



Two Line Rule Explanation

The main reason for the two line rule is to limit the amount of times that the defense clears the ball out of their defensive end by blasting it out of the area. In an indoor situation this can lead to hard kicks (most likely with several opponents in the near vicinity) which could be harmful to opponents not expecting a ball played so hard. For the safety of all of our players we need to keep away from hard blasts of the ball in a smaller amount of space as compared to the outdoor game. In addition, we would encourage players to develop a mindset of controlling the ball and figuring out a way to calmly distribute the ball out of their defensive end or working the ball up by keeping possession of the ball even under pressure.

While the ball is in the penalty area, the lines of the penalty area define the first line. The second line then becomes the first line that is across the width of the field (one of the "big lines"). Thus whenever the ball is inside the penalty area for a goal kick, a goalkeeper throw, a goalkeeper kicking the ball out, or a defensive player kicking the ball out, the two line rule is called when the ball crosses the first "big line" only if the ball does not touch the ground or is not at least touched by ANY other player.

Due to the fact that we do not want to limit the use of a long pass, if the ball is outside of the penalty area the first line is the first "big line" and the second line is the second "big line". You can play the ball in the air over half the length of the field with this rule in effect.

When the two line rule is called, the opponents get an indirect free kick on the first "big line" that the ball crossed over. This will always be the "big line" closest to the offending team's penalty area but not the top of the penalty area.

Exceptions to the two line rule are :

- (1) uncontrolled balls by the defense such as when a defender sticks out a leg, or just happens to be in the way of a shot on net or an opponent's pass (a passive play on the ball)
- (2) when the goalkeeper makes an uncontrolled save
- (3) if the ball is played back over two lines

The referee will have to interpret if the defensive player (which would include the goalkeeper) made a controlled play on the ball and if so will have to call the two line rule as it was a conscious decision to play the ball such that it travelled over the two lines.

Naturally on the occasions when the ball is played over more than two lines, the two line rule is also called, with the restart being in the normal place (on the first "big line" the ball was played over).

We realize that this rule differs from other facilities but our years of experience, in the indoor situation, compels us to introduce rules that limit uncontrolled behavior. We thank you for your understanding of this rule and encourage all to think before you blast that ball !