



Law 11 (8 & 9)



U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program
Grade 9 Referee Course
Small Sided and Recreational Youth Training



Position

A player is in an offside position when they are:

1. in the opponent's half of the field, AND
2. closer to the opposing team's goal line than the ball, AND
3. closer to the opposing team's goal line than the second to last opponent.

For a player to be in an offside position, all 3 of these conditions must be met.



Offside Position

Closer to the opposing team's goal line means any part of the player's head, body or feet, but not including the arms, is closer to the opponent's goal line than both the ball and the second to last opponent.

In other words, any part of the body that can legally play the ball is considered when determining offside position.

It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position.



No Offside Position

A player cannot be in an offside position when:

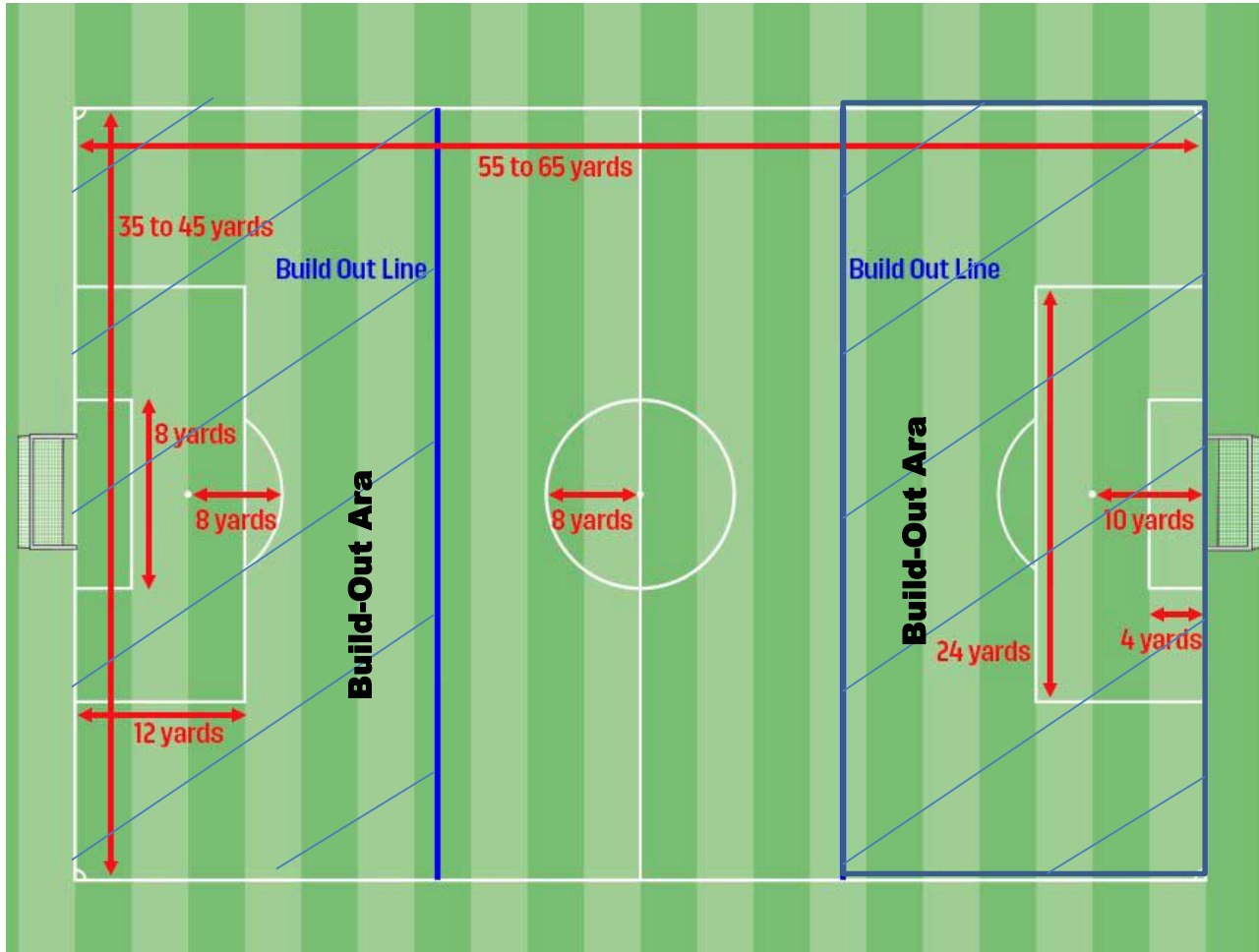
- **Even with the ball ... or**
- **Even with the second-to-last opponent ... or**
- **Even with the last two opponents, if they are even with each other ... or**
- **On the halfway line, i.e. totally within their own half of the field ... or**
- **The ball is played to them by an opponent**

A player cannot be in an offside position ,if any of these requirements are met.



U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiative

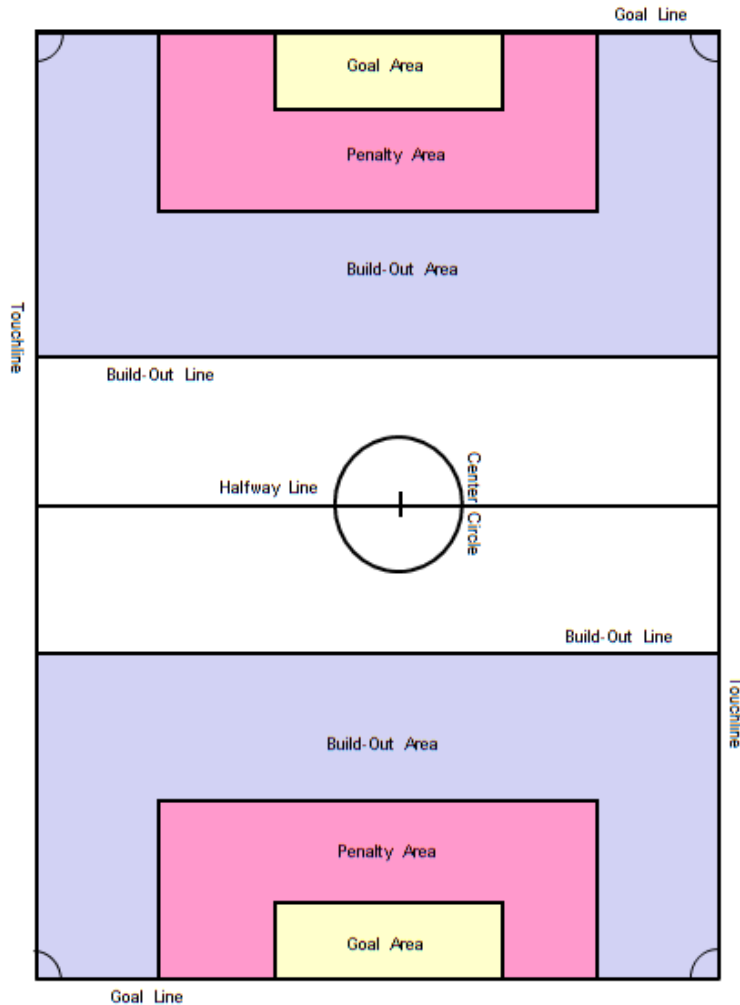
7v7 (10-U) Build Out Line / Build-Out Area:





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The USSoccer Player Development Initiative recommends that 9-U AND 10-U (7v7) youth games use modified field markings that include a “Build-out Line”.

The Build-Out Area will be used in 9-U and 10-U (7v7) youth games to identify and denote where Offside offenses can be called.



U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiative

7v7 Build-Out Line / Build-Out Area

9-U and 10-U Matches

Players can only be penalized for an Offside offense that takes place in their opponents' Build-Out Area.

Players can not be penalized for an Offside offense if they are between the halfway line and their opponents' Build-Out Line.



Active Play

In order for an attacking player to be involved in active play, that player must, in the opinion of the referee, be

- **Interfering with play**
- **Interfering with an opponent**
- **Gaining an advantage by being in that position**



Offense

In order for a player to be penalized for an offside offense, all of the following criteria must be met.

- **Player must be in an offside position**
- **Player is in an offside position at the moment the ball last touches or is played by a teammate**
- **Player then becomes involved in active play in the opinion of the referee**



Active Involvement

Active involvement includes:

- Making contact with the ball;
- Blocking path of an opponent;
- Blocking vision or line of sight of an opponent;
- Distracting or deceiving an opponent;
- Receiving a ball that rebounds from the goal or a deflection from a defender not in control of the ball.





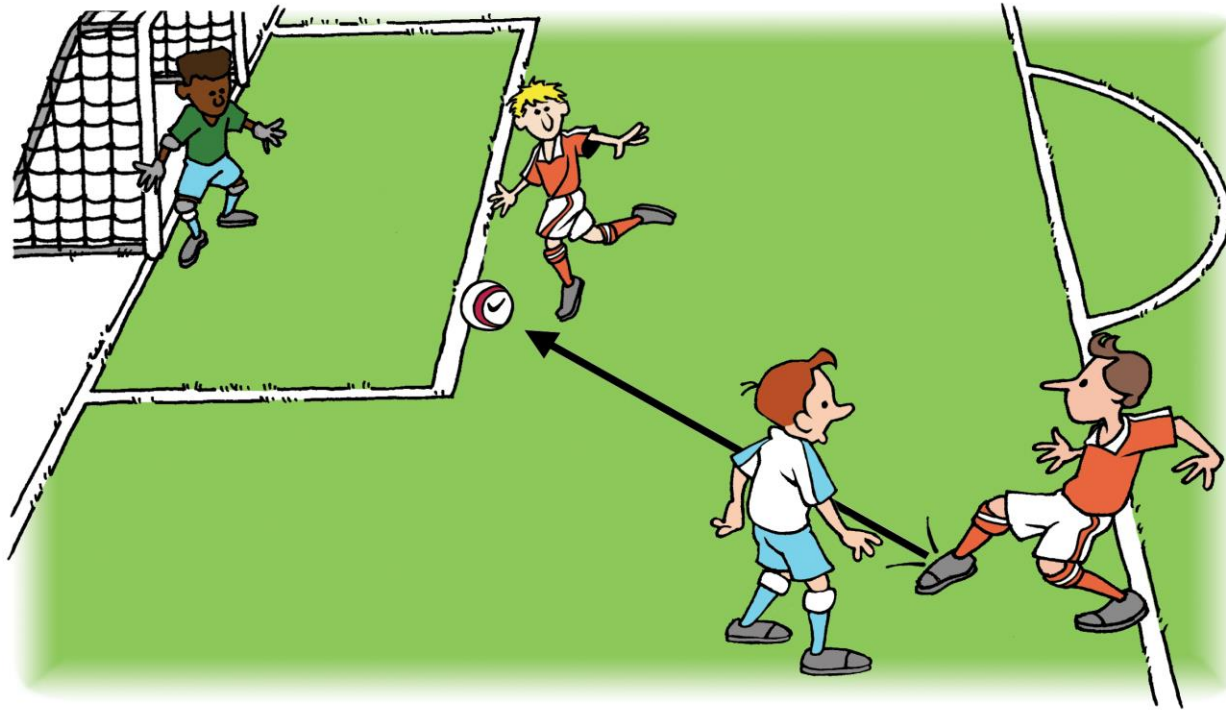
Active Involvement

Distracting or deceiving usually means that the attacker's movement affects an opponent by causing them to move into the area of active play to defend against or challenge the attacker.



