



## LAW 1 - THE GROUND

### DEFINITIONS

**The Ground** is the total area shown on the plan. The Ground includes:

**The Field of play** is the area (as shown on the plan) between the goal-lines and the touch-lines. These lines are not part of the field of play.

**The Playing Area** is the field of play and the in-goal areas (as shown on the plan). The touch-lines, touch-in-goal lines and dead ball lines are not part of the playing area.

**The Playing Enclosure** is the playing area and a space around it, not less than 5 metres where practicable, which is known as the perimeter area.

**In-goal** is the area between the goal-line and the dead ball line, and between the touch-in-goal lines. It includes the goal-line but it does not include the dead ball line or the touch-in-goal lines.

**'The 22'** is the area between the goal-line and the 22-metre line, including the 22-metre line but excluding the goal-line.

**The Plan**, including all the words and figures on it, is part of the Laws.

### 1.1 SURFACE OF THE PLAYING ENCLOSURE

- (a) **Requirement.** The surface must at all times be safe to play on.
- (b) **Type of surface.** The surface should be grass but may also be sand, clay, snow or artificial grass. The game may be played on snow, provided the snow and underlying surface is safe to play on. It shall not be a permanently hard surface such as concrete or asphalt.
- (c) **Artificial grass.** In the case of artificial grass surfaces, they shall, until a standard specification has been provided by the IRB, only be deemed safe if the same surface has been specifically approved by the IRB.

## 1.2 REQUIRED DIMENSIONS FOR THE PLAYING ENCLOSURE

- (a) **Dimensions.** The field of play does not exceed 100 metres in length and 70 metres in width. Each in-goal does not exceed 22 metres in length and 70 metres in width.
- (b) The length and breadth of the playing area are to be as near as possible to the dimensions indicated. All the areas are rectangular.
- (c) The distance from the goal-line to the dead ball line should be not less than 10 metres where practicable.

## 1.3 LINES ON THE PLAYING ENCLOSURE

### (a) **Solid Lines**

The dead ball lines and touch-in-goal lines, both of which are outside the in-goal areas;

The goal-lines, which are within the in-goal areas but outside the field of play;

The 22-metre lines; which are parallel to the goal-lines

The half-way line which is parallel to the goal-lines; and

The touch-lines which are outside the field of play.

### (b) **Broken Lines:**

The 10-metre lines, which run from one touch-line to the other, are 10 metres from each side of the half-way line and parallel to it; and

The 5-metre lines, which run from one 5-metre dash line to the other, are 5 metres from and parallel to the touch-lines.

**(c) Dash Lines**

(i) Six dash lines, each being 1 metre long, 5 metres from and parallel to each goal-line positioned 5 metres and 15 metres from each touch-line and in front of each goal post.

(ii) Five dash lines, each one being 5 metres long, 15 metres in from and parallel to each of the touch-lines, intersecting the 22-metre lines, the 10-metre lines and the half-way line.

(iii) Two dash lines, 5 metres long, 15 metres from each of the touch-lines, which start at the goal-line and end at the 5-metre dash line.

(iv) One dash line of 0.5 metre long intersects the center of the half-way line.

All the lines must be suitably marked out according to the Plan.

**1.4 DIMENSIONS FOR GOAL POSTS AND CROSSBAR**

- (a) The distance between the two goal posts is 5.6 metres.
- (b) The crossbar is placed between the two goal posts so that its top edge is 3.0 metres from the ground.
- (c) The minimum height of the goal posts is 3.4 metres.
- (d) When padding is attached to the goal posts the distance from the goal-line to the external edge of the padding must not exceed 300mm.



**GOAL POSTS**

## **1.5 FLAG POSTS**

- (a) There are 14 flag posts with flags, each with a minimum height of 1.2 metres above the ground.
- (b) Flag posts must be positioned at the intersection of touch-in-goal lines and the goal-lines and at the intersection of the touch-in-goal lines and the dead ball lines. These eight flag posts are outside the in-goal area and do not form part of the playing area.
- (c) Flag posts must be positioned in line with the 22-metre lines and the half-way line, 2 metres outside the touch-lines and within the playing enclosure.

## **1.6 OBJECTIONS TO THE GROUND**

- (a) If either team has objections about the ground or the way it is marked out they must tell the referee before the match starts.
- (b) The referee will attempt to resolve the issues but must not start a match if any part of the ground is considered to be dangerous.