



# Law 16 - The Goal Kick

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**U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program  
Entry Level Referee Course  
Competitive Youth Training  
Small Sided and Recreational Youth Training**

# Overview

**A goal kick is a method of restarting play.**



**It is awarded to the defending team when the entire ball leaves the field over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air without a goal being scored, when last touched by a player from the attacking team.**



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# Overview



**A goal can be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team.**

**If the ball directly enters the kickers own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team, but only if the ball first left the penalty area.**





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# Overview



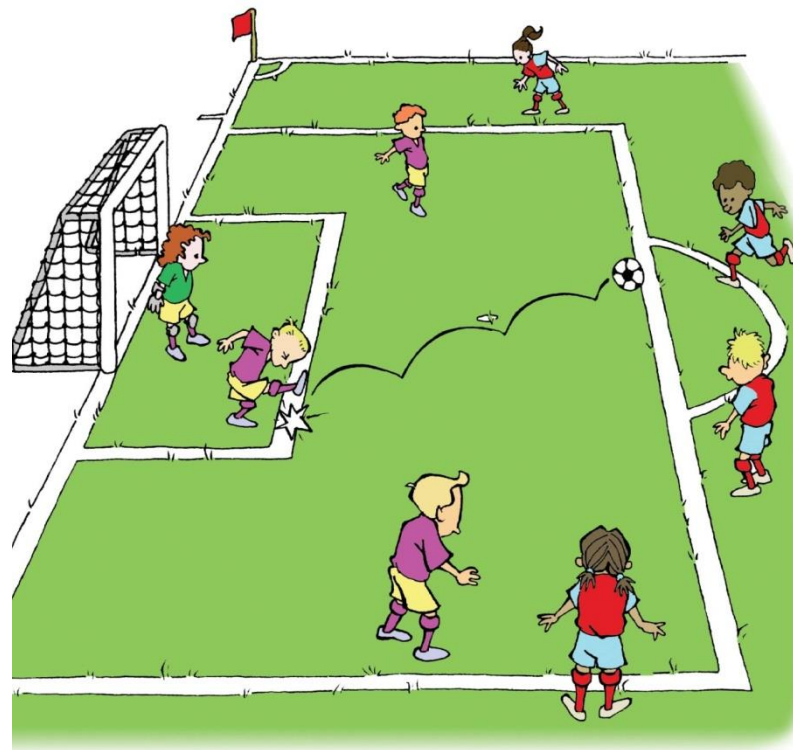
**A goal can be scored directly from a goal kick, but only against the opposing team.**

**An attacking player cannot be offside if the ball is received directly from a goal kick.**

# Procedure

**To restart play, the ball is placed and kicked from anywhere within the Goal Area.**

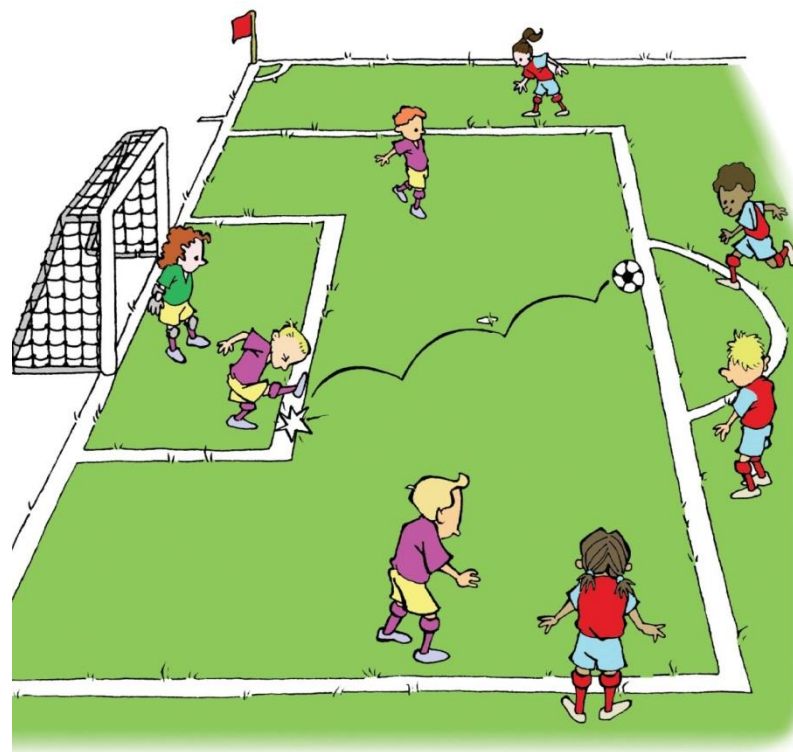
**All opposing players must be outside the Penalty Area at the taking of a goal kick.**



# Procedure

**The ball is in play as soon as it is kicked and leaves the Penalty Area (on the first touch).**

**All opposing players must remain outside the Penalty Area until the ball is in play.**





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# Requirements

**If the ball is not kicked directly out of the Penalty Area (and into the field-of-play), then the goal kick must be retaken.**