An attacking player is still deemed to be involved in active play, if the ball deflects off a defender who did not control or play the ball.

Interfering Play

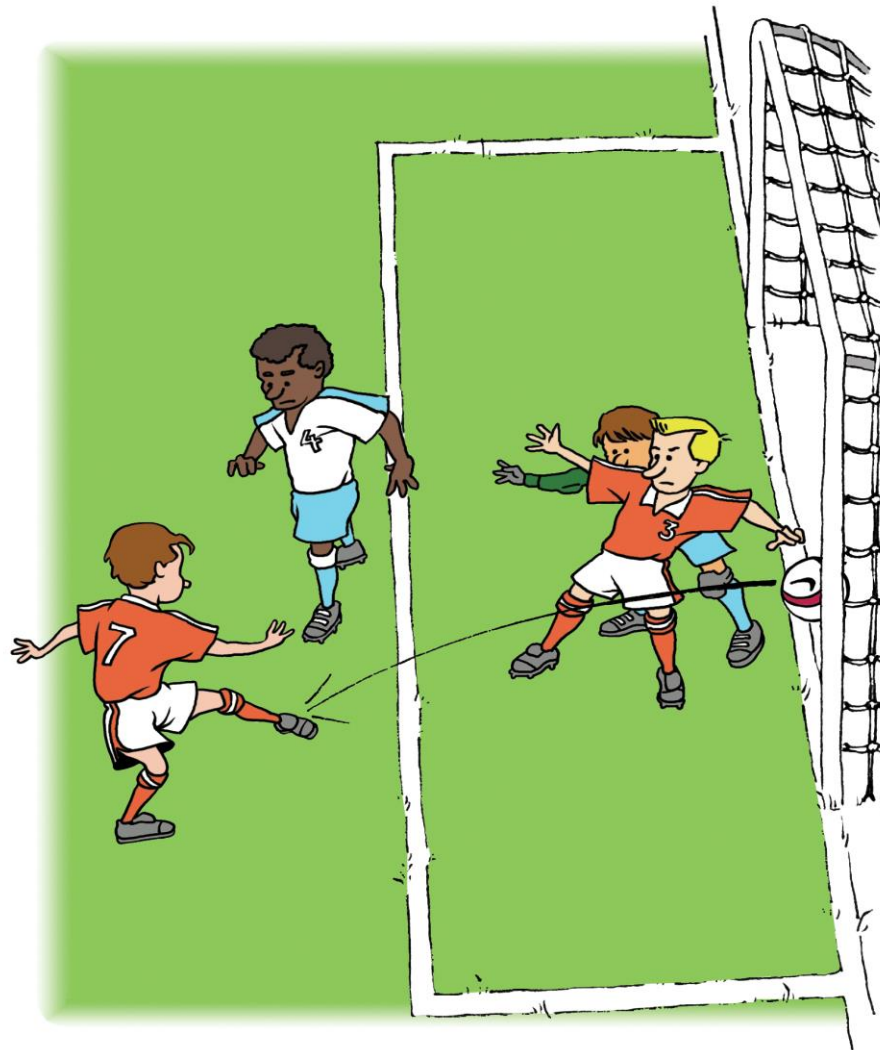


“Interfering with Play” is defined as playing or touching a ball last played or touched by a teammate.

Interfering Opponent

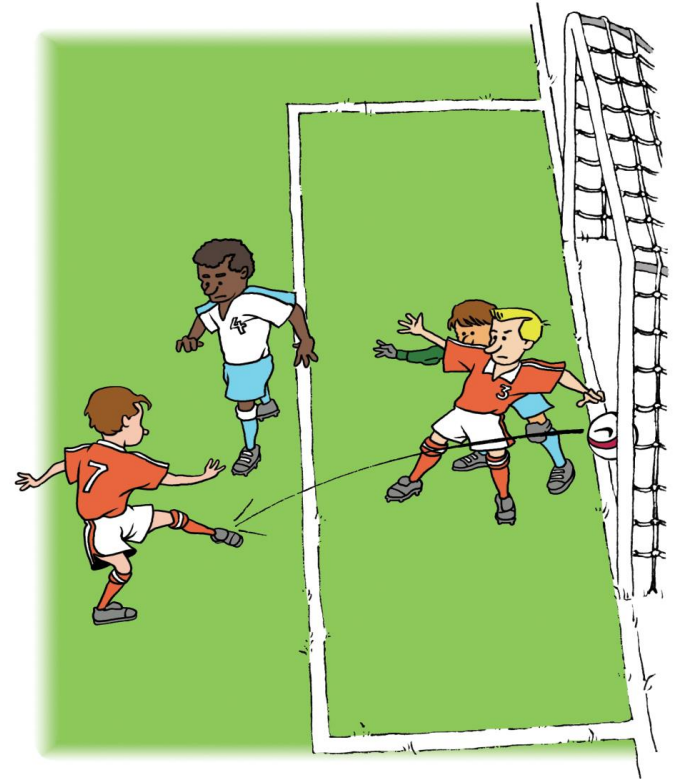
“Interfering with an Opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing the ball by:

- Blocking their vision or line of sight
- Blocking their path
- Distracting or deceiving them

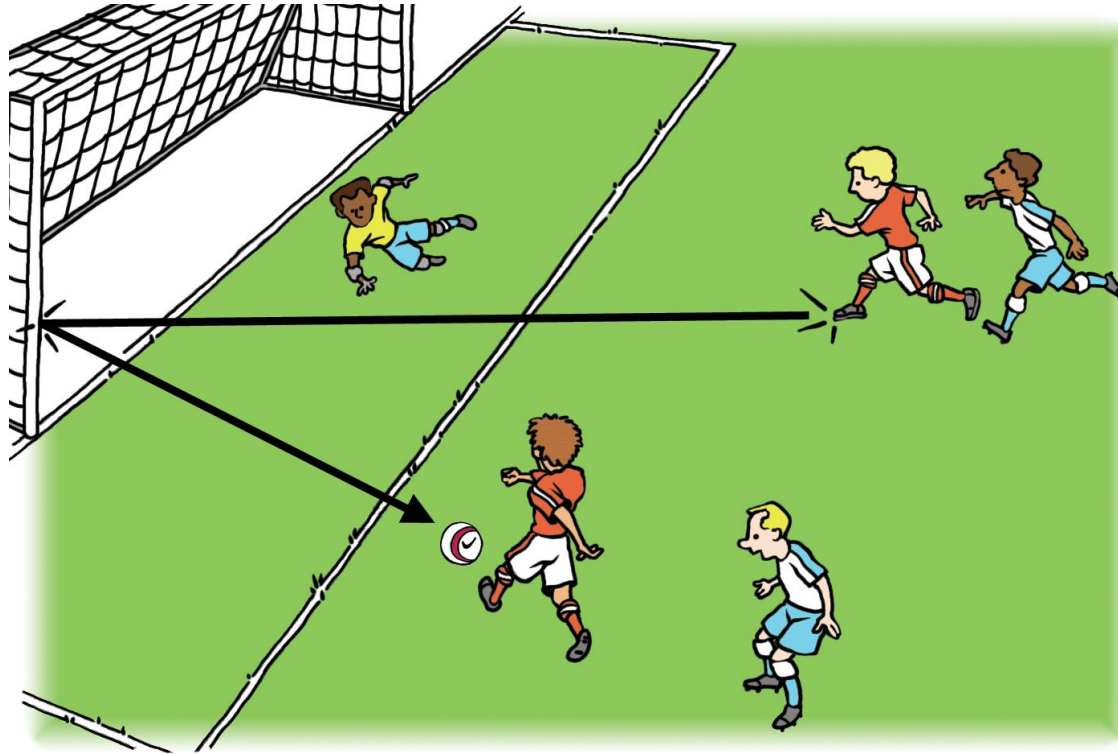


Interfering Opponent

- **challenging an opponent for the ball**
- **clearly attempting to play a ball, which is close to an opponent when this action impacts the opponent**
- **making an obvious action, which clearly impacts the ability of an opponent to play the ball**



Gaining Advantage

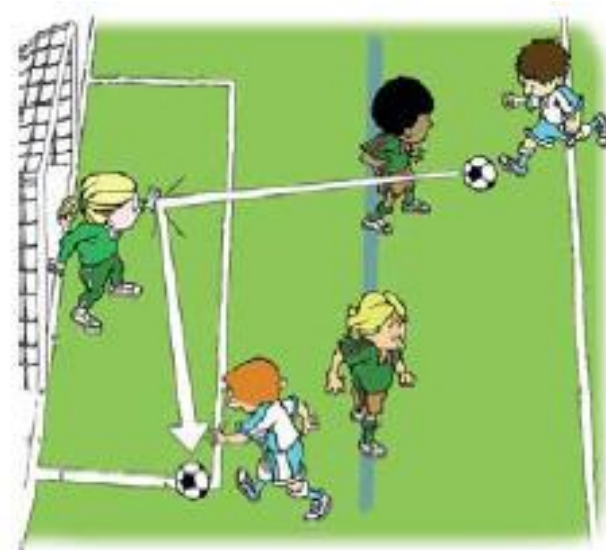


“Gaining an Advantage” means playing a ball that rebounds off the goalpost, crossbar or opponent.



