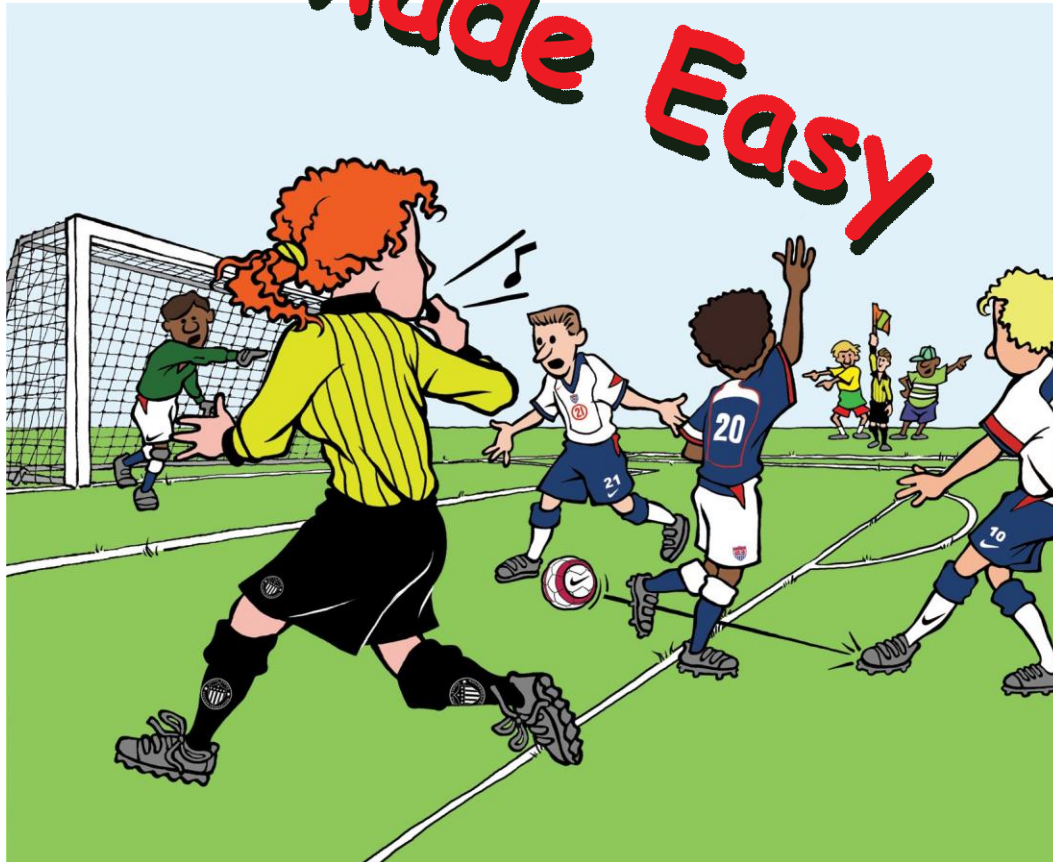