**Also, if any player from either team (including the kicker) makes contact with the ball **before it leaves** the Penalty Area, the goal kick must be retaken.**



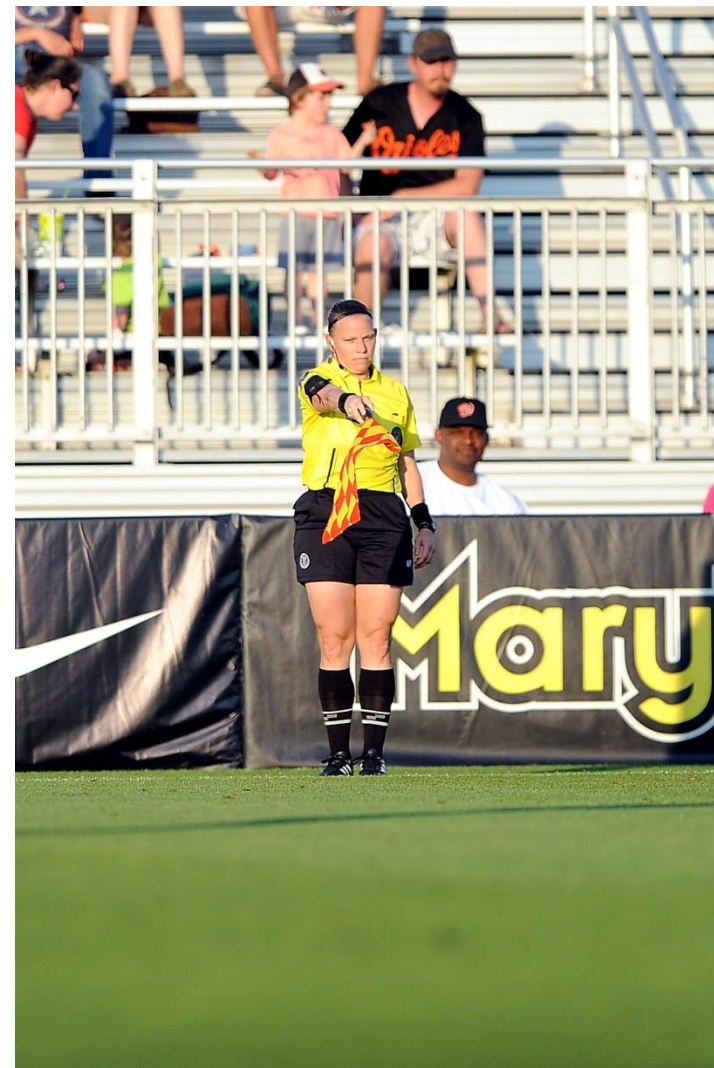


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# Infringements

If, after the **ball is in-play**, the kicker touches the ball again before it has touched another player an indirect free kick (IFK) is awarded to the opposing team, to be taken from the place where the infringement (2nd touch) occurred.





