



# ***BAY AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION***

Est. 1995

## **COACHES MANUAL**

Bay City, Michigan USA

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### **Holdover from Fall 2009**

#### **U8 Boys and Girls Division:**

If the score of the match at any point during the match reaches a 4-goal differential, the losing team is allowed to add one player (maximum) from their team substitutes if they choose to do so and are able to do so. The coach **MUST** notify the referee if an additional player will be added to the game. The referee will allow the addition from the halfway line substitution area before the kick-off restart or at the next stoppage in play. Active substitution is **NOT** allowed. At such a time that the score goes below a 4-goal differential at any point during the match, the teams will revert to even-sided competition (5v5). Any player can leave the field before the kickoff; it is not required that the particular “player added” earlier leave the field. All U8 matches will begin even-sided (5v5) regardless of the outcome of a previous match between the two sides. Regardless of the score at any point during the match, only one additional player may be added (6v5).

#### **Examples:**

Team Yellow 4, Team Blue 1: even-sided (5v5)

Team Yellow 5, Team Blue 1: Blue add one player (6v5)

Team Yellow 5, Team Blue 2: Blue removes one player to play even-sided (5v5)

Team Yellow 12, Team Blue 2: Blue has additional player (6v5)

#### **Rationale:**

The BASA Board of Directors are taking steps to prevent “blow-out” games at the U8 level. We have found that the U8 age-level is a decision point for many players and families regarding future participation in the game of soccer. As the club has developed, we now have both coaches and players from “soccer families”. These coaches and players have a technical and tactical competitive edge on those that might be new to the game. That edge can lead to one team possessing technical and tactical skills that their opponent has not experienced yet. That edge can lead to high scoring, one-sided games that are detrimental to all players and coaches involved. By allowing the addition of a player, the stronger team will have a new challenge to face by being outnumbered. Their opponent will gain an advantage allowing more opportunities for success.

#### **Status:**

This rule for U8 will be assessed as **THIS** season unfolds and then again after **THIS** season is concluded. This rule change has been well received in previous seasons. The BASA Board of Directors will continue to evaluate the rule for future seasons. Please pass along any comments you have regarding this rule to the BASA Board of Directors. The BASA Board of Directors retains the option to eliminate this rule at any time.

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# BAY AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## A message from the Coach Coordinator

Thank you to all of the head coaches and assistant coaches for volunteering your time and effort making this season possible. The coaches traditionally have the biggest impact on the success of the season for your players and parents. Please remember that we are here not only to teach the children the fundamentals of soccer but also life lessons including sportsmanship and teamwork. Always remember our motto: ***For the kids... For the Fun of it!***

Please make sure you as coaches are organized and communicate well with both your players and parents from your team. This guide is offered as a tool to assist you in the upcoming season. It is the philosophy of the US Youth Soccer Association and BASA that the teams and rules be modified based on age group as shown in this document. The goals and expectations of the coach of a U5 team should be different than those of a U14 coach. As a result, this guide attempts to provide both the “laws” of soccer as well as suggestions to maximize the outcome of your efforts in terms of both enjoyment and development of the players. Any request for additional support is welcome and can be obtained by contacting Steve Welter or Jim Lillo. We also have experienced coaches who have offered their assistance in helping with practice strategies and other help as needed. Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it!

The success of our program depends on the support of the community. Volunteerism is one of the most rewarding “jobs” anyone can do. As a team leader, please remember that you are a role model for your younger players. ***ALWAYS*** set a positive example for your players and parents, this is very important.

With the continued growth in terms of numbers and competitive skills of BASA, we as coaches also need to continue to improve our knowledge and coaching skills.

Please email me at [sahalstead@yahoo.com](mailto:sahalstead@yahoo.com) if there is anything I can do to assist you.

Scott Halstead  
Coach Coordinator, BASA

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# BAY AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## A message from the Registrar

Dear Coach,

Thank you, for volunteering to coach your child's soccer team. Your help and participation in the Bay Area Soccer Association is essential to the success of the organization. Enclosed you will find your team roster, game schedule, coaches guide, and coaches list.

**Coaches please call your team by the SATURDAY after the COACHES MEETING.** If the parents of the players do not hear from a coach soon after our Coaches Meeting they will be calling us for information. With over 1000 children participating this season that would be a ton of calls. Please arrange to meet your team and start your practice during your calls.

When arranging to meet your players for the first time, pick a specific place to meet. With over 120 teams this season, telling the parents that you will be at the Middle grounds at 6:30 on Wednesday is not a good idea. There will probably be ten other teams there at the same time. Be specific; pick a specific spot at the Middle- grounds or some other location to start.

Remember that practices are limited to twice per week. Team practice time is crucial to the success of your season. Without practice the children will have no idea what to do, or how to do it come game day. This is especially true in the younger age groups (U5 – U8). Please be sure your team has had adequate practice come game day.

**As of today your roster is firm.** I will not be moving players from team to team. Please **do not call and ask me to move players or suggest to the parent that they call!** Along the same lines, please do not tell people that they can be added to your team. Team sizes are set by the league to maximize the playing time of each player. You may feel that adding one more player is okay, but your team may be full. Also, late players are always added to teams that have the fewest number of players.

Some teams are short a player or two, as late registrations come in. I will be adding new players to your team. If I add players to your team, it generally will be the parents of the player being added that will be calling you to let you know they have been added. If you have questions about your new player, give me a call.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give me a call at 892-0547 or e-mail me at [emaclanel@charter.net](mailto:emaclanel@charter.net)

Yours in Soccer,

Mary Sue McFarlane  
Registrar, BASA

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# BAY AREA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## A message from the President

Hello Coaches!!! Let me start by saying we cannot do this without you. Your time and effort at our club is appreciated more than I can put into words. The service you provide for the youth of our community is immeasurable and I sincerely hope that you enjoy the extra “coaching” time with your own children and their teammates! I was a recreational coach at BASA several years ago and I caught the “soccer bug”. I continue to be a student of the game as a fan and a travel coach. It is my hope that some of you also catch that same soccer bug.

The popularity of soccer continues to grow nationwide as well as our area. Soccer is now the number one participatory sport among youth in the United States! In the Bay Area we are expecting over 1000 youth to play soccer at our club this season! We also have a number of travel teams playing against other teams from around the Mid-Michigan area as well as in state tournaments. This higher level offers higher competition for our experienced and committed players. Please make an effort to check out our travel teams when they play at home.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the majority of our players are recreational players – all play at least 50% of every game to experience the fun of the game. This is an extremely important point that coaches, parents, and players **MUST** keep in mind – *recreational soccer is for the fun of it; for the kids*. It is our bread and butter – the foundation of soccer at every level. As coaches, we must not be more concerned with a win than the spirit of each player on our own team as well as the opposing team. We are here for the kids – not our coaching ego. We are a soccer club and our mission is developing soccer players. We do that by facilitating their growth and by **LETTING THEM PLAY**. As parents, we must encourage and not discourage our child’s chance to experience a great game with friends and neighbors. Be sure they are having fun and *enjoy their joy*. Encourage them to play for the fun of it, not to have a good win/loss record. Soccer is a game for their entire life. Let’s keep it fun.

Good, qualified referees are becoming harder to find – in all sports. This is directly related to the criticism they receive from coaches and parents (adults) as they are learning to be self-confident and control the game. **SELDOM** is a game won or lost due to the actions of a referee. They are on the field to help others learn, provide protection for players by enforcing the rules, and to have some fun themselves. Please give them the freedom to learn and make mistakes like the rest of us do. Just as we cannot have teams without coaches, we cannot hold games without referees. If you are concerned about the quality of officiating, please contact one of the club officials at the soccer complex and *politely* inform them of your concerns. Remember, the club exists for your children to have fun as they play soccer.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessors - club founder Glen Erickson along with Bob Pierce and Fran MacMillan - for their passion and commitment to the game and our club. It was Glen’s bold vision in 1995 as the Bay City Western varsity girl’s coach, to create a club that would help develop players for our local high school programs and beyond. Bob & Fran’s unequalled dedication to BASA is truly an inspiration to past, present and future board members.

Have a safe and enjoyable spring season.

Steven G. Welter  
President, BASA

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### **Who's Who???**

Bay Area Soccer Association / BASA  
Michigan State Youth Soccer Association / MSYSA  
US Youth Soccer Association / USYSA  
US Soccer Federation / USSF  
Federation International Football Association / FIFA

BASA was established in the spring of 1995 to provide a club that would promote the game of soccer in Bay County. BASA is a member of MSYSA. Matches were held at the Middle grounds through spring of 2001. The Select soccer program began in spring of 1999 with home games held at Williams Township Park in Auburn through spring of 2001. Our U10 Majors program was initiated as a joint effort with Saginaw Township Soccer Association in 2000. The BASA Complex in Monitor Township was opened on September 8, 2001.

#### **Board of Directors:**

Steven Welter, President  
Tom Jaskiewicz, Vice President / MSYSA Delegate  
Jim Lillo, Secretary  
Jeff Swartz, Treasurer  
Fran MacMillan, Past President / Risk Management Coordinator  
Mary Sue McFarlane, Registrar  
Mary Avery, Concessions  
Rick Nelson, Referee Coordinator  
Gary Carroll, Coach Coordinator  
Connie Kuhl, Special Events Coordinator

#### **Coordinators:**

Nate Bleke, Select U11 through U19 Travel Coordinator  
Scott Halstead, Coach Coordinator  
Traci Campbell, Volunteer Coordinator  
Michelle Kondziola, Select Uniform Coordinator  
Tyra Kahn, Club Clothing Coordinator  
Jason Dore, U10 Majors Coordinator  
Net Source One, Web Site Coordinator  
Tyra Khan, Rec. Uniform Coordinator  
Brian Allison, Adult Coed League Coordinator

#### **Field / Complex Maintenance:**

Deb and Brian Tobin

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# Current Season Information

The following information has caused problems or been concerns in the past. Please take note of them, if you have any questions please see a BASA Official.

**Player Substitutions** – All players must enter and leave the field at the center line when called onto the field by the referee. Our referees are being instructed to not allow players to be substituted directly from the bench. As a coach it is your responsibility to have your players ready to sub into the game and to be in the sub box at the center line. This is for the U8 and up age divisions. *(If the sub is not at the center waiting to come in they will not be allowed in the game. This is important for the flow of the game. It also is less confusing for the referees, coaches, and players. (How many times do we see a player run in because the coach said get in there, but did not tell them who to replace.) This slows the game as they try to figure out who needs to come out and takes game time away from the players.)*

**No Jewelry** - No jewelry (newly pierced ears included) is allowed at any age level. Players that cannot remove jewelry will not be allowed to play in the game. This is for the safety of all of our players.

