must position themselves on the boundary line in line with the ball up.

Where the ball up takes place in the forward pocket area within-15 metres of the behind post, the Boundary Umpires will take up position behind the behind posts.

Where a Boundary Umpire throws the ball in within 35/40 metres form the behind post, the other Boundary Umpire must take up position behind the behind post.

**vii. Scrimmage Close to the Boundary Line**

The Boundary Umpire must make every effort to position himself on the boundary line approximately 5 metres to the long side of play.

**viii. Behind the Behind Post**

When required to take up position behind the behind post, the position will be behind the behind post in direct line with the location of the ball.

## **12. REPORTABLE OFFENCES**

When a Boundary Umpire observes a reportable incident he will make a report. If play has stopped or is on the other side of the ground, the Boundary Umpire will make the report immediately. However, if play is in progress in the vicinity of the Boundary Umpire's boundary line, he will continue with play and supervise the boundary line. He will inform the players concerned at the first opportunity after i.e. - after a goal has been scored provided the player is in close proximity, or otherwise, in the presence of a Field Umpire, prior to the commencement of the next quarter. In all cases common sense must prevail and the Umpires first concern is supervising the boundary line.

## **13. RETURNING THE BALL TO THE CENTRE AFTER A GOAL**

After a goal has been scored, it is the Boundary Umpires responsibility to retrieve the ball and return it to the Field Umpire in the centre as quickly as possible.

Boundary Umpires will decide who will retrieve the ball. The other will position himself approximately half way between the goal line and the end of the centre square.

The Boundary Umpire **must not climb over the fence to retrieve the ball**. If necessary, he will request players/officials in the vicinity to retrieve it. (Seek assistance from the Field Umpire if required)

The umpire who picks up the ball will run with it to his colleague, throw the ball to him and continue to the nearest corner of the centre square on his side of the ground.

As his colleague is picking up the ball, the other umpire will indicate to the Field Umpires as to which side the ball will be returned. On receiving the ball from his colleague, the Boundary Umpire will return the ball to the Field Umpire, and then continue on to the furthest corner of the centre square on his side of the ground.