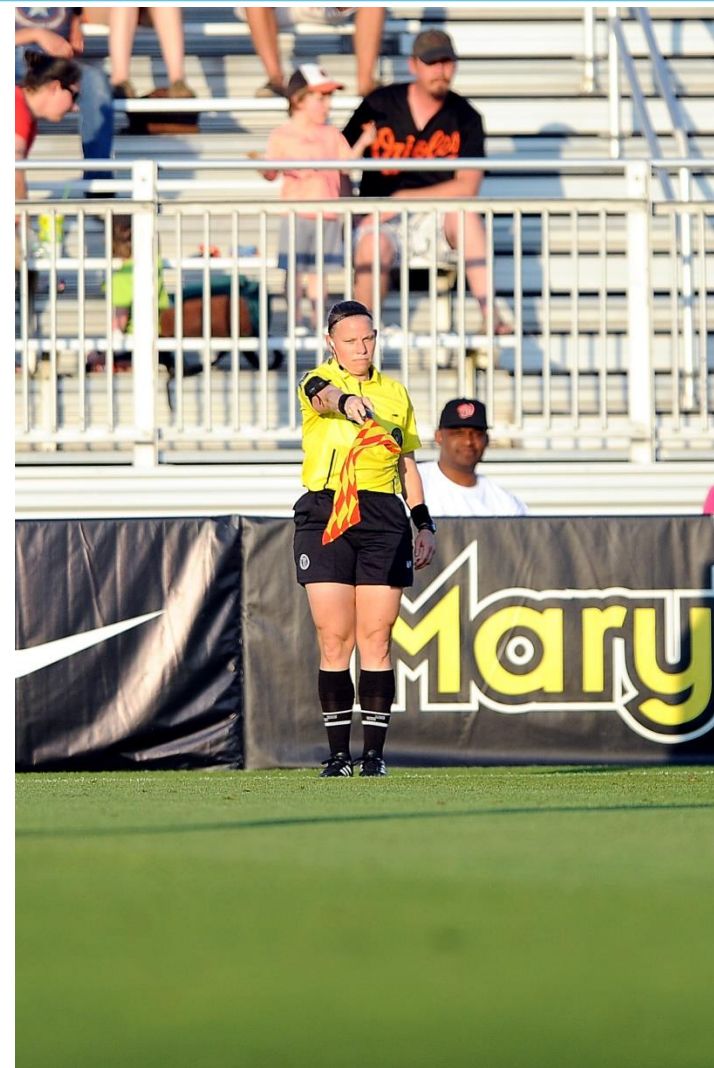


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# Infringements

**The goal kick is retaken for any other infringement, such as an opponent entering the Penalty Area after the ball is kicked, but before it leaves the Penalty Area.**



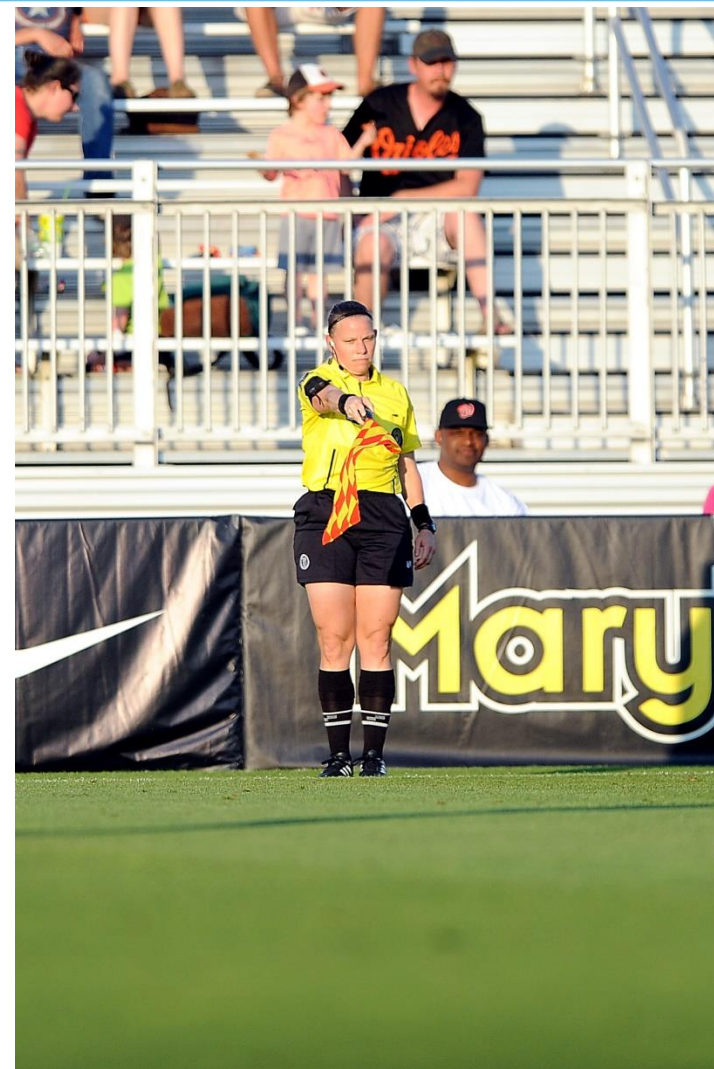


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# Infringements

**If an opponent, who is still within the Penalty Area when the goal kick is taken, then touches or challenges for the ball after it is in-play and before it has touched another player, the goal kick is retaken.**



# Procedure



**Because small-sided and recreational youth games can have different field sizes and field markings, officials should be aware of any local rules of competition that may modify the standard goal kick procedure.**





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# Player Management

**Time wasting tactics can take place at the taking of a goal kick, usually when the winning team has the lead late in the game.**



**Upon being awarded a goal kick, the kicking team should not waste time by placing the ball within the goal area in preparation for the restart and then unnecessarily moving it to another location.**



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# Player Management

**Referees should consider issuing a warning and then may show a yellow card for delaying the restart of play, if the team does it again.**



**Referees should be aware of this tactic and use preventive techniques to keep the game flowing and to avoid issuing cautions if possible.**



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# Review Question

**91. A goal kick is awarded when the ball wholly crosses a \_\_\_\_\_ when last touched by a player from the attacking team.**

- A. Touch line
- B. Goal line
- C. Side line
- D. End line





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# Review Question

**92. During a goal kick, are all opposing players required to be outside the penalty area until the ball is in play?**

A. Yes

B. No



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# Review Question

**93. When is the ball in play from a goal kick?**

- A. When it is kicked and moves
- B. When it leaves the Goal Area
- C. When it leaves the Penalty Area
- D. Not until it has been touched by a player other than the kicker



# Review Question

**94. How should the referee manage time wasting during a goal kick?**

- A. Give a verbal warning and then issue a yellow card if the behavior continues
- B. Show the player a straight red card
- C. Ignore and add time wasted