**Injury Reports** – Please use the injury report form to submit information to the club.

**Team Sizes and Number of Players on the Field** – BASA in accordance with rules passed down from the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) have adopted a small sided team and game format. These rules affect the team size and number of players on the field for the U5, U6, U10, & U12 age groups. Team sizes and the number of players on the field will be as follows:

U5 – Max team size of 6, playing format 3v3 (no goalie)

U6 – Max team size of 6, playing format 3v3 (no goalie)

U8 – Max team size of 8, playing format 5v5 (4 field players and a goalie)

U10 – Max team size of 11, playing format 6v6 (5 field players and a goalie)

U12 – Max team size of 14, playing format 8v8 (7 field players and a goalie)

U14 – Max team size of 18, playing format 11v11 (10 field players and a goalie)

U19 – Max team size of 18, playing format 11v11 (10 field players and a goalie)

**Practice Locations** – The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association insurance policy requires that all practice and game locations be registered with MSYSA. You may **NOT** practice at any location that is not on the approved list found below. You **CANNOT** practice at any new location until after the location has been approved. **If you practice at any location that is not on the approved list, BASA will be required to take action up to and including removing you as coach.**

**U-5 Division** –Requests to move players up from the U5 division to the U6 division **will generally not** be granted!

**Referee Calls and Signals** – The referee is on the field to control the game and enforce the laws of the game. The referee is **not** responsible for making sure that the coach and all the spectators understand why a given call was made. If the Referee is explaining a call to a coach they are not paying attention to the game or are delaying the start of the game. We will be working with the referees to make sure they are using the proper hand signals and announcing the calls as they make them. If you have a question for a Referee please save it for the half-time break or the end of the game.

**Disagreements with the Referee** – The BASA referee is there to make sure that all players enjoy the game and follow the laws of the game. If you disagree with the referee you **do not** have the right to yell-at or challenge the referees call! Please send someone from your team or a parent to find a BASA official (the concession stand will be able to direct you to the proper person). If possible, do this while your game is still going on. We cannot make judgments about a call or the job a referee is doing if we do not observe the actions ourselves. If you make a complaint about a referee after your game, we will investigate the complaint but will give the referee every benefit of the doubt.

**Substitute players** – In the past, teams that have been short players have been allowed to use a player from another team. BASA will still allow a team to pick up a player from another team if your team is short, but the following rules for picking up a substitute player must be followed:

- Your team must have less than the required number of field players to pick up a substitute player.
- A team may not use more than two (2) substitute players in any game.
- **All substitute players must be approved at the concession stand prior to the game!**
- Players must be recreational players currently registered on a BASA team.
- Players can only be from the same division or one division down.
- Players may only play one extra game in a week
- The following penalties will apply if the above rules are not followed:
  - The unauthorized substitute will be Red Carded. *(The player will not be able to play the following week for their regular team.)*
  - The offending team will play the remainder of the game short.

### **Penalty Kicks**

- U5 and U6 – Penalty kicks will not be awarded in the U5 or U6 age division. An infraction that would normally result in a penalty kick will be restarted with an indirect kick 10 yards from the goal.
- U8 – Penalty kicks will be awarded, but the penalty mark has been moved outside of the penalty box 10 yards from the goal line.

## BASA Spring 2011 Practice Locations

Coaches, below is a list of the sites that are registered with our insurance carrier. You cannot practice at any location that is not listed below. If you wish to practice at another location, you must get it on the list first. Contact Steve Welter at 751-9529 or [swelter@chartermi.net](mailto:swelter@chartermi.net) to get your site on the list. Once your requested site has been added, we will contact you and let you know you can begin practice at that site.

**DO NOT PRACTICE ON GAME FIELDS AT ANY OF THE SCHOOLS!!!** We have had some problems with teams practicing on game fields and tearing them up. If this continues, we may lose the privilege of training at these schools.

### Schools

#### Bay City Public Schools

- Auburn
- Hampton
- Kolb
- Lindsay
- MacGregor
- MacKensen
- McAlear-Sawden
- Riegel
- Thomas Jefferson
- Washington
- Webster
- Woodside
- Handy (*Not On Game Field*)
- Wenona Center
- Western High School (*Not On Game Field*)

#### Bangor Schools

- Christa McAuliffe Middle School  
(CANNOT BE USED)**
- John Glenn Campus (CANNOT BE USED)**
- Bangor Lincoln
- Bangor North
- Bangor West
- Bangor Central

#### Essexville Schools

- Cramer
- Verellen (*Not On Game Field*)
- Hughes
- Bush

#### Pinconning Area Schools

### Churches

- Pilgrim Lutheran Essexville
- Zion Lutheran Beaver Twp.
- St. Paul Lutheran
- Faith Lutheran
- Visitation
- St. Johns Essexville

### Churches (*Continued*)

- Grace Lutheran Church - Auburn
- St. Bartholomew Lutheran School - Kawkawlin
- St. Joseph Catholic Church - Auburn
- St. Luke's United Methodist (*by Permission Only*)
- North Euclid Church Of God (*by Permission Only*)
- Zion Lutheran Church & School (Bay City)

### Parks

- Bigelow Park
- Birney Park
- Carroll Park
- Defoe Park
- Nate Doan Park
- Hewitt Park
- Maplewood Park
- Ramsey Park
- Pershing Park
- Roosevelt Park
- Trombley / Banks Park
- Veteran's Memorial Park Wenonah Park
- Monitor Township Park (Three Mile)
- Middle Grounds
- Pond Side Park (Ridge and Jones)
- Ridge Road Park (Ridge Rd)
- Bay County Fair Grounds
- Williams Township Park (Auburn)
- Auburn Park (Nine Mile Rd)
- Bay County Fair Grounds
- Munger Township Park
- Beaver Township
- Kawkawlin Township

Practice must take place outdoors! Insurance coverage is not provided for any indoor activity.

Please be respectful of the property where you are practicing. Clean up after yourself, pick up water bottles, and other trash. Do not abuse the privilege of using someone's property to practice on.

**Please share field space where necessary!!**

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## BASA WEBSITE

[WWW.BASASOCCER.COM](http://WWW.BASASOCCER.COM)

### MY TEAM

#### TEAM COMMUNICATION FROM BASA HOMEPAGE

Coaches.

Go to [www.basasoccer.com](http://www.basasoccer.com)

Click on MY TEAM which is found on the left hand side of the menu selections at bottom. (Just above the MSYSA & MMYSL Logos)

Click the drop down box and choose your Team # which is. ###

YOUR PASSWORD AS COACH & EDITOR OF YOUR TEAM PAGE IS: \*\*\*\*\*

YOU THEN CAN SET UP A PARENTS PASSWORD WHEN YOU EDIT.

BOTH OF THESE PASSWORDS CAN BE CHANGED BY YOU AT ANY TIME.

## Concession Stand

BASA runs a concession stand each Saturday during the games. The concession stand has cold pop, hot coffee, assorted candy, hot dogs, soccer jerseys, soccer socks, and basic first aid supplies. If an emergency arises, a cellular phone is also available. The concession stand will also be the location of the lost and found. The concession stand will close shortly after the start of the last Recreation game of the day.

## For the kids... For the fun of it!!

Always remember the BASA motto. This is the reason we are here. For the kids...For the fun of it. Please set an example for our kids. The players learn from your actions as well as your words. Congratulate any player (either team) on a good play. Be generous when you win, and graceful when you lose. Encourage the same in your players, parents, and other spectators. Keep competition in perspective.

## Referees

BASA follows the rules of the United States Soccer Federation. The 17 laws of soccer are written to preserve the spirit of the game. For most of the rules, for there to be a violation of the rules there must be intent to commit an offense. (i.e.: if the contact between a hand and the ball is not intentional, there is no foul) Many

calls on the field are judgment calls. Also, many of our referees are young people just starting their officiating careers. Encourage your players and fans to be considerate during the game. Set a good example. Support the referees. If you have a question on a call, ask for an interpretation.

## **Trophies or Medals**

The league will supply each coach with trophies or medals for all players on his/her team. It is the coaches responsibility to distribute the awards to the players on their team. Awards will be distributed to each coach on the second to last game day. It is recommended that the awards be distributed by the coach at their last game or last practice.

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# Please Note

- Shin guards are required at all games and practices; soccer socks **MUST** completely cover the shin guards.
- Soccer cleats (Boots) are optional, tennis shoes can be used. Cleats are recommended for the older age groups. If cleats are used they must be soccer cleats, soccer cleats are different from baseball cleats in that they do not have a front toe cleat. Referees do check cleats at the start of each game and players with baseball cleats will not be allowed to participate.
- Goalies must wear the red pinny supplied by the league or a distinctly different colored goalie jersey from the regular player jerseys. Goalie jerseys with a lot of blue or yellow will not be allowed.
- Jeans will **NOT** be allowed during games. Any clothing with exposed zippers, snaps, or buttons will not be allowed. Jackets under the game jersey will be allowed during cold weather. Please make sure your team parents understand this rule.
- All jewelry **must be removed** for games and practices. This includes earrings, rings necklaces, and bracelets.
- Hard plastic or metal barrettes and ponytail holders are not allowed.

## Games

- Most games are on Saturday, but some weekday or Sunday games will be played.
- **Games are played rain or shine; games will only be canceled or postponed due to electrical storms. Only the field coordinator or league official can cancel games. Please do not take it upon yourself to cancel games.**
- If during your game the league determines it is necessary to stop play we will sound an air horn. Please leave the field of play immediately and seek shelter. If your game is in the first half, please have your players stay in their cars and wait 15 minutes to see if we can continue the game. If your game is in the second half your game will be cancelled.
- If the league feels it necessary to cancel all games it will be announced on the website at [www.basasoccer.com](http://www.basasoccer.com) and on local radio stations (WGER, WIOG, WHNN, Z93)
- Each player needs to have one of the reversible blue/gold jerseys for game day. Jerseys are to be worn over any other clothing.
- During the games players are to be on one side of the field and spectators on the other.
- Parents are not allowed behind the goals during the games.
- Please respect the referee and the calls that they make. If you feel it necessary to challenge the referees' calls please go through a league official for help or interpretation.