Gaining Advantage

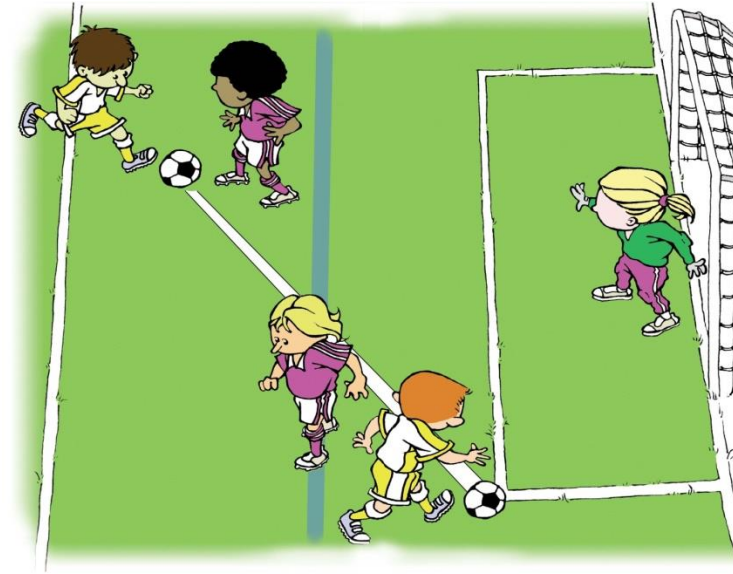
Gaining an Advantage can also occur when the ball has been deliberately “saved” by any opponent.



A “save” is when a player stops a ball, which is going into or very close to the goal, by using any part of their body except the hands, unless the save is by the goalkeeper within their own penalty area.

Offense

The attacking player is in an offside position because he is closer to the goal line than both the ball and the second-to-last defender, before the ball is played.

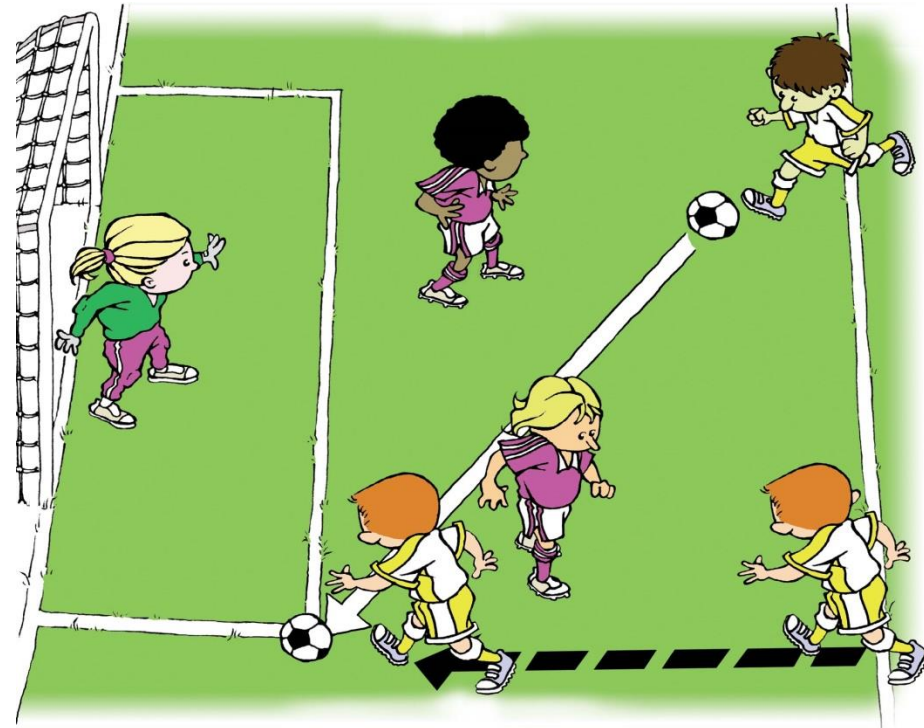


While in an offside position, a teammate plays the ball.

The player then becomes involved in active play by touching the ball and should therefore be penalized for an offside offense.

No Offense

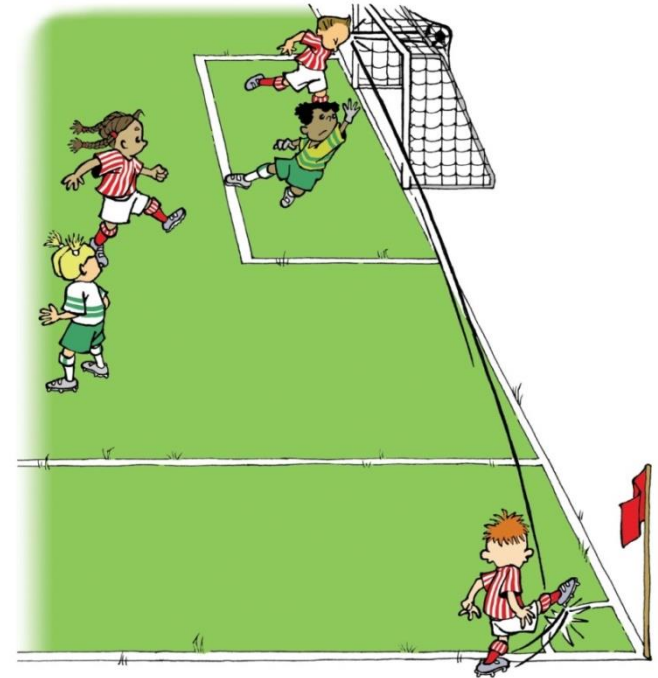
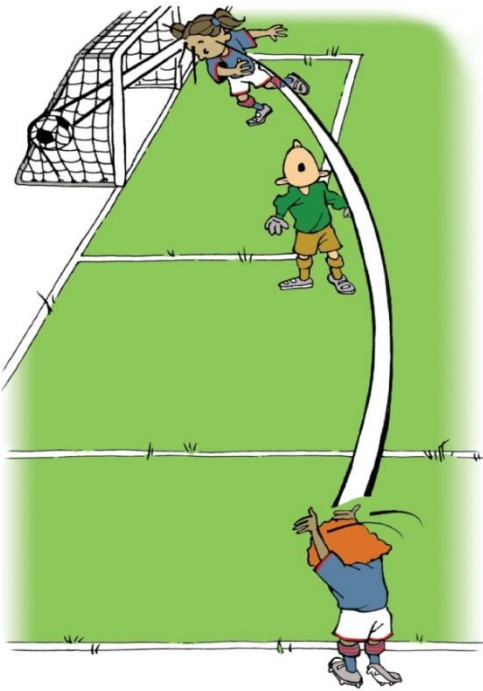
Although the attacking player receives the ball behind the second-to-last opponent, he was not in an offside position at the time the ball was played by the teammate, so there is no offense committed.



No Offense

There is no offense if a player receives the ball directly from:

- a goal kick
- a throw-in or
- a corner kick





Determining Offside

When determining offside, there are three (3) questions that must be asked.

- 1) Was the attacker in an offside position?**
- 2) If yes, while in an offside position, did the attacker participate in active play?**
- 3) If yes, did the attacker receive the ball directly from a throw-in, goal kick or corner kick?**



Determining Offside

- 1) If the referee can't answer 'yes' to the first question, there is no need to ask the next questions.**
- 2) Likewise, if the referee cannot answer 'yes' to the second question, there is no need to ask the third question.**
- 3) Then, if the answer is 'no' to the third question, there is an offside offense.**



Offside Duties

The primary duty of the ARs is to indicate when a player may be penalized for being in an offside position.



In order to do this, it is critical that the ARs maintain their position even with the second-to-last defender or the ball, whichever is closer to the goal line.



Offside Duties

ARs must also maintain total concentration and can't lose their focus on this duty.



Based on the information provided by the AR, the referee then makes the final decision on whether to stop the game and penalize the offside offense



Restart

In the event of an offside offense, the referee awards an indirect free kick (IFK) to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.



The infringement occurs at the location where the player becomes actively involved.



Infringements

If a defender deliberately leaves the field-of-play in order to place an attacker in a offside position, the defender will be considered to be on the goal line or touchline at the point they left the field.

The defender will be considered in this position for purposes of offside until the next stoppage in play or until the attacking team has lost possession of the ball.

Please note: when the defender deliberately leaves the field in this situation, the defender **MUST be cautioned at the next stoppage in play.**



Infringements

An attacking player MAY step off the field of play in order to not be involved in active play.

Please note: The attacker must ask for the referee's permission to re-enter the field. If the attacker re-enters the field and gains an unfair advantage the attacker MUST be cautioned .

