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Law 9 - Ball In and Out of Play



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

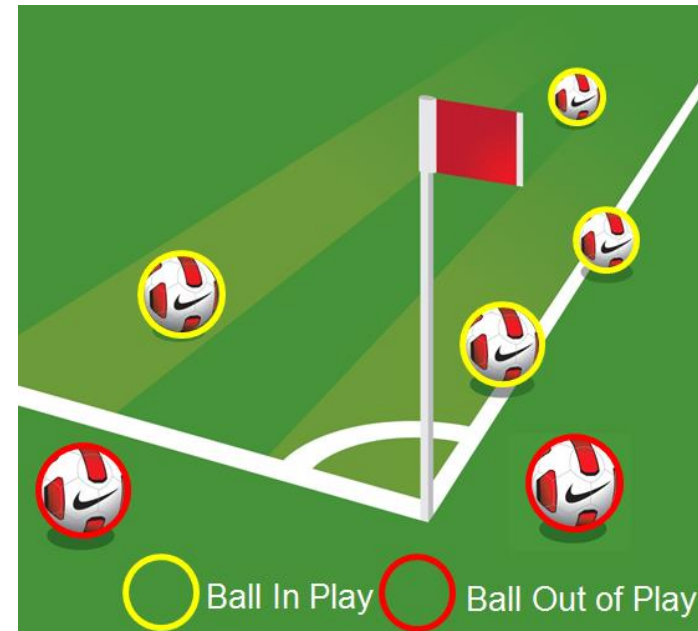


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Boundary Lines

The ball only leaves the field-of-play when it completely crosses the whole of the goal line or touch line, whether on the ground or in the air.



Officials should understand that the outside edge of each boundary line has an invisible plane that extends up from the ground into the air.

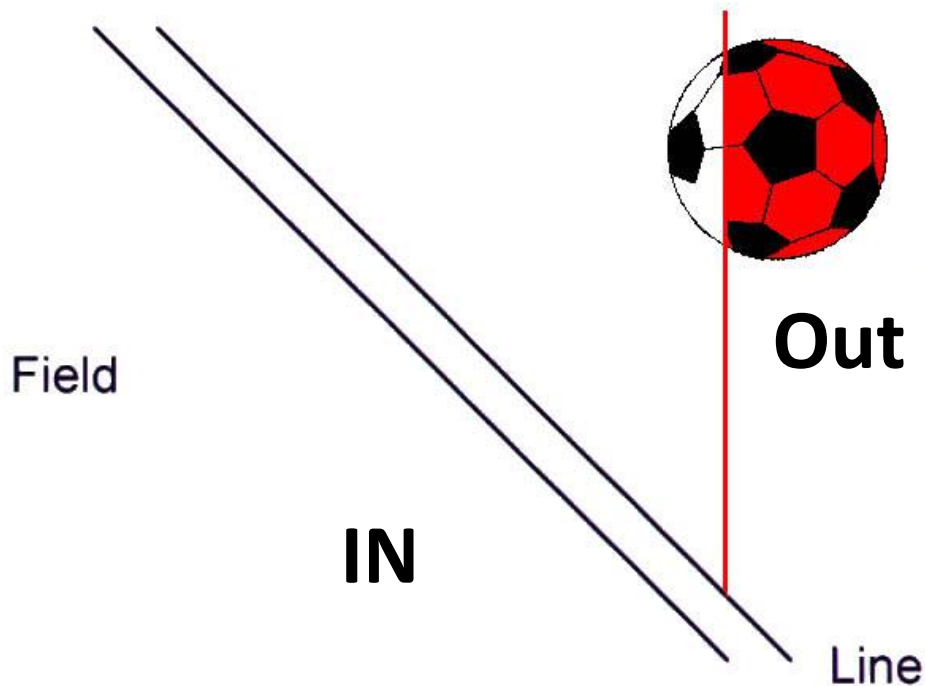


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Boundary Lines

**A ball may
cross a
boundary line
on the ground
or in the air**



**This ball is not out of play because part of
it is still above the outside edge of the line**



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Boundary Lines



When in the air, the ball is “out-of-play” when it completely crosses this invisible plane.

The positioning of the AR is very important in order to make this determination.



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Boundary Lines

Remember that the entire ball must cross the entire boundary line before it is considered off the field of play.