## Coaches Code

- Enthusiastically support the practice “Everyone Plays” and positive coaching philosophy.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the young player’s time, energy and enthusiasm. Remember that they have other interests.
- Teach your players that rules of the game are mutual agreements, which no one should evade or break.
- Remember that children play for fun and enjoyment and that winning is only part of it. Never ridicule or yell at the children for making mistakes or losing a competition.
- Ensure that equipment and facilities meet safety standards and are appropriate for the age and ability of the players.
- The scheduling and length of practice times should take into consideration the maturity level of the children.
- Develop team respect for the ability of opponents, as well as for the judgment of officials and opposing coaches.
- Follow the advice of a physician when determining when an injured player is ready to play again.
- Remember that children need to coach they can respect. Be generous with your praise when it is deserved, and set a good example.
- Make a personal commitment to keep yourself informed on sound coaching principles and the principles of growth and development of children.

# Player's Code

- Play for the “fun of it.” Not just to please your parents or coach.
- Be generous when you win.
- Be graceful when you lose.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with the officials' decisions.
- Control your temper – no “mouthing off”, throwing balls, or other equipment.
- Work equally hard for yourself and your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will your own.
- Be a good sport. Cheer all good plays, whether your team or your opponent.
- Treat all players, as you yourself would like to be treated. Don't interfere with, bully, or take unfair advantage of any player.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve your skills, and feel good, don't be a show-off or always try to get the most goals, Be a team player.
- Cooperate with your coach, teammates, and opponents, for without them, you don't have a game.
- Conduct yourself with honor and dignity.

# GENERAL RULES

## RULES ARE ENFORCED AT THE DISCRETION OF BASA OFFICIALS

1. **Soccer Equipment & Clothing**

Shin guards are mandatory at both practices and games, and at all levels. Soccer cleats (no baseball cleats) or tennis shoes are acceptable.

APPROPRIATE SOCCER CLOTHING. CLOTHING THAT IS REVEALING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. NO JEWELRY, ZIPPERS OR BOTTONS ON CLOTHING. NO WRIST BANDS.

2. **Start of play**

- a. Prior to the game, a coin toss shall be held. The winning side has the option of which goal to defend. The other team takes the kick-off to start the match.
- b. For the U-5, U6, and U-8 teams, alternate the team that kicks off each quarter. At the start of the second half, the teams shall switch ends.

For U-10 and above, at the start of the second half, the teams shall switch ends and the team that did not kick off initially will now do so.

3. **Restarts**

a. **Free Kicks**

Free kicks are awarded as a penalty for the commission of a foul. There are two free kicks - **direct** and **indirect**

Free kicks are taken from the spot of the foul.

Direct free kick (DFK) is given when one of the nine major fouls has been committed. A goal may be scored directly from a DFK.

Indirect free kick (IDF) is awarded when one of the five minor fouls has been committed. A goal cannot be scored directly from an IDF. The ball must first touch another player.

Penalty kick is awarded when the defense is penalized for a major foul committed within its own penalty area.

b. **Throw-in**

When the ball passes completely over the touchline (sideline), the team last touching the ball loses possession. Any member of the opposing team may put the ball into play.

All or part of both feet must be in contact with the ground and on or behind the touchline at the moment the ball is released. The throwing motion is made with both hands used equally; starting from behind the head, in a continuous motion the ball is released in front of the body.

A second attempt shall be given after instruction is given to the player by the referee in the U-5, U-6, and U-8 division. The U-10 and up division shall lose possession if the throw-in is performed improperly.

- c. **Goal kick**  
When the ball, having last been touched by the attacking team, crosses the opponents' end line (but not in the goal), a goal kick is awarded. The defending team places the ball inside their goal area and kicks the ball back into play. The ball comes into play after leaving the penalty area. (*Note: players may not enter the penalty area before the ball crosses the penalty box line, nor may they touch the ball before it crosses the penalty box line*). If the ball does not leave the penalty box the kick is retaken. It is not required that the goalie be the person to take the goal kick, any player on the field can take the goal kick.
- d. **Corner kick**  
When the ball, having last been touched by the defending team, crosses their own end line (but not in the goal), a corner kick is awarded. The attacking team places the ball inside the corner arc and kicks the ball into play. The ball is in play once it has moved. The player taking the corner kick cannot touch the ball until after another player from either side touches it.
- e. **Kick off**  
Beginning each quarter and/or half, and after a goal has been scored, the ball is placed in the center of the field. Play is resumed after the ball has moved in a forward direction. The player initially kicking the ball on the kick off cannot touch the ball until after another player from either side touches it.

Each team must be in their own half of the field at taking of a kick off. Defensive players may not be within the center circle.

- F. **Drop Ball**  
Interruptions in play for foreign objects (dogs, errant 2yr olds, debris, etc.) or stoppages due to injury result in a drop ball restart. The referee drops the ball between two players (one from each team). The ball may not be played until after it touches the ground.

#### 4. **Substitutions**

All players must enter and leave the field at the halfway line. Substitutes may enter the field only after receiving permission from the referee. It is the coaches responsibility to get the attention of the referee before substitutions can be made.

##### **U-5 and U6 - Limited**

- a. At quarter breaks and half-time, once or twice a quarter if necessary at stoppage in play. Be reasonable; do not hold up the game to change players.
- b. Injury - injured player only.
- c. Change players as necessary to ensure equal playing time for all. Remember quarters are short; do not hold up game for continuous player substitutions.

##### **U-8 and above**

- a. On own throw-in, or opposing teams throw-in if they are also substituting.
- b. On either team's goal kick
- c. Prior to any kick-off
- d. Injury - any player
- e. Caution issued - cautioned player only

5. **Substitution of Goalkeeper**

- **U8**

- a. At quarter breaks and half time.
- b. Injury to goalkeeper.

- **U10 and Up**

- a. Any other player may change places with the goalkeeper provided that:
  1. The referee is informed before the change is made.
  2. The change is made at a stoppage in play.
  3. The change may not delay the restart of the game.

*(Do not try and change the goalie pinny at a stoppage in play. You must have another pinny or shirt that meets the requirements of distinguishing the goalie from the other players on the field. The league only provides one (1) goalie pinny per team.)*

6. No match shall continue beyond the scheduled starting time of the next match assigned to the same field.

7. Nine major fouls resulting in a **DIRECT FREE KICK**

**Four with the hands**

Striking or attempting to strike (includes spitting)  
Pushing  
Holding  
Hand Ball

**Three with the feet**

Kicking or attempting to kick  
Tripping  
Jumping at an opponent

**Two with the body**

Charging in a violent manner  
Charging from behind

8. Five minor fouls resulting in an **INDIRECT FREE KICK**. Four of the five must be considered intentional

Charging fairly but the ball is not within playing distance  
Obstructing an opponent when not playing the ball  
Charging the goalkeeper  
Delay by the goalkeeper  
Playing in a manner considered to be dangerous (does not need to be intentional)

9. **Offside**

Offside is designed to prevent a player from stationing him/herself by the goal with the sole purpose of scoring but with no intention of participating in the rest of the match, contrary to the spirit of the game. The rule states that if you engage in this behavior you are off the side, hence **offside**.

WHAT IS OFFSIDE? WHEN IS IT AN OFFENSE? HOW IS IT PENALIZED?

There are 3 criteria that must be satisfied in order to penalize for offside.

**Position**                      **Intent**                      **Timing**

**Position** - A player is in an offside position if (s)he is nearer the opponents goal line than the ball or two defenders.

**Intent** - A player, while in an offside position, must be seeking to gain advantage from that position or interfering with play or an opponent.

**Timing** - A player must be in an offside position at the moment the ball is played.

**EXCEPTIONS - A player is not penalized for offside if:**

1. The ball was last played by an opponent
2. The player is in her/his own half of the field
3. (S)he receives the ball directly from a throw-in, corner kick, goal kick.
4. The player is not nearer the opponents' goal than at least two opponents.

10. **Coaching**

- a. One coach and one assistant coach are permitted on the sideline with the team.
- b. All coaching shall be done from the sideline and shall be limited to the area between the top of one penalty box to the top of the other (between the 18 yard lines).
- c. No coaching is permitted behind the goal by either the coach or a parent.
- d. All coaches and assistant coaches must be approved through the MSYSA kid safe program.

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### **BASA Rules Under Five (U-5)**

- \* **Everyone** must play at least 50% of every game!!! **All players should have equal play time.**
- \* Team rosters are not to be changed without the permission of the league registrar.
- \* **Start all games on time.** Late starts will shorten **your** team's game time.
- \* All games are RAIN OR SHINE. Cancellation of games is done only by the consent of the field director. Rescheduling of make-up games is the responsibility of the coaches whose games were canceled.

Age – U5, Four years old on or before July 31<sup>st</sup> (of the previous year for the Spring season)

(U5 players are not encouraged to play up and are generally not granted permission to play up in the u6 division.)

Team Size – 5 -6 players. The game is played with 3 players from each team on the field.

***There is no goalie in this age group.***

Team numbers -U-5 teams will have team numbers in the 101- 149 range for boys and 151- 199 range for girls. Each team may pick their own team name.

Ball size - Ball size 3

Under five teaching philosophy - Encourage movement through soccer related children's games. A player's first soccer experience should be positive. Having FUN should be emphasized. Competitive pressures should be discouraged,. The smaller teams maximize the experience of each player. Studies show that players touch the ball significantly more times when playing in the modified games. They are also in possession of the ball for a significantly longer time.

### **Rules of the Game**

The rules in the U-5 league are kept to a minimum and loosely enforced. Remember, the goal is to have fun and maximize contact and comfort with the ball.

To start play - The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the halfway line. This happens at the start of each quarter and after each goal scored. Ideally, the ball should roll forward from the halfway line and the player that kicked off cannot touch the ball until after it is touched by another player (from either team). On all kicks, (including corner and goal kicks) the opponents must be at least 3 yards away.

Out of bounds at the touchline (sideline) - Play is resumed by having the team that did not have last contact with the ball to throw the ball in play using a two-handed overhead throw. As long as the throw is close to correct, great. If the throw is a gross foul, allow the same player a second throw after explaining the proper method.

Out of bound at the goal line - If the team that last touched the ball is the offense, the defense restarts play by kicking the ball from the front of the goal area (goal kick). If the team that last touched the ball is the defense. The offense restarts play by kicking the ball from the corner (corner kick).

Duration of the game

Four 8 minute quarters.