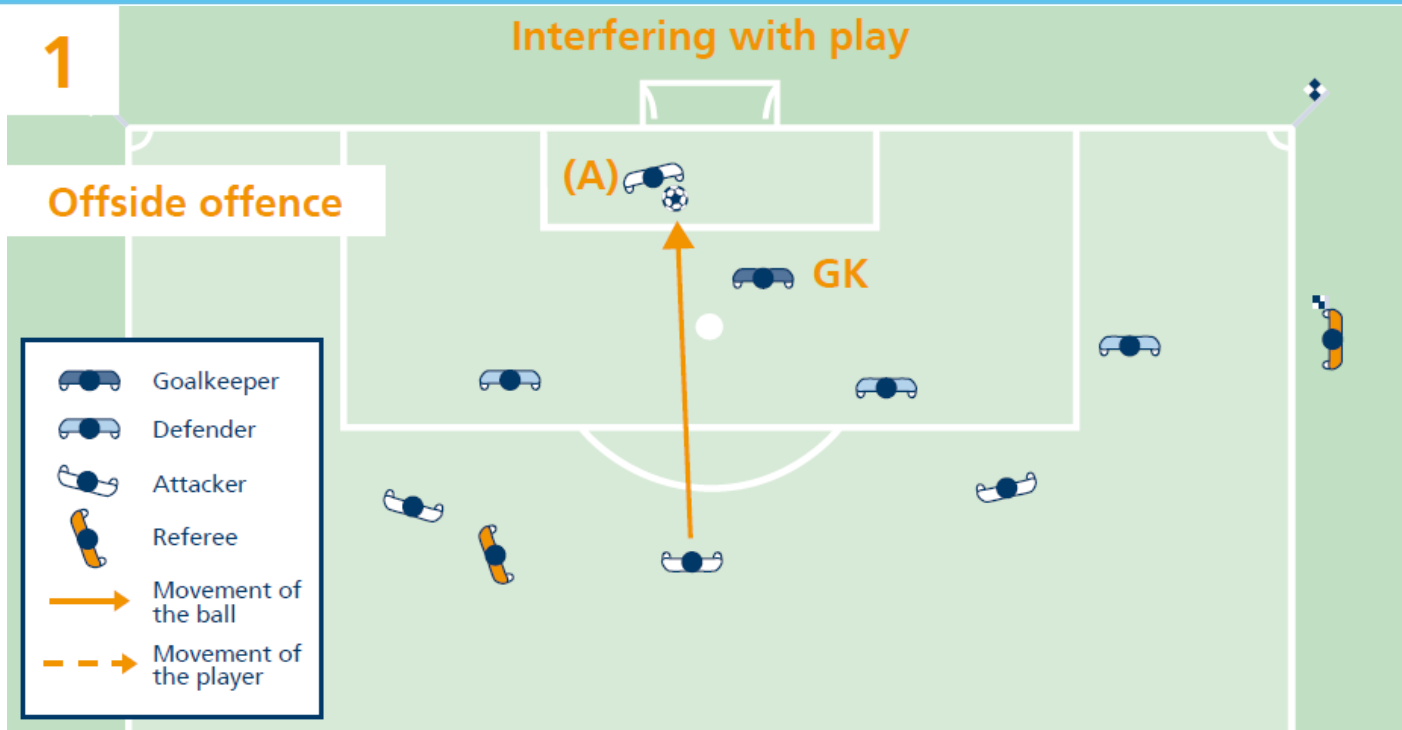


Examples

Review the following examples that demonstrate the various elements of Law 11.



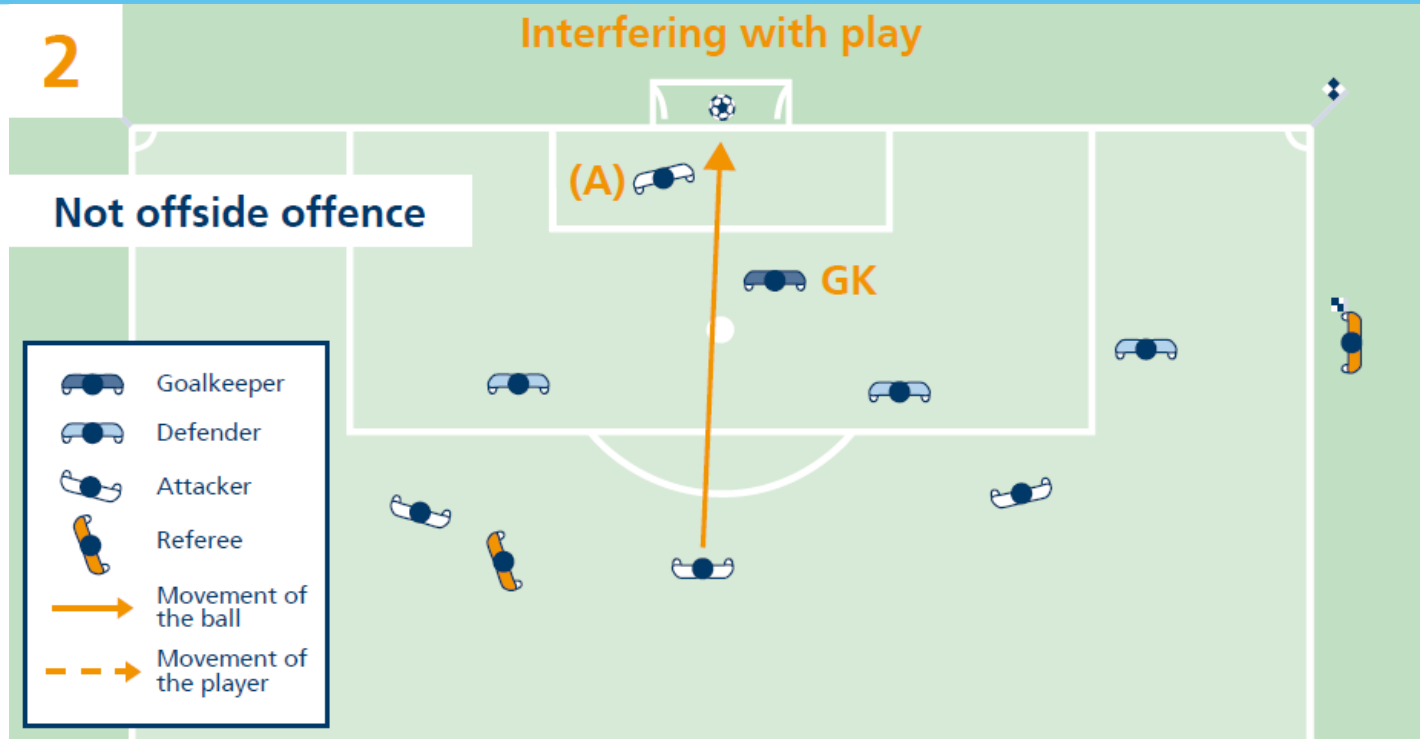
Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position, not interfering with an opponent, touches the ball.

The AR must raise the flag when the player touches the ball.

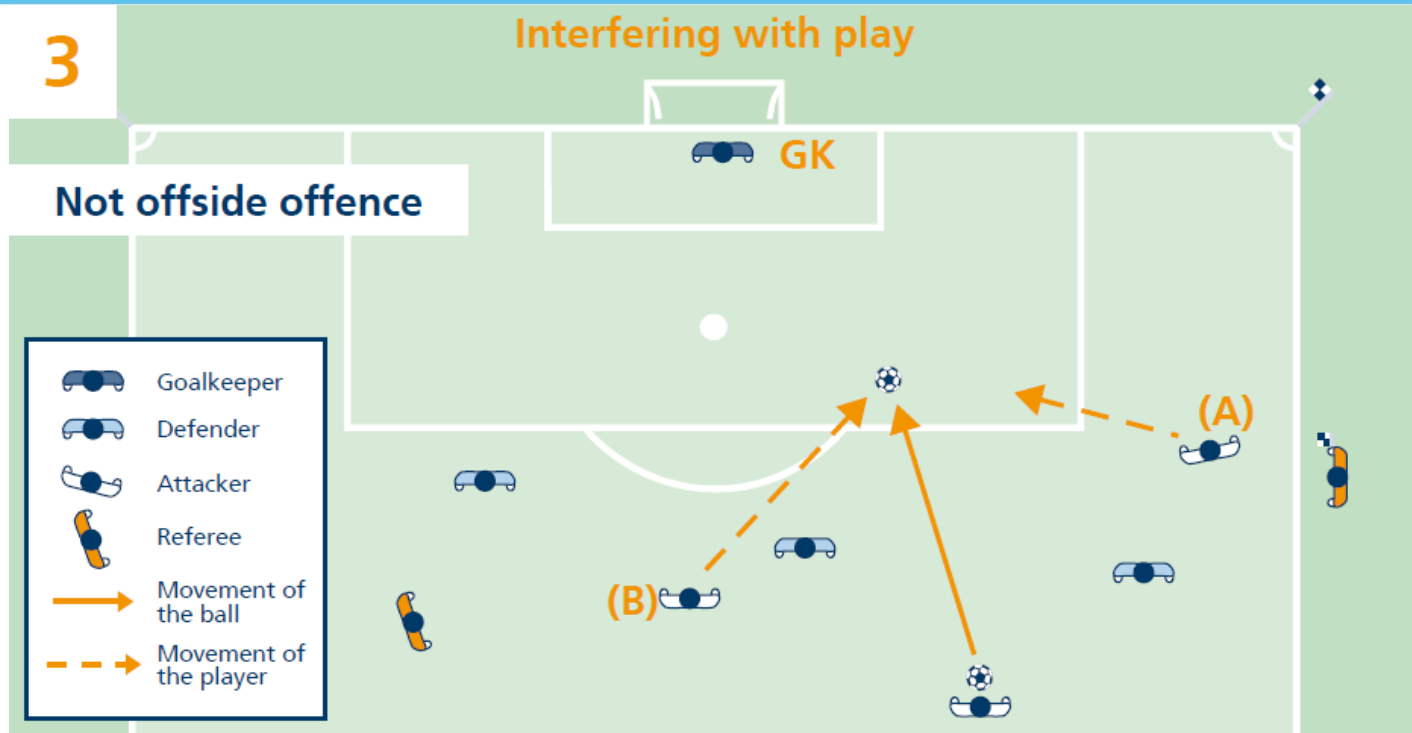
No Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position, not interfering with an opponent, does not touch the ball.

The player cannot be penalized because he did not touch the ball.

