

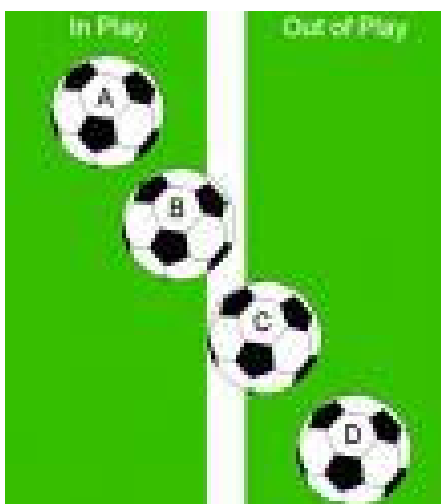
Ask the Ref number 10, 2011 – ball in and out of play

Welcome to the next occasional bulletin of the Adelaide Hills Referees Branch. This week we are looking at when the **ball is in and out of play**.

The ball is out of play when it has wholly crossed the goal line or touch line **whether on the ground or in the air** and **when the play has been stopped by the referee**. Note the latter condition. Referees will generally not blow for obvious balls out of play as un-necessary use of the whistle can reduce its impact when used for more significant matters. Coaches and referees instruct players to “play to the whistle” and they should do so if there is any doubt as to whether the referee has ruled the ball out. We will use the whistle if we need to do so.

On rare occasions, sometimes when right footed players take a corner from the right wing, the ball may curve out of play over the goal line before coming back in. This is a ball out of play and a goal kick is given. Another unusual circumstance, but not uncommon with younger teams, is when a slippery ball is dropped by a player taking a throw or the wind catches it and it does not go over the line. Since the ball has not returned to play, the throw is re-taken by the same team.

The ball is in play at all other times, including when it rebounds off a goalpost, crossbar or corner flag post and remains in the field of play or if it rebounds off either the referee or the volunteer running the line **when they are on the field of play**.



To make it absolutely clear, the diagram illustrates when a ball is in and when a ball is out of play. Looking at the diagram ball A, B and C are in play; **ball D is the only ball out of play**.

Ball C is the one that causes the most issues in a match. Some skilled players will deliberately use the full potential of the pitch and run the ball very close to being over the line. Depending on where you are at the ground, a ball that looks like it is out of play sometimes is not. Sharp eyes and quick wits are needed from both the centre referee and the volunteer on the line in these cases.

The Adelaide Hills referees certainly appreciate the assistance of volunteers running the line at our matches. With the facilities available to clubs, the length of the grass, state of the pitch generally and width and condition of the lines is not always optimal. Take a few steps out on the pitch at a match, look back at the line and you will see that we are only sometimes in a position to get a complete view of the situation.

I hope you have enjoyed this further attempt to clarify the LOTG. Please pass this email on as broadly and widely within the Hills comp as possible if you think it is worth sharing.

As usual, if you have any comments or questions, I will do my best to respond.

The cartoon figure is from the Corsham referee web site at <http://www.corshamref.org.uk/index.htm> I have mentioned this before. It is worth a visit.

Peter van der Zwaag,
AHRB.