2 minute breaks between quarters

5 minute break at half time

U. S. Youth Soccer recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Do not record league standings.
- Do not record final score.
- Coaches are on the field acting as referees.

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### **BASA Rules Under Six (U-6)**

- \* **Everyone** must play at least 50% of every game!!! **All players should have equal play time.**
- \* Team rosters are not to be changed without the permission of the league registrar.
- \* **Start all games on time.** Late starts will shorten **your** team's game time.
- \* All games are RAIN OR SHINE. Cancellation of games is done only by the consent of the field director. Rescheduling of make-up games is the responsibility of the coaches whose games were canceled.

Age – U6 players are five years old on or before July 31st. (of the previous fall for Spring season)

(U5 players are not encouraged to play up and are generally not granted permission to play up in the u6 division.)

Team Size - 5 - 6 players. The game is played with 3 players from each team on the field.

*There is no goalie in this age group.*

Team numbers -U-6 teams will have team numbers in the 201 to 249 range for boys and 251-299 range for girls. Each team may pick their own team name.

Ball size - Ball size 3

Under six teaching philosophy - Encourage movement through soccer related children's games. A player's first soccer experience should be positive. Having FUN should be emphasized. Competitive pressures should be discouraged,. The smaller teams maximize the experience of each player. Studies show that players touch the ball significantly more times when playing in the modified games. They are also in possession of the ball for a significantly longer time.

### **Rules of the Game**

The rules in the U-6 league are kept to a minimum and loosely enforced. Remember, the goal is to have fun and maximize contact and comfort with the ball.

To start play - The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the halfway line. This happens at the start of each quarter and after each goal scored. Ideally, the ball should roll forward from the halfway line and the player that kicked off cannot touch the ball until after it is touched by another player (from either team). On all kicks, (including corner and goal kicks) the opponents must be at least 3 yards away.

Out of bounds at the touchline (sideline) - Play is resumed by having the team that did not have last contact with the ball to throw the ball in play using a two-handed overhead throw. As long as the throw is close to correct, great. If the throw is a gross foul, allow the same player a second throw after explaining the proper method.

Out of bound at the goal line - If the team that last touched the ball is the offense, the defense restarts play by kicking the ball from the front of the goal area (goal kick). If the team that last touched the ball is the defense. The offense restarts play by kicking the ball from the corner (corner kick).

Duration of the game

Four 8 minute quarters.

2 minute breaks between quarters

5 minute break at half time

U. S. Youth Soccer recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Do not record league standings.
- Do not record final score.
- Coaches are on the field acting as referees.

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### **BASA Rules Under Eight (U-8)**

- \* **Everyone** must play at least 50% of every game!!! All players should have equal play time.
- \* Team rosters are not to be changed without the permission of the league registrar.
- \* **Start all games on time.** Late starts will shorten **your** team's game time.
- \* All games are RAIN OR SHINE. Cancellation of games is done only by the consent of the field director. Rescheduling of make-up games is the responsibility of the coaches whose games were canceled.

Age - Six and seven years old on or before July 31st. (of the previous fall for Spring season)

Team Size - Each team has 7 - 8 players. The game is played with 5 players (4 players and a goalkeeper) from each team on the field.

*U-8 teams and older play with a goalie.*

Team numbers - U-8 teams will have team numbers in the 300's, boys teams start at 301, girls teams start at 351. Each team may pick their own team name.

Ball size - Ball size 3

Under eight teaching philosophy - Encourage movement through soccer related children's games. A player's first soccer experience should be positive. Having FUN should be emphasized. Competitive pressures should be discouraged. The smaller teams maximize the experience of each player. Studies show that players touch the ball significantly more times when playing in the modified games. They are also in possession of the ball for a significantly longer time.

### **Rules of the Game**

The rules in the U-8 league are kept to a minimum and loosely enforced. Remember, the goal is to have fun and maximize contact and comfort with the ball.

To start play - The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the halfway line. This happens at the start of each quarter and after each goal scored. Ideally, the ball should roll forward from the halfway line and the player that kicked off cannot touch the ball until after it is touched by another player (from either team). On all kicks, (including corner and goal kicks) the opponents must be at least 5 yards away.

Out of bounds at the touchline (sideline) - Play is resumed by having the team that did not have last contact with the ball to throw the ball in play using a two-handed overhead throw. If the throw is a gross foul, allow the same player a second throw after explaining the proper method. The opponents must be 5 yards from the ball.

Out of bound at the goal line - If the team that last touched the ball is the offense, the defense restarts play by kicking the ball from the front of the goal area (goal kick). If the team that last touched the ball is the defense. The offense restarts play by kicking the ball from the corner (corner kick).

The opponents must be at least 5 yards away from the ball on both goal and corner kicks.

Offside - The offside rule is **not** enforced in this age group. **Cherry picking or camping in your opponents half of the field will not be allowed.** Players must move to their own half of the field when the ball is in their half of the field. The referee will force the player to move to half-field if necessary.

Duration of the game

Four 12 minute quarters.

2 minute breaks between quarters

5 minute break at half time

Additional player

If the score of the match at any point during the match reaches a 4-goal differential, the losing team is allowed to add one player (maximum) from their team substitutes if they choose to do so and are able to do so. The coach **MUST** notify the referee if an additional player will be added to the game. The referee will allow the addition from the halfway line substitution area before the kick-off restart or at the next stoppage in play. Active substitution is **NOT** allowed. At such a time that the score goes below a 4-goal differential at any point during the match, the teams will revert to even-sided competition (5v5). Any player can leave the field before the kickoff; it is not required that the particular "player added" earlier leave the field. All U8 matches will begin even-sided (5v5) regardless of the outcome of a previous match between the two sides. Regardless of the score at any point during the match, only one additional player may be added (6v5).

U. S. Youth Soccer recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Spectators shall be on one side of the playing field; coaches and players on the other. No coaches or spectators may be behind the goals
- Do not record league standings.
- Do not record final score.

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### **BASA Rules Under Ten (U-10)**

- \* **Everyone** must play at least 50% of every game!!! **All players should have equal play time as well as experience in playing all the positions.**
- \* Team rosters are not to be changed without the permission of the league registrar.
- \* **Start all games on time.** Late starts will shorten **your** team's game time.
- \* All games are RAIN OR SHINE. Cancellation of games is done only by the consent of the field director. Rescheduling of make-up games is the responsibility of the coaches whose games were canceled.

Age - eight and nine years old on or before July 31st. (of the previous year for Spring season)

Team Size - 9-11 players. The game is played with 6 players (5 + goalkeeper) from each team on the field.  
*U-10 teams play with a goalie.*

Team numbers - U-10 teams will have team numbers in the 401 to 449 range for boys and 451 to 499 range for girls. Each team may pick their own team name.

Ball size - Ball size 4

### **Rules of the Game**

Remember, the goal is to have fun and maximize contact and comfort with the ball.

To start play - The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the halfway line. This happens at the start of each half and after each goal scored. The ball shall roll forward from the halfway line and the player that kicked off cannot touch the ball until after it is touched by another player (from either team). On all kicks, (including corner and goal kicks) the opponents must be at least 6 yards away.

Out of bounds at the touchline (sideline) - Play is resumed by having the team that did not have last contact with the ball to throw the ball in play using a two-handed overhead throw. A gross foul in the throw will be cause for loss of possession. The opponents must be 6 yards from the ball.

Out of bound at the goal line - If the team that last touched the ball is the offense, the defense restarts play by kicking the ball from the front of the goal area (goal kick). If the team that last touched the ball is the defense. The offense restarts play by kicking the ball from the corner (corner kick). The opponents must be at least 6 yards away from the ball on both goal and corner kicks.

Offside - The offside rule **is** enforced in this age group.

Free kick (both direct and indirect), and penalty kick - see general rules.

Duration of the game

The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of twenty-five (25) minutes.

Half-time break of 5 minutes

### U. S. Youth Soccer recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Coaches, non-playing players, parents, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Spectators shall be on one side of the playing field, coaches and players on the other. No coaches or spectators may be behind the goals

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# **BASA Rules Under Twelve (U-12)**

- \* **Everyone** must play at least 50% of every game!!! **All players should have equal play time as well as experience in playing all the positions.**
- \* Team rosters are not to be changed without the permission of the league registrar.
- \* **Start all games on time.** Late starts will shorten **your** team's game time.
- \* All games are RAIN OR SHINE. Cancellation of games is done only by the consent of the field director. Rescheduling of make-up games is the responsibility of the coaches whose games were canceled.

Age - Ten and Eleven years old on or before July 31st. (of the previous year for Spring season)

Team Size – Up to **14** players. The game is played with 8 players (7 + goalkeeper) from each team on the field.

*U-12 teams play with a goalie.*

Team numbers - U-12 teams will have team numbers in the 501 to 549 range for boys or coed and 551 to 599 range for girls. Each team may pick their own team name.

Ball size - Ball size 4

## **Rules of the Game**

Remember, the goal is to have fun and maximize contact and comfort with the ball.

To start play - The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the halfway line. This happens at the start of each half and after each goal scored. The ball shall roll forward from the halfway line and the player that kicked off cannot touch the ball until after it is touched by another player (from either team). On all kicks, (including corner and goal kicks) the opponents must be at least 8 yards away.

Out of bounds at the touchline (sideline) - Play is resumed by having the team that did not have last contact with the ball to throw the ball in play using a two-handed overhead throw. A gross foul in the throw will be cause for loss of possession. The opponents must be 8 yards from the ball.

Out of bound at the goal line - If the team that last touched the ball is the offense, the defense restarts play by kicking the ball from the front of the goal area (goal kick). If the team that last touched the ball is the defense. The offense restarts play by kicking the ball from the corner (corner kick). The opponents must be at least 8 yards away from the ball on both goal and corner kicks.

Free kick (both direct and indirect), and penalty kick - see general rules.

Offside - The offside rule **is** enforced in this age group.

Duration of the game

The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty (30) minutes.

Half-time break of 5 minutes

U. S. Youth Soccer recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Coaches, non-playing players, parents, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Spectators shall be on one side of the playing field, coaches and players on the other. No coaches or spectators may be behind the goals

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### **BASA Rules Under Fourteen (U-14 COED)**

- \* **Everyone** must play at least 50% of every game!!! **All players should have equal play time.**
- \* Team rosters are not to be changed without the permission of the league registrar.
- \* **Start all games on time.** Late starts will shorten **your** team's game time.
- \* All games are RAIN OR SHINE. Cancellation of games is done only by the consent of the field director. Rescheduling of make-up games is the responsibility of the coaches whose games were canceled.