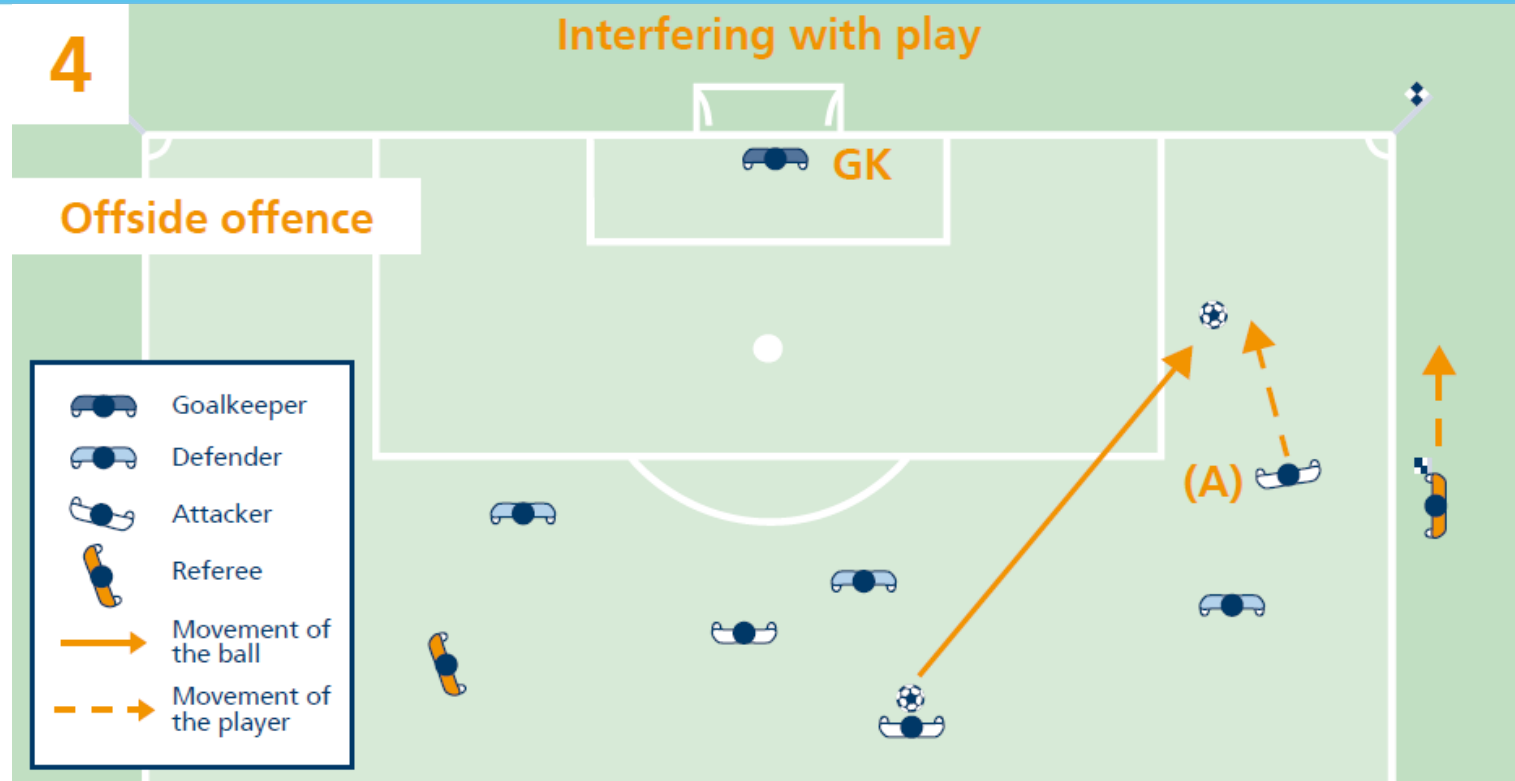
No Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position runs towards the ball and teammate (B) in an onside position also runs towards the ball and plays it.

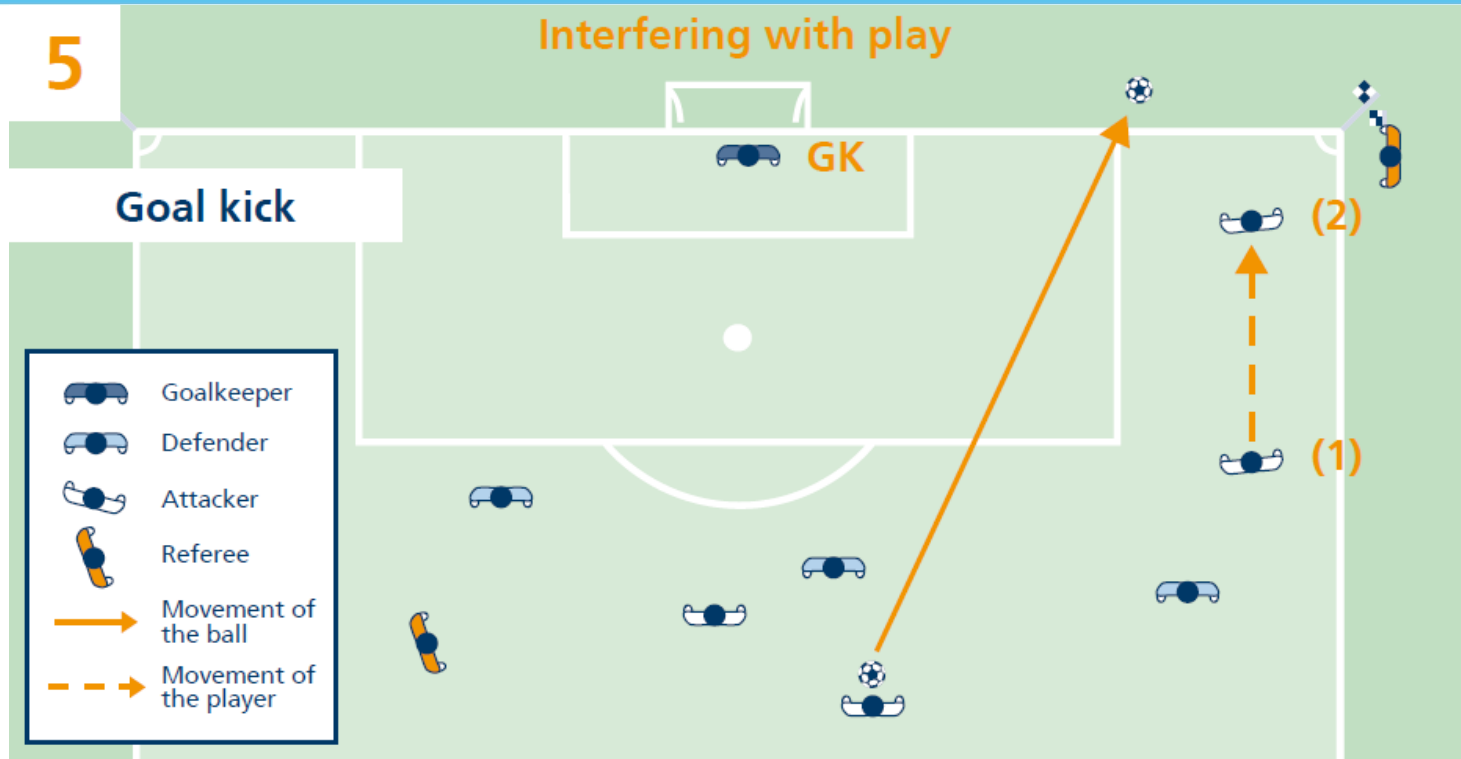
Attacker (A) cannot be penalized because she did not touch the ball.

Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position may be penalized before playing or touching the ball, if, in the opinion of the referee, no other teammate in an onside position has the opportunity to play the ball.

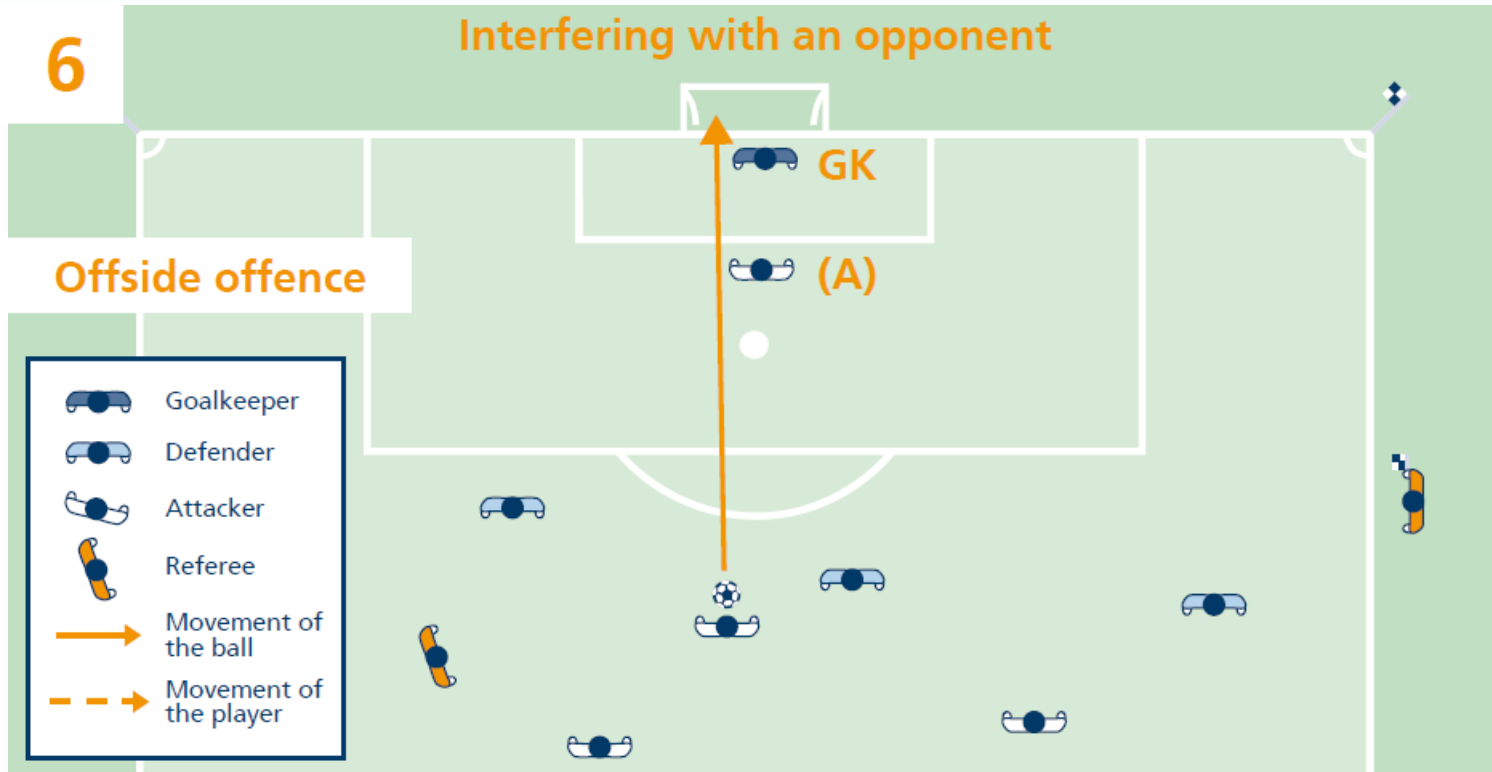
No Offense



An attacker in an offside position runs towards the ball and does not touch the ball.