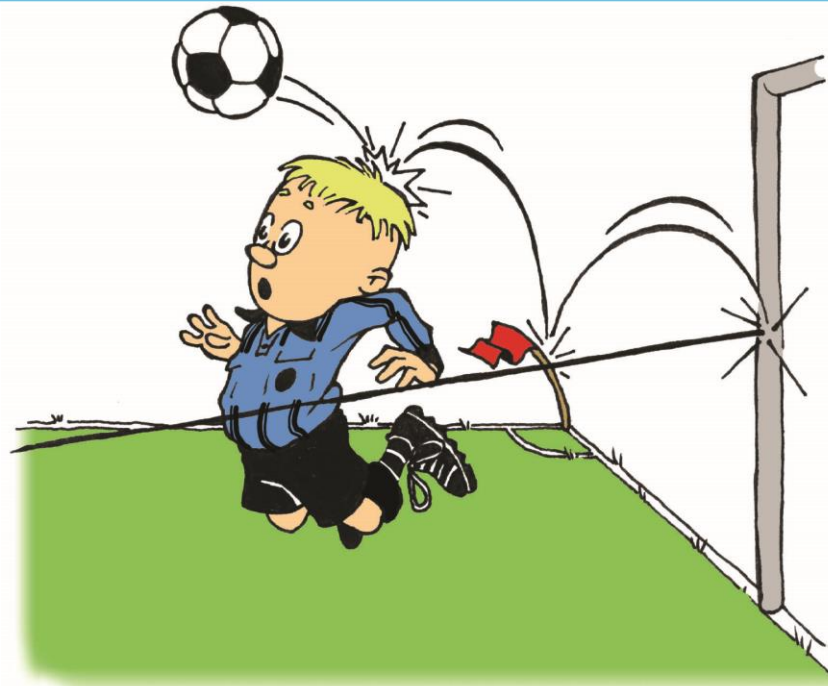
This applies to when the ball is on the ground or in the air.



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Rebounds



Note that a ball is still considered to be in play even if it rebounds off a goalpost, crossbar, corner flag, referee or assistant referee and having never left the field-of-play.



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Stoppage

The ball is also “out-of-play” when play has been stopped by the referee, for any reason, such as when a foul or misconduct has occurred.



Note that the ball is deemed to be out-of-play when the decision is made by the referee, not at the time the whistle is blown.

The ball is also considered to be out-of-play if the whistle is blown accidentally.



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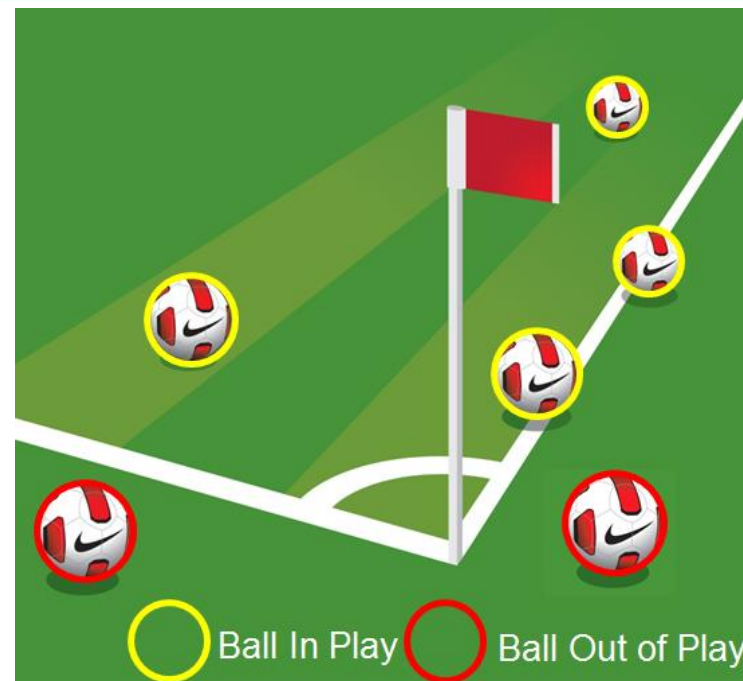
Boundary Lines

In summary, once the game starts from the kick-off, the ball remains in play:

- 1) until it wholly crosses over a goal line or a touch line**

... or ...

- 2) until the referee stops play.**





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Review Question



48. Does the entire ball or just part of the ball have to cross a boundary line in order for it to be considered out-of-play?

- A. Entire ball
- B. Part of the ball



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Review Question

49. Is the ball still considered in-play when the referee blows his or her whistle?

A. Yes

B. No



Review Question

50. What should the referee do if the ball completely crosses the touchline in the air and blows back onto the field?

- A. Allow play to continue since the ball never touched the ground outside the field of play
- B. Stop play and restart with a throw-in