Age – Twelve, and Thirteen years old on or before July 31st. (of the previous fall for Spring season)

Team Size – Up to 18 players. The game is played with 11 players (10+ goalkeeper) from each team on the field.

*U-14 teams play with a goalie.*

Team numbers - U-14 teams will have team numbers in the 600's. Each team may pick their own team name.

Ball size - Ball size 5

### **Rules of the Game**

Remember, the goal is to have fun and maximize contact and comfort with the ball.

To start play - The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the halfway line. This happens at the start of each half and after each goal scored. The ball shall roll forward from the halfway line and the player that kicked off cannot touch the ball until after it is touched by another player (from either team). On all kicks, (including corner and goal kicks) the opponents must be at least 10 yards away.

Out of bounds at the touchline (sideline) - Play is resumed by having the team that did not have last contact with the ball to throw the ball in play using a two-handed overhead throw. A gross foul in the throw will be cause for loss of possession. The opponents must be 10 yards from the ball.

Out of bound at the goal line - If the team that last touched the ball is the offense, the defense restarts play by kicking the ball from the front of the goal area (goal kick). If the team that last touched the ball is the defense. The offense restarts play by kicking the ball from the corner (corner kick). The opponents must be at least 10 yards away from the ball on both goal and corner kicks.

Free kick (both direct and indirect), and penalty kick - see general rules.

Offside - The offside rule **is** enforced in this age group.

Duration of the game

The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes.

Half-time break of 5 minutes

U. S. Youth Soccer recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Coaches, non-playing players, parents, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Spectators shall be on one side of the playing field, coaches and players on the other. No coaches or spectators may be behind the goals

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### **BASA Rules Under Nineteen (U-19)**

- \* **Everyone** must play at least 50% of every game!!! **All players should have equal play time.**
- \* Team rosters are not to be changed without the permission of the league registrar.
- \* **Start all games on time.** Late starts will shorten **your** team's game time.
- \* All games are RAIN OR SHINE. Cancellation of games is done only by the consent of the field director. Rescheduling of make-up games is the responsibility of the coaches whose games were canceled.

Age - Fourteen through Eighteen years old on or before July 31st.

Team Size – Up to 18 players. The game is played with 11 players from each team on the field.

*U-19 teams play with a goalie.*

Team numbers - U-19 teams will have team numbers in the 900's. Each team may pick their own team name.

Ball size - Ball size 5

### **Rules of the Game**

Remember that the goal is to have fun and maximize contact and comfort with the ball.

To start play - The game is started by one team kicking the ball from the halfway line. This happens at the start of each half and after each goal scored. The ball shall roll forward from the halfway line and the player that kicked off cannot touch the ball until after it is touched by another player (from either team). On all kicks, (including corner and goal kicks) the opponents must be at least 10 yards away.

Out of bounds at the touchline (sideline) - Play is resumed by having the team that did not have last contact with the ball to throw the ball in play using a two-handed overhead throw. A gross foul in the throw will be cause for loss of possession. The opponents must be 10 yards from the ball.

Out of bounds at the goal line - If the team that last touched the ball is the offense, the defense restarts play by kicking the ball from the front of the goal area (goal kick). If the team that last touched the ball is the defense. The offense restarts play by kicking the ball from the corner (corner kick). The opponents must be at least 10 yards away from the ball on both goal and corner kicks.

Free kick (both direct and indirect), and penalty kick - see general rules.

Offside - The offside rule **is** enforced in this age group.

Duration of the game

The game shall be divided into two (2) equal halves of thirty-five (35) minutes.

Half-time break of 5 minutes

### U. S. Youth Soccer recommendations

- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Coaches, non-playing players, parents, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- Spectators shall be on one side of the playing field, coaches and players on the other. No coaches or spectators may be behind the goals

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# LAW XV – THROW-IN

### **When Taken:**

When the whole ball has crossed over the touch line, either on the ground or in the air.

### **Who Takes:**

A player of the team opposite to that of the player who last touched the ball.

### **Position of Players:**

1. Throwing team (other than the thrower)

- Anywhere in the field of play

2. Opponents

- Anywhere in the field of play

Note: Opponents may not dance about or gesticulate (movement of body or limbs, i.e., jumping or waving arms) to distract or impede thrower.

### **Where Taken:**

From the point where the ball crossed the touch line. Allow approximately one yard variance.

### **How Taken:**

Thrown (into field of play without restriction on direction)

1. Player must face the field of play.
2. Player must use both hands.
3. Player must deliver the ball from behind and over the head.
4. Both feet must be on the ground.
5. Part of each foot shall be on the touch line or on the ground outside the touch line.

### **When In Play:**

Immediately when the ball enters the field of play, i.e., when any part of the ball breaks the outer plane of the touch line.

### **Punishment:**

1. Improper throw-in (including from the wrong place)
  - Award throw-in to opponent
2. Ball does not enter play directly from throw-in
  - Retake the throw-in
3. Gesticulating opponent
  - Caution (yellow card) for unsportsmanlike conduct

### **Miscellaneous:**

1. Thrower may not play the ball a second time after it enters play until it has been touched by another player (either teammate or opponent).
  - Punishment: Award indirect free kick to opponents.
2. IBD (1): If thrower plays the ball a second time by handling it within the field of play before it has been touched by another player, award a direct free kick to the opponents.
  - Relates to law V, IBD (10): “If a player commits two infringements of different nature at the same time, the Referee shall punish the more serious offence.” (Direct free kick is greater than indirect free kick.)
3. A goal shall not be scored direct from a throw-in. (Apply Laws XVI and XVII for proper restart.)

4. A player receiving the ball directly from a throw-in shall not be declared offside (Law XI).

# LAW XVI – GOAL KICK

## **When Taken:**

When the whole ball has crossed over the goal line (outside the goal posts and/or over the crossbar) being last touched by an attacker.

## **Who Takes:**

A player of the defending team.

## **Position of Players:**

1. Kicking team (other than the kicker)
  - Anywhere on the field of play
2. Opponents
  - Remain outside the penalty area until the ball passes outside the penalty area.

## **Where Taken:**

From any point on the ground within the goal area.

## **How Taken:**

Kicked directly into play.

- Note: Goalkeeper shall not receive the ball into his hands in order to hereafter kick it into play.

## **When In Play:**

When ball passes outside penalty area, in any direction, into field of play.

## **Punishment:**

Ball not properly put into play, includes:

- Opponent encroaching into penalty area before ball is in play, whether touching ball or not.
- The ball being touched a second time before leaving the penalty area. Retake the goal kick.

## **Misc:**

1. A goal shall not be scored direct from a goal kick.
  - If ball kicked directly into opponent's goal, award goal kick to opponent.
  - If ball kicked direct into own goal, retake goal kick (ball never entered into play)
2. If kicker plays the ball a second time after it has passed into play, but before it has touched another player (teammate of opponent), award an indirect free kick to opponent at place of second contact (subject to Law XIII if in opponent's goal area).
3. A player receiving the ball directly from a goal kick shall not be declared offside (Law XI).

## LAW XVII – CORNER KICK

### **When Taken:**

When the whole of the ball has crossed over the goal line (outside the goal posts and/or over the crossbar) being last touched by an defender.

### **Who Takes:**

A player of the attacking team.

### **Position of Players:**

1. Kicking team (other than the kicker)
  - Anywhere on the field of play
2. Opponents
  - At least ten yards from the ball (until it is in play). Distance modified in BASA for younger age groups, see rules for each age group for distances.

### **Where Taken:**

From wholly within the quarter circle at the nearest corner to where the ball crossed the goal line.

### **How Taken:**

Kicked directly into play.

### **When in Play:**

When the ball has traveled the distance of its own circumference.

### **Punishment:**

Ball not properly put in to play – includes encroachment by opponent.

- Retake corner kick.
- Encroaching player, cautioned for encroachment.

### **Misc:**

1. A goal may be scored directly from a corner kick.
2. If kicker plays the ball a second time after it has passed into play, but before it has touched another player (teammate or opponent), award an indirect free kick to opponent at place of second contact (subject to Law XIII if in opponent's goal area).
3. A player receiving the ball directly from a corner kick shall not be declared offside (Law XI).

## Free Kicks

For any free kick to be taken correctly there are five elements that must be present:

1. The ball must be stationary
  - If not, blow the whistle and start again.
2. All opposing players must be ten yards from the ball
  - If the attacking teams wants to take a quick kick before the opposing players have time to remove the required distance, then let play continue.
  - If the opposing players do not retire the required distance then treat this as encroachment and caution offending players.
  - If the opposing player form a “wall,” then the wall must be ten yards from the ball.
  - The only exception to this is if the ball is closer than ten yards to the goal. Then the opposing players may be on the goal line between the posts or ten yards from the ball.
  - When the ball is being put back into play from within the penalty area by the defending team, then all opposing players must be outside the penalty area as well as ten yards from the ball.
3. Signal by the referee
  - It may be whistle, hand, or verbal. If a quick kick is taken, it could be the same as the direction signal. If the referee is adjusting the wall or has told the players to wait for a signal and they do not, then bring the ball back to rekick.
4. Ball must travel its circumference before being played by another player. Punishment is a rekick. If the kick is inside the penalty area by the defense, then the ball must also leave the penalty area before being played by another player. Punishment is a retake, because the ball was never in play. If the kicker passes the ball to his goalkeeper and it has not left the penalty are, rekick.
5. Kicker cannot play the ball a second time until it is touched or played by another player. Punishment is to award an indirect free kick to the opposing team. The exception is if the kicker touches the ball a second time within his own penalty area, in which case the kick is retaken, since the ball was never in play.
6. If any player dances around or motions to distract the kicker, this is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and the player should be cautioned.
7. A team cannot scored directly against itself from a free kick.

# LAW XI - OFFSIDE

## **The offside law has four parts:**

1. Definition of the offside position.
2. When is a player declared offside and penalized for being offside?
3. When is a player not declared offside?
4. Punishment for being offside.

## **What is an offside position?**

When a player is nearer to his opponents' goal line than the ball.

Note: It is not a violation of the Law to be in an offside position.