The AR must signal for a goal kick.

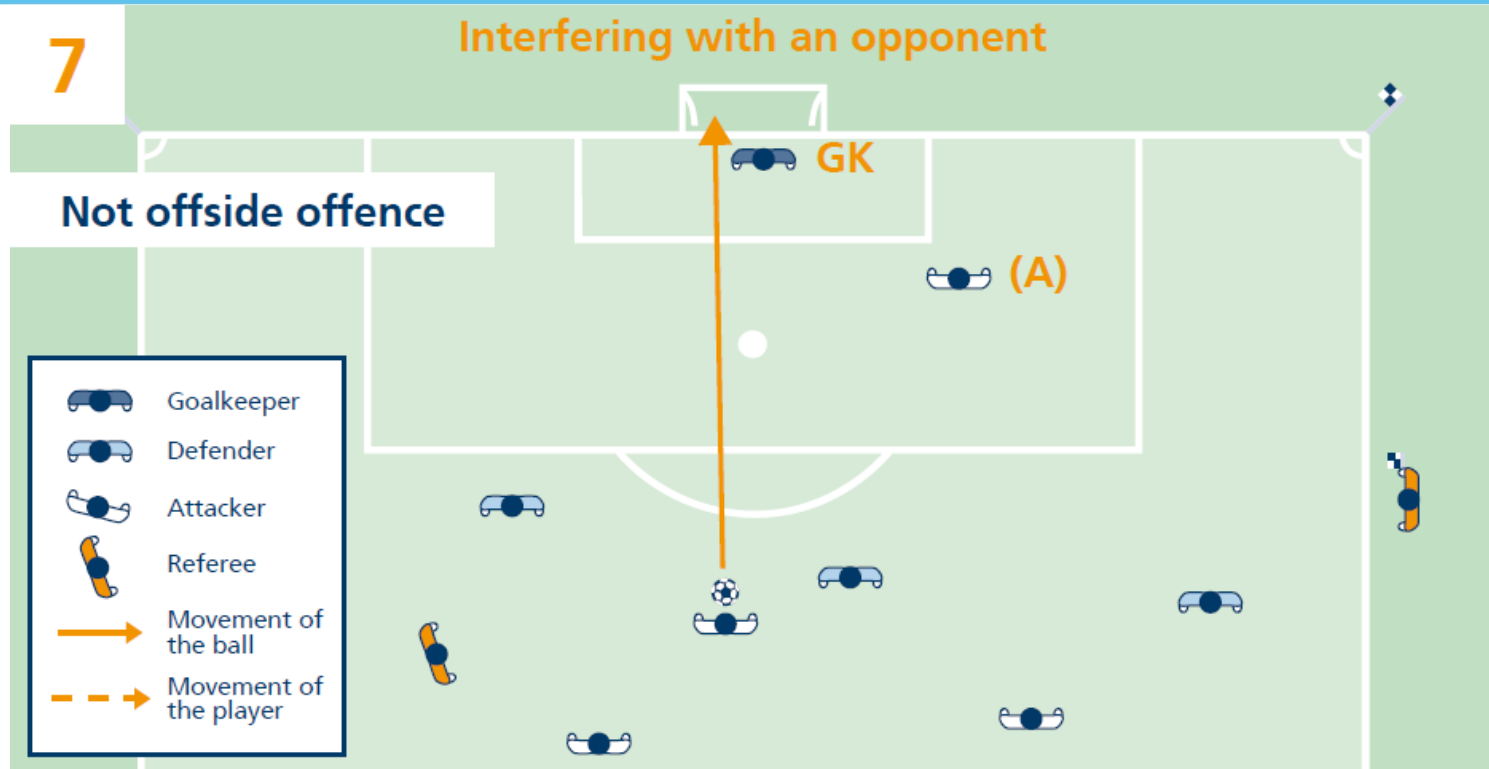
Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position is obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision.

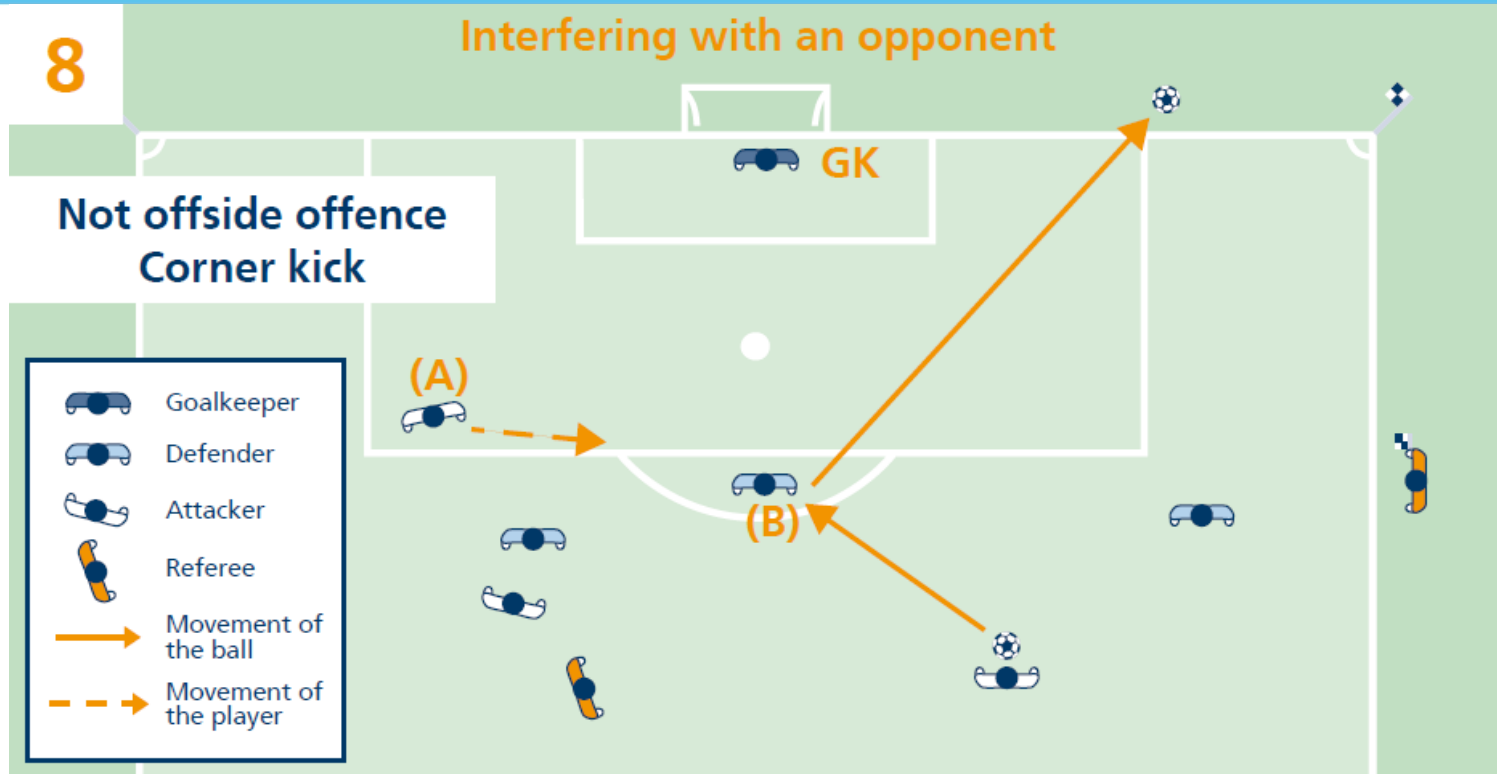
Attacker (A) must be penalized because he prevents an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball.

No Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position is not obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball.

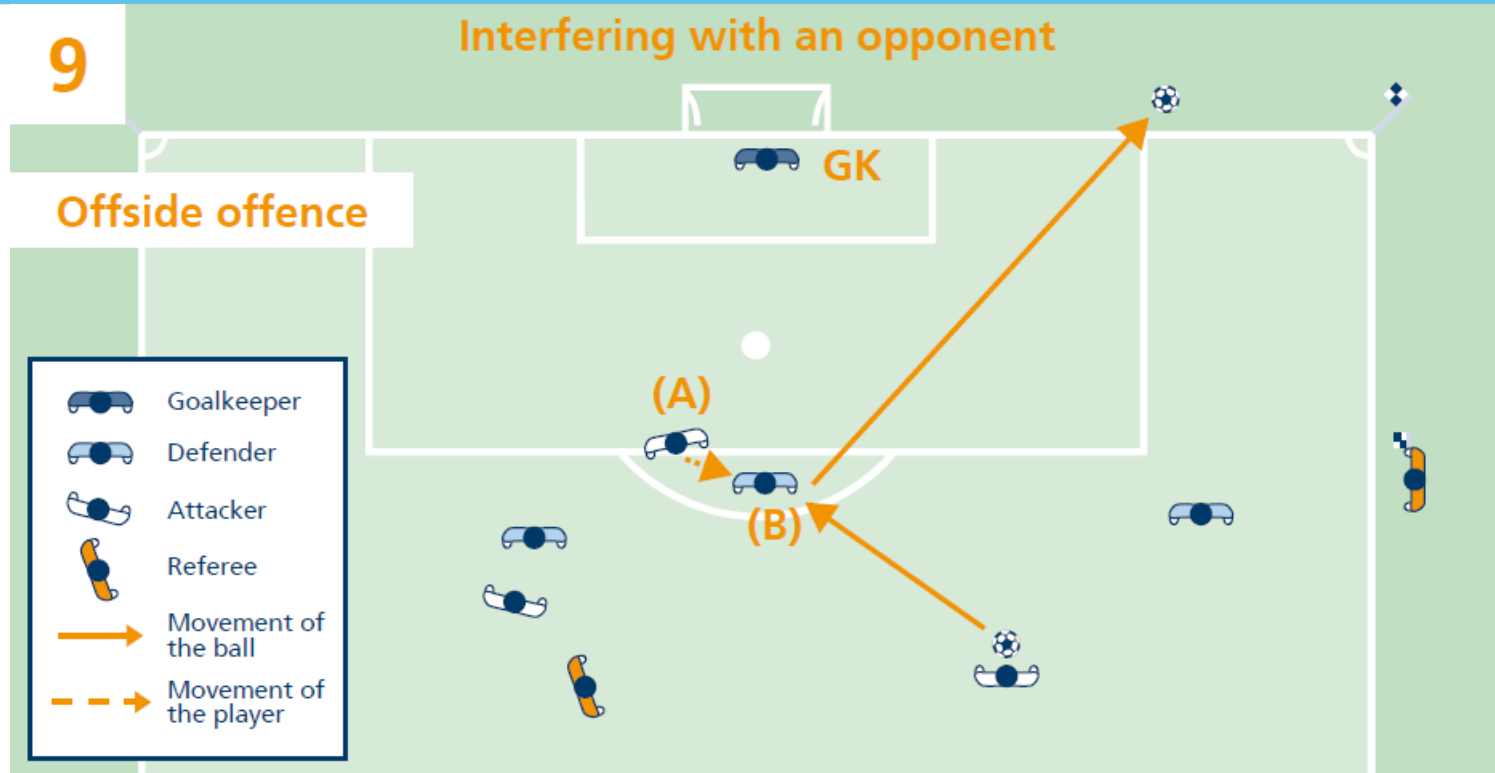
No Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position runs towards the ball but does not prevent the opponent from playing or being able to play the ball.

Attacker (A) is not challenging opponent (B) for the ball.

Offense



Attacker (A) in an offside position runs towards the ball preventing opponent (B) from playing or being able to play the ball by challenging the opponent for the ball.

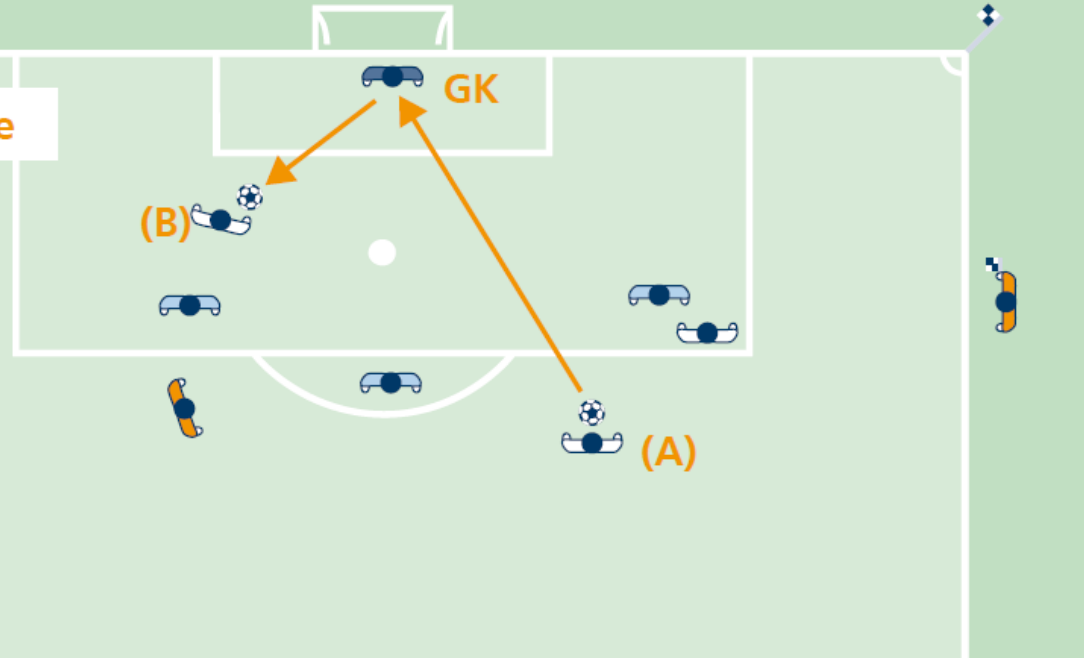
Attacker (A) is challenging opponent (B) for the ball.

Offense

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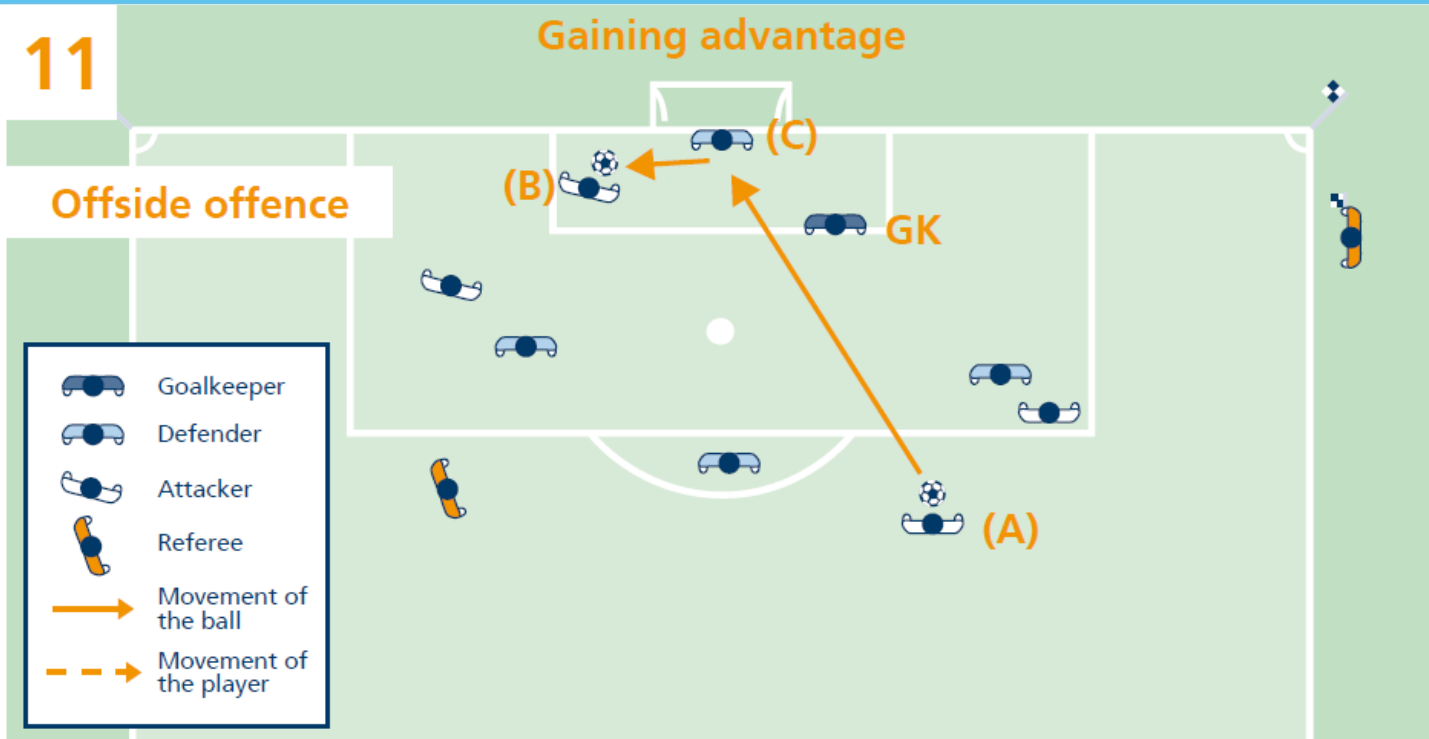
Gaining advantage

Offside offence



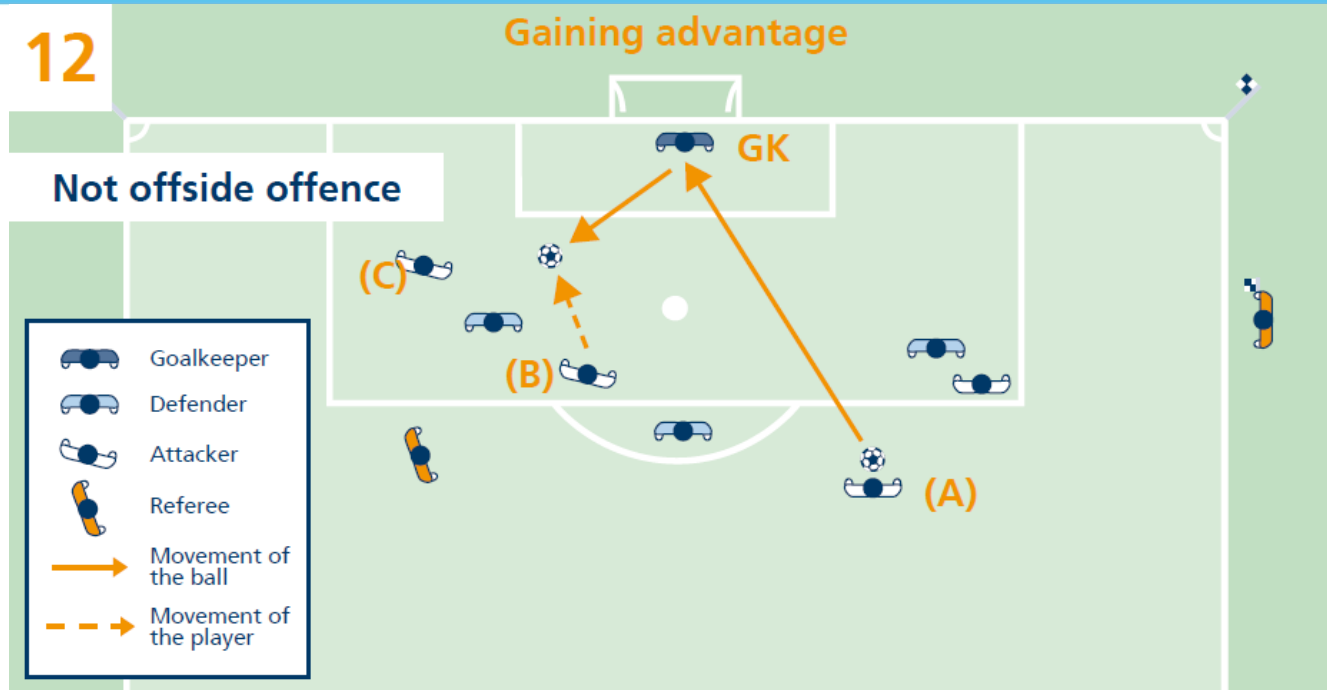
Attacker (B) in an offside position is penalized for playing or touching the ball that rebounds, is deflected or is played to her from a deliberate save by the goalkeeper having been in an offside position when the ball was last touched or is played by a teammate.

Offense



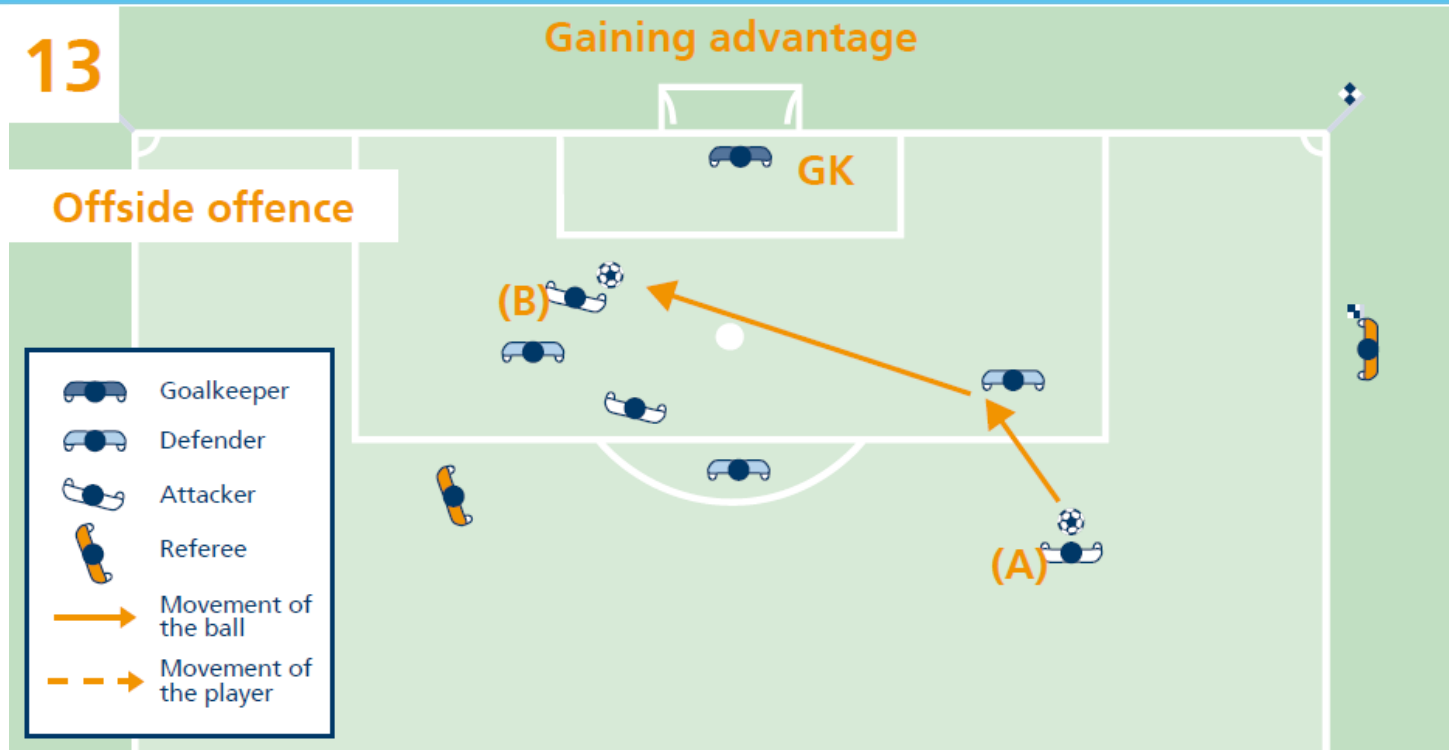
Attacker (B) in an offside position is penalized for playing or touching the ball that rebounds, is deflected or is played to her from a deliberate save by defender (C) having been in an offside position when the ball was last touched or played by a teammate.

No Offense



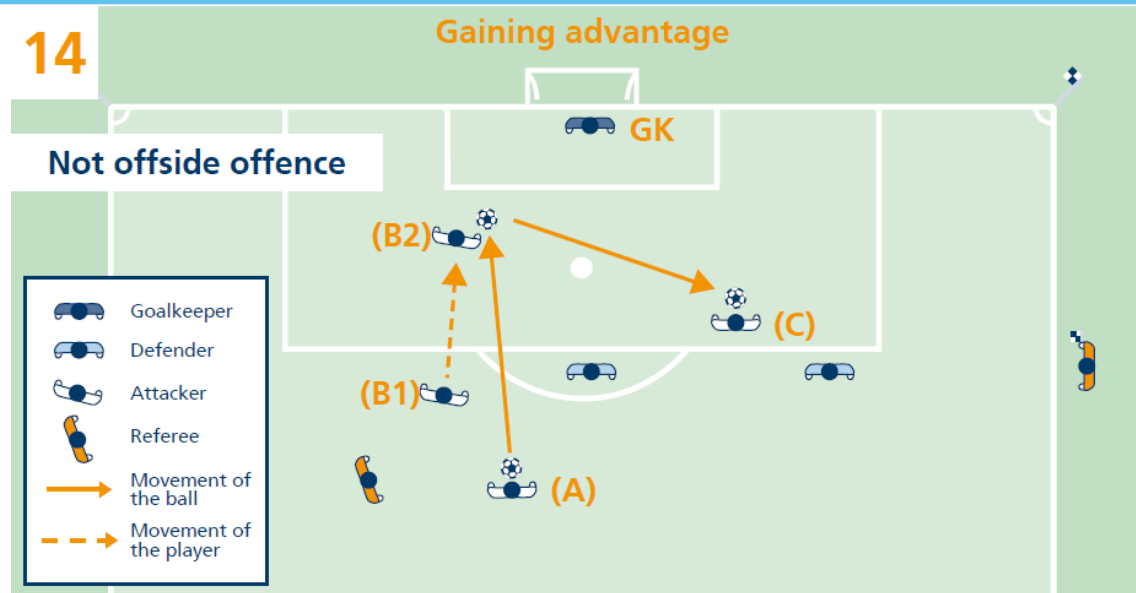
The shot by attacker (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper. Attacker (B) is in an onside position and plays the ball. Attacker (C) in an offside position is not penalized since he did not gain an advantage from being in that position because he did not touch the ball.

Offense



The shot by attacker (A) rebounds off or is deflected by an opponent to attacker (B) who is penalized for playing or touching the ball having previously been in an offside position.

No Offense



Attacker (C) is in an offside position, not interfering with an opponent, when teammate (A) passes the ball to player (B) in an onside position who runs towards the opponents' goal and passes the ball to teammate (C).

Attacker (C) cannot be penalized because when the ball was passed to her, she was in an onside position.



REVIEW QUESTIONS



Review Question

52. An attacking player, in an offside position, receives the ball directly from a teammate's throw-in. Is the player guilty of an offside offense?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Review Question

53. An attacking player, in an offside position, receives the ball directly from a teammate's indirect free kick (IFK). Is the player guilty of an offside offense?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Review Question

54. An attacking player, in an offside position, receives the ball directly from a teammate's goal kick. Is the player guilty of an offside offense?

A. Yes

B. No



Review Question

55. An attacking player, in an offside position, receives the ball from a teammate's pass after it bounces off the outstretched leg of a defender. Is the player guilty of an offside offense?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Review Question

56. To be in an offside position, a player must be which of the following?

- A. Nearer to the opponent's goal line than the ball
- B. Nearer to the opponent's goal line than the second-to-last defender
- C. In the opponent's half of the field
- D. All of the above



Review Question

57. Should a player always be penalized for being in an offside position?

A. Yes

B. No



Review Question

58. Does a player have to be in an offside position and involved in active play to be punished for an offside offense?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Review Question

59. Players cannot be punished for being in an offside position, if they receive the ball directly from which of the following?

- A. Corner kick
- B. Goal kick
- C. Throw-in
- D. All of the above



Review Question

60. Players cannot be in an offside position if are _____.

- A. In their own half of the field or even with the second to last opponent
- B. Even with the assistant referee



Review Question

61. A player in a offside position is only penalized for an offside offense if _____.

- A. The player is involved in active play
- B. The player received the ball directly from a throw-in, goal kick or corner kick



Review Question

62. An attacking player, in an offside position, receives the ball directly from a teammate's corner kick. Is the player guilty of an offside offense?

- A. Yes
- B. No



Review Question

63. In a 10-U game, players can not be penalized for an offside offense if they are between the halfway line and their opponents' Build-Out Line.

- A. True
- B. False