

Ball on Border – In or Out? (Outside Agency or Not?)

Determining if a ball is actually in or out is rarely necessary but in certain circumstances it is vital. The Rules specify that a ball leaves the court when more than half of it crosses the boundary. If it is 'out' it becomes an "**outside agency**" and subject to the provisions that apply.

Example: a critical situation could occur at Hoop 13 (when the scores are '6 all') when a player has deliberately struck a ball to go 'out' behind Hoop 13, but it only just reaches the boundary and needs to be judged 'in' or 'out'.

If it is judged to be 'out', when it is replaced on the boundary, it cannot be hit away by the opponent because it is an "outside agency". If it is 'in' it can be hit away.

There are numerous types of boundaries such as semi permanent (chalk or dye-lines) or temporary borders (such as string or cord) or permanent borders (metal strips).

String Lines

The ball will obviously be in or out as it is impossible for a ball to sit dead centre.

Chalk Lines

Semi-permanent lines of liquid chalk or liquid dye. 'Short-life' lines such as these, while they have the problem of overlapping, are at least quite safe.

The **inside** of the newest, hopefully most inward line is to be used.

If the lines are ambiguous, under certain rare circumstances, the referee ought to walk the players (or team captain) around the lines and obtain agreement as to what constitutes the line for the match.

When a ball is on or close to the border, the first test must be a visual sighting from above, firstly by standing inside, then outside the line. Determining if the centre of the ball is in or out is difficult, but a decision may be necessary.