## **Are there any exception?**

Yes, a player can never be in an offside position if

- He is in his own half of the field of play
- He is not nearer to his opponents' goal than at least two of his opponents

## **When is a player declared offside and penalized for being offside?**

Only if, at the moment the ball is touched or played by a teammate, he is in an offside position and, in the opinion of the Referee,

- Interfering with play or with an opponent
- Seeking to gain an advantage by being in that position

## **Is there a difference between touching and playing the ball?**

No; touching the ball and playing the ball mean exactly the same thing: making contact with the ball.

## **What is interfering with play or opponent?**

- Preventing an opponent from moving toward the ball
- Moving towards the opponent or the ball and thereby affecting how play runs.

## **What is seeking to gain an advantage?**

Being near enough the play to capitalize immediately on a defender's mistake, and gaining the advantage solely by being in the offside position. (Remember that this actually means that the player does indeed gain the advantage.)

## **When is a player not declared offside?**

- Merely for being in an offside position.
- If he receives the ball direct from a
  - Goal kick
  - Corner kick
  - Throw-in

## **What is the punishment for being declared offside?**

The referee should award an indirect free kick to the opposing side, to be taken from the spot where the player was when he was declared offside.

If the infringement occurred in the opponents' goal area, the requirements of Law XIII apply.

# THE OFFSIDE LAW

(modified WDJ 1/91)

- Bob Evans

The next time you pass a field where soccer is being played, take a few minutes and wander over to the nearest game, and conduct a simple experiment. Listen to the spectators and try to determine which of the "17 Laws of the Game" provokes the most controversy.

Judging from my experience, the experiment won't last long! Within minutes, you will be hearing spectators and players shout about fouls that the referee has called or not called. But, even though there may be a lot of shouting, there won't be much disagreement. Most spectators know what fouls are, and certainly the players who have been on the receiving end of a stray boot or elbow know what the referee must penalize. Yet in those same few minutes, you will likely hear shouts about "offside", followed by animated discussion among the spectators.

You will have discovered the most controversial of all the laws, the offside rule. Even among players and coaches, there is disagreement about what is or what is not "offside", and there may even be disagreement about which player should be penalized.

"Offside! Didn't the referee see that offside?"

"No, he wasn't offside when the ball was played."

"Waddya mean, when the ball was played? He was a two-dollar cab ride offside!"

"No! The number four was there, and besides, he was too far away to be interfering!"

"Not interfering! You must be joking! If he's not interfering, what's he doin' out on the field?"

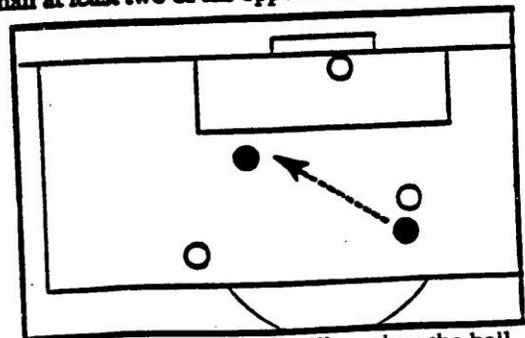
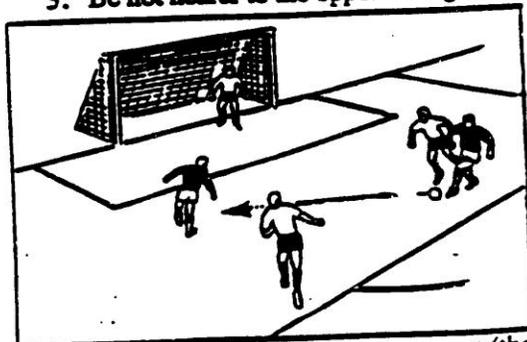
On and on the arguments go, and they never seem to be resolved. That is the joy of being a spectator: you go to watch a game and then spend all your time arguing with someone you've never met before. The arguments are about law number 11: "Offside", the most controversial law of them all.

## When is a Player Offside?

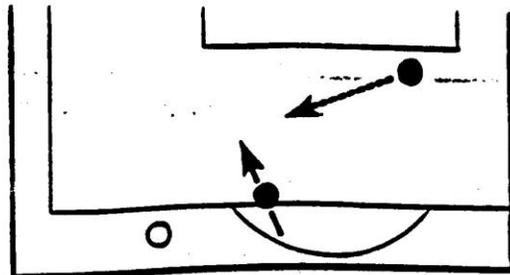
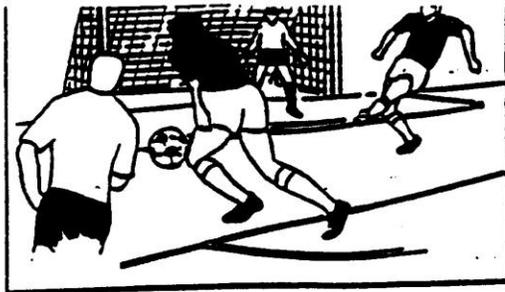
Only three things have to be considered in judging whether a player is offside: POSITION OF THE BALL, POSITION OF THE PLAYER, and the POSITION OF THE DEFENDERS.

To be offside at the moment a teammate plays the ball, a player must:

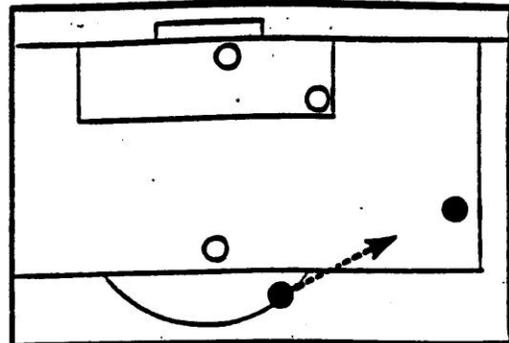
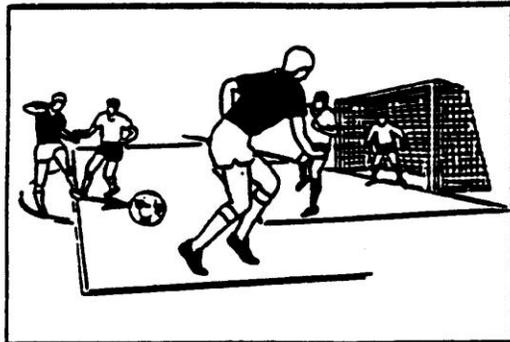
1. Be nearer to the opponents' goalline than the ball;
2. Be in the attacking half of the field;
3. Be not nearer to the opponents' goalline than at least two of his opponents.



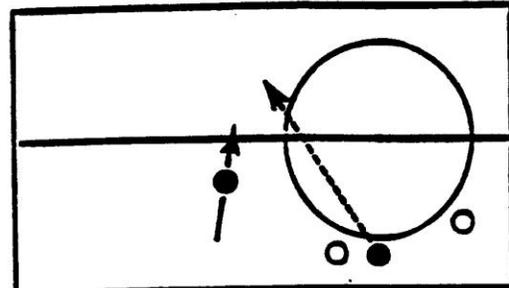
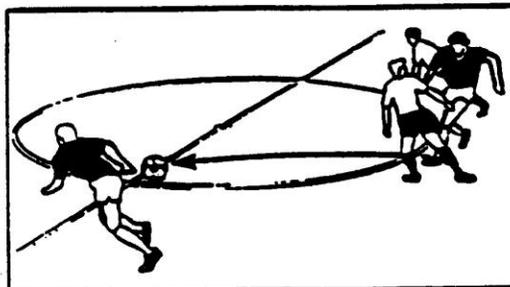
The advanced attacker has only one opponent (the goalkeeper) nearer to the goalline when the ball is played to him and is offside.



Although the attacker receiving the pass from a teammate (who dribbled into the penalty area) has only one opponent nearer to the goalline, the forward is behind the ball, and is not offside.



The player receiving the pass is ahead of the ball, but has two defenders nearer to the goalline and is not offside.

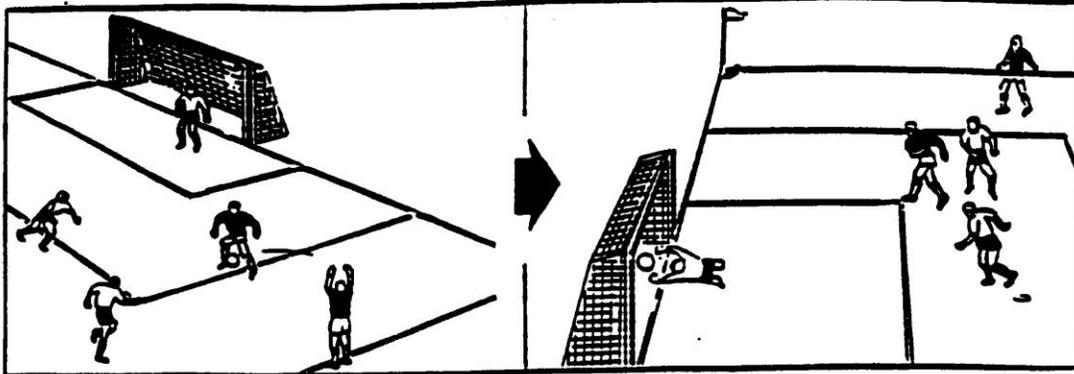


Perfect timing! The foremost attacker is nearer to the opponents goal than the defenders, but because the player isn't past the halfway line, there's no offside.

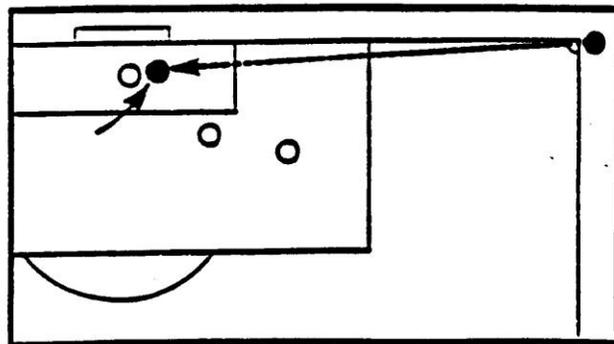
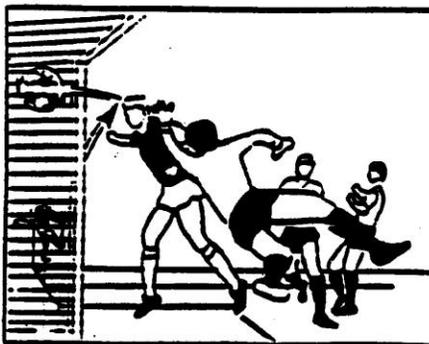
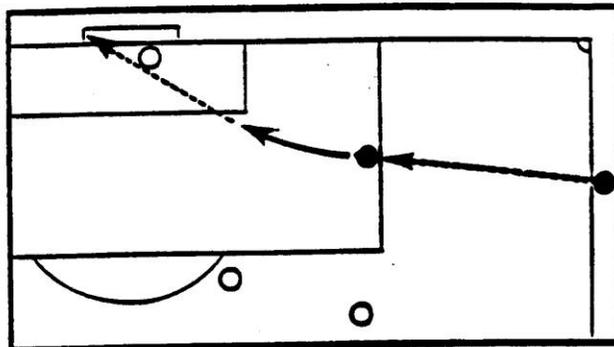


There are three special occasions when a player **CANNOT BE OFFSIDE**, even if it appears otherwise. Those occasions are when the player receives the ball directly from:

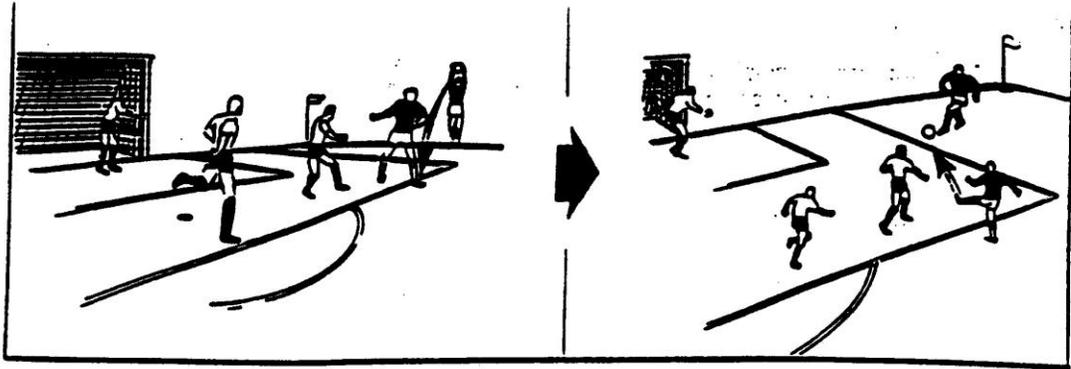
1. A throw-in (everybody knows this ...);
2. A goalkick (many coaches and players don't know this...);
3. A cornerkick (everybody knows this...).



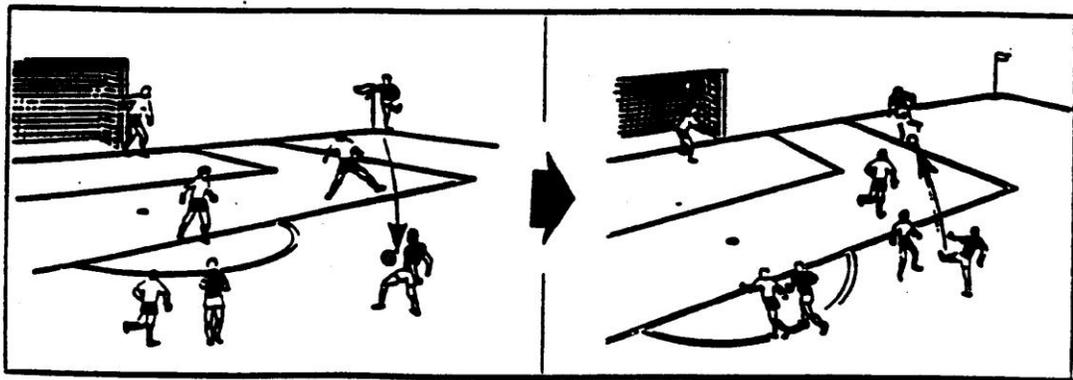
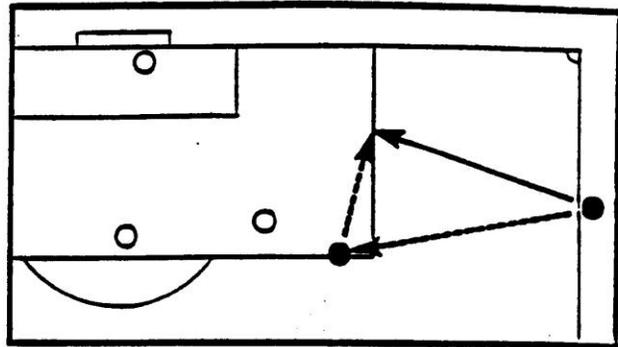
The defenders are sleeping as the throw is taken! The receiving player cannot be offside and so is free to score.



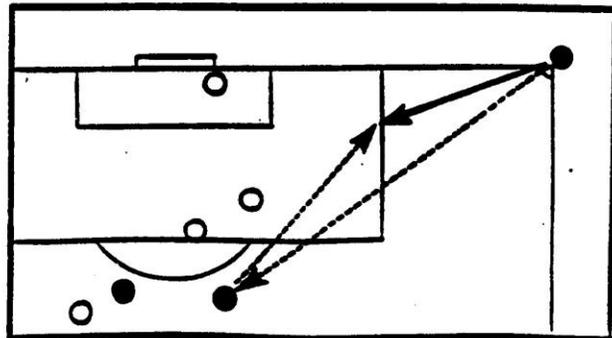
On this cornerkick, why is the forward allowed to be unmarked behind all the defenders? Not offside, the player scores an easy goal.



**A silly mistake by the attackers!** After the throw, the receiving player passes the ball forward to the thrower, who is nearer the opponents goalline than at least two defenders, and so must be offside. Only at the original throw is there no offside.

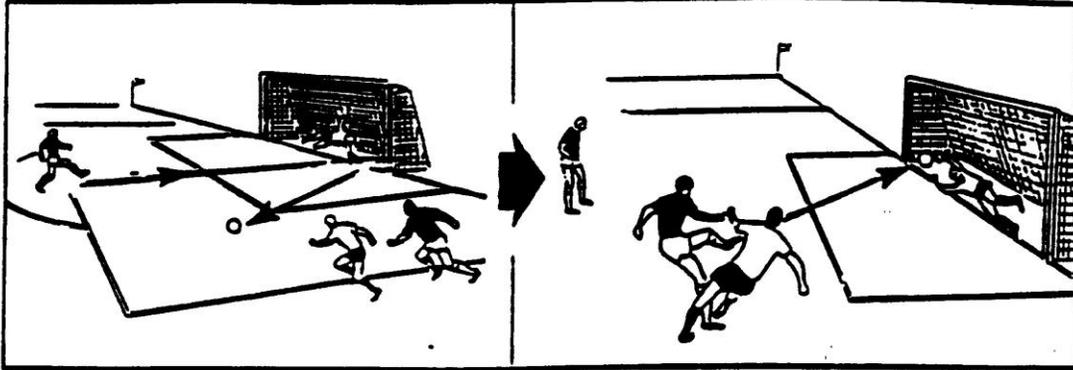


**Another mistake, another wasted attack!** The receiving player passes the ball forward to the player who took the corner, but the referee has to stop play for offside. Only at the original kick is there no offside.

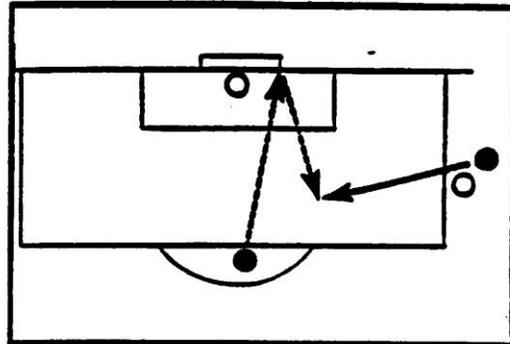


It is rare to see a goalkick being delivered so far downfield that a forward collects it behind the defenders, but it does happen. It takes a very powerful kick from the goalkeeper or a defender, and the kick would have to catch the opposition asleep near the halfway line! But remember that a GOALKICK DOES NOT MEAN A PUNT from the goalkeeper; players CAN be offside on a punt.

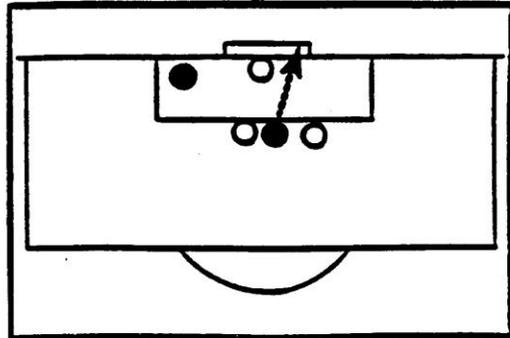
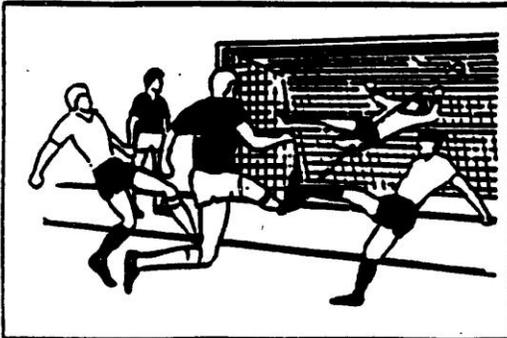
These are the simple facts of when a player is or is not offside, but there is more to the law than just that, for not every player who is offside is penalized. The referee will stop play only if the offside player becomes involved in the action or interferes with an opponent. In other words, the referee will penalize a player if THAT PLAYER GAINS AN ADVANTAGE FROM THE OFFSIDE POSITION.



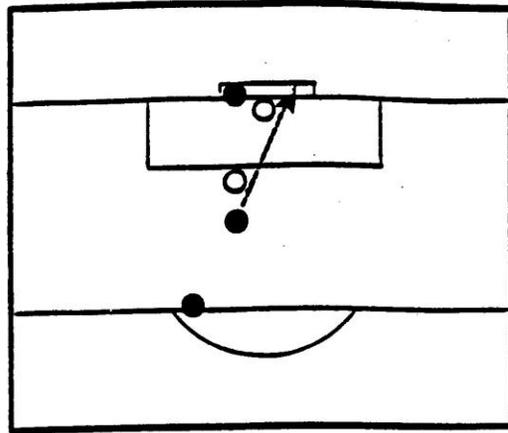
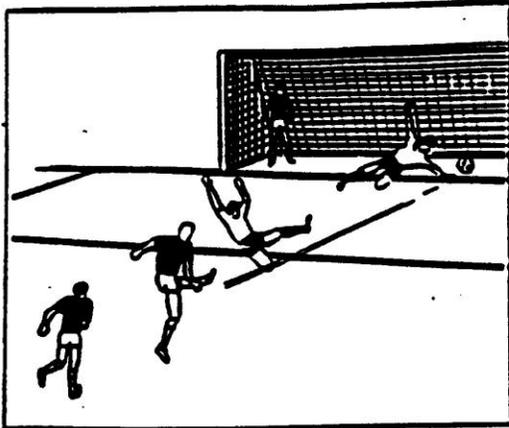
The forward on the right of the goal appears to be too far away from the action of shooting and should not be penalized. But when the ball rebounds from the post, the offside player uses the offside position to advantage, beating the opponent to the ball, and then scoring. The goal would be disallowed.



