

### DEFINITIONS

This situation occurs when the ball is available on the ground and a player goes to ground to gather the ball, except immediately after a scrum or a ruck.

It also occurs when a player is on the ground in possession of the ball and has not been tackled.

The Game is to be played by players who are on their feet. A player must not make the ball unplayable by falling down. Unplayable means that the ball is not immediately available to either team so that play may continue.

A player who makes the ball unplayable, or who obstructs the opposing team by falling down, is negating the purpose and Spirit of the Game and must be penalised.

A player who is not tackled, but who goes to ground while holding the ball, or a player who goes to ground and gathers the ball, must act immediately.

#### 14.1 PLAYERS ON THE GROUND

(a) A player with the ball must immediately do one of three things:

- Get up with the ball
- Pass the ball
- Release the ball.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick

(b) A player who passes or releases the ball must also get up or move away from it at once.

**Sanction:** Penalty kick

## Law 14 Ball on the Ground - No Tackle



- (c) A player without the ball must not lie on, over, or near the ball to prevent opponents getting possession of it.  
**Sanction:** Penalty kick
- (d) A player on the ground must not tackle or attempt to tackle an opponent.  
**Sanction:** Penalty kick

### 14.2 PLAYERS ON THEIR FEET

- (a) **Falling over the player on the ground with the ball.** A player must not intentionally fall on or over a player with the ball who is lying on the ground.  
**Sanction:** Penalty kick
- (b) **Falling over players lying on the ground near the ball.** A player must not intentionally fall on or over players lying on the ground with the ball between them or near them.  
**Sanction:** Penalty kick