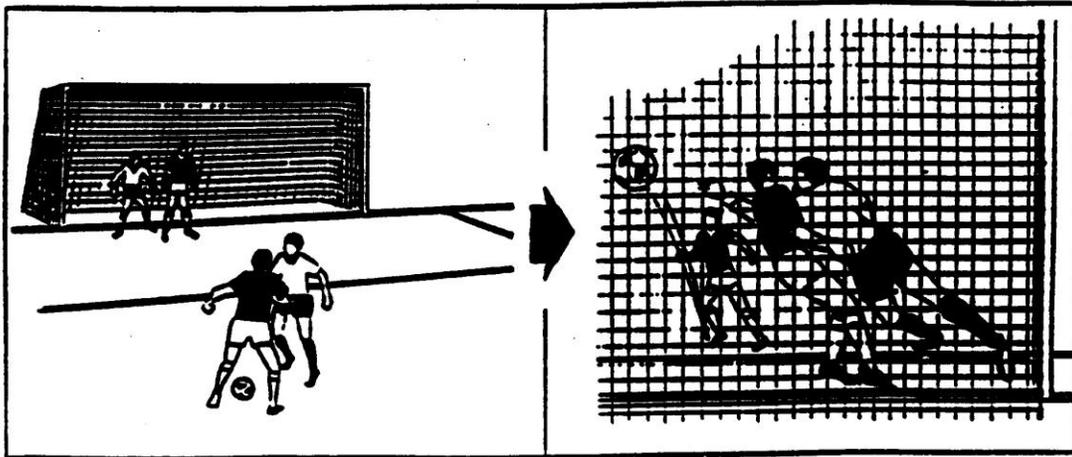
Now look at the next two illustrations.



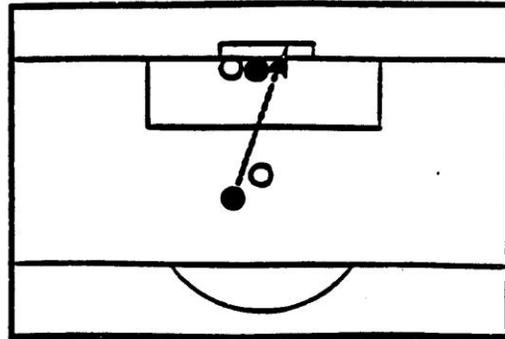
In the first there is a player by the for post in an offside position as another of the layer's teammates shoots and scores. The player would not be penalized because there is no interference with the action or with any opponent; there is no advantage from being offside. The goal would be scored whether the player was there or not.

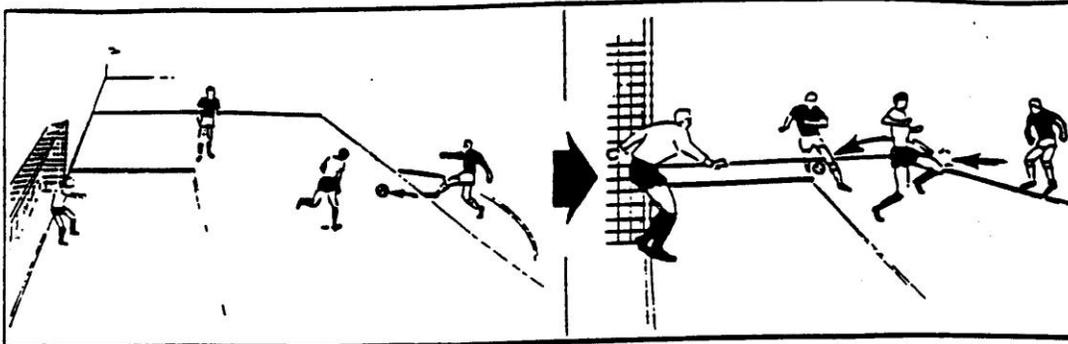


In the second illustration, the offside player is right in the goalmouth—in fact, inside the goal—but once again doesn't have any influence on what is happening. The player doesn't affect the goalkeeper or any other defender, and must not be penalized.

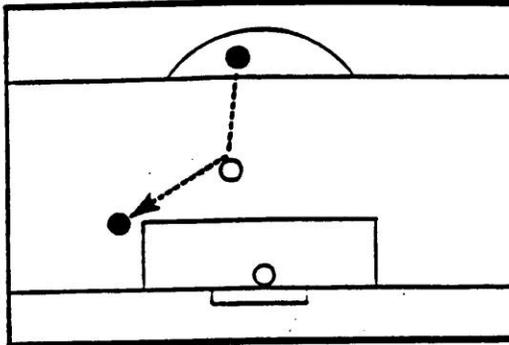


Compare these two situations with what happens in the next two drawings. As the attacker with the ball takes on the defender, there is a forward on the goalline near the goalkeeper. The attacker shoots to the goalkeeper's left. The offside player clearly affects the goalkeeper's attempt to save the shot and must be penalized for interfering with an opponent. The goal would be disallowed and an indirect freekick given.





In all these situations, the offside player received the ball from a teammate. In most cases **WHEN RECEIVING THE BALL FROM AN OPPONENT**, the offside player will not be penalized. Look at the drawing above. A forward shoots at the goal with an attacking player standing offside about seven yards away from the goalline. The "offside" player is not interfering with play in any way and if the ball goes into the net, the goal will count. The defender tries to stop the shot but merely succeeds in deflecting the ball to a player who then scores. The goal stands because the offside player had received the ball from an opponent who, quite simply, had made an error. It may seem harsh, but the law will not punish the offside player under those circumstances.



When the offside law was written, it was never intended to penalize every player who happened to be standing offside, and so there are many, many times in a game when play will not be stopped even though everyone can see that there is someone offside. But **ONCE A PLAYER WHO RECEIVES THE BALL FROM A TEAMMATE AND GAINS AN ADVANTAGE FROM BEING OFFSIDE, THE WHISTLE MUST BLOW.** It's really that simple.

### **ONE DEFENDER—AND THE GOALKEEPER?**

To avoid being called offside, the foremost attacker, when in the opponents half of the field, must not be nearer to the opponents goalline than at least two of his opponents. Nearly always one of the two players will be the goalkeeper. But that must never be assumed. Sometimes the goalkeeper will come well out of the goal in a vain attempt to collect a cross or a through ball and become separated from the goalline with the ball still in play.

## THE OFFSIDE LAW

### THE THREE FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS FO THE OFFSIDE LAW ARE:

FACT - POSITION	JUDGEMENT - TIME	OPINION - PARTICIPATION
<p>Is the player ahead of the ball?</p> <p>A player cannot possibly be offside unless he is <b>CLOSER TO HIS OPPONENT'S GOAL-LINE THAN THE BALL.</b></p> <p>(Note that a player who is even with or behind the ball is not offside.)</p>	<p>When do you judge whether a player is in an offside position</p> <p><b>AT THE MOMENT THE BALL IS PLAYED BY A TEAMMATE.</b> It is the position of the player at the moment when the ball is played by a teammate that must be judged, not his position at the time he receives the ball.</p> <p>A player who is on-side at the moment a member of his team passes the ball to him does not become offside if he goes forward during the flight of the ball.</p>	<p>Does the player participate</p> <p>A player in an offside position who, in the referee's opinion, does not:</p> <p>Participate in play - Interfere with an opponent - Try to take advantage of that offside position - <b>SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED.</b></p>

### EXCEPTIONS

A player is not in an offside position:	A player is not to be declared offside:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When he is not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents. (Note that a player who is level or even with the second to last defender or with the last two defenders is therefore not in an offside position. Also note that is says "goal-line", not "goal".)</li> <li>2. When he is in his own half of the field of play. (Note that a player who is standing with part of both feet touching the halfway-line is considered to be in his own half of the field of play.)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Merely because of his being in an offside position (It is not a violation of the Laws for a player to be in an offside position.)</li> <li>2. If he receives the ball from a Goal Kick, a Throw-in, or a Corner Kick. (For the goal kick, corner kick, and throw-in, we are talking about the second player to play the ball, the first player being the one who put the ball into play.)</li> </ol>

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## REFEREE SIGNALS



Indirect free kick



Advantage



Direct free kick



Caution



Sending Off

## ASSISTANT REFEREE SIGNALS



Substitution



Offside



Throw-in



Offside on the near side of the field



Offside in the centre of the field



Offside on the far side of the field

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## [Index](#)

# Web Sites of Interest

[www.basasoccer.com](http://www.basasoccer.com)

[www.msya.net](http://www.msya.net) (State Association)

[www.ussoccer.com](http://www.ussoccer.com) (US Soccer Federation)

[www.soccer.com](http://www.soccer.com) (Equipment)

[www.satorsoccer.com](http://www.satorsoccer.com) (Equipment)

[www.reedswain.com](http://www.reedswain.com) (Training Materials)

[www.soccervideos.com](http://www.soccervideos.com) (Training Materials)

[www.soccerxpert.com](http://www.soccerxpert.com)

[www.finesoccer.com](http://www.finesoccer.com)

[www.soccerspecific.com](http://www.soccerspecific.com)

[www.eteamz.com/soccer](http://www.eteamz.com/soccer)

[www.eteamz.com/youthsoccercoach](http://www.eteamz.com/youthsoccercoach)

[www.decatursports.com](http://www.decatursports.com)

[www.brucebrownlee.com](http://www.brucebrownlee.com)

[www.betersoccermorefun.com](http://www.betersoccermorefun.com)

[www.worldofsoccer.com](http://www.worldofsoccer.com) (good site for 6-11 age group)

<http://www.fifa.com/en/game/laws.html> (FIFA Official Laws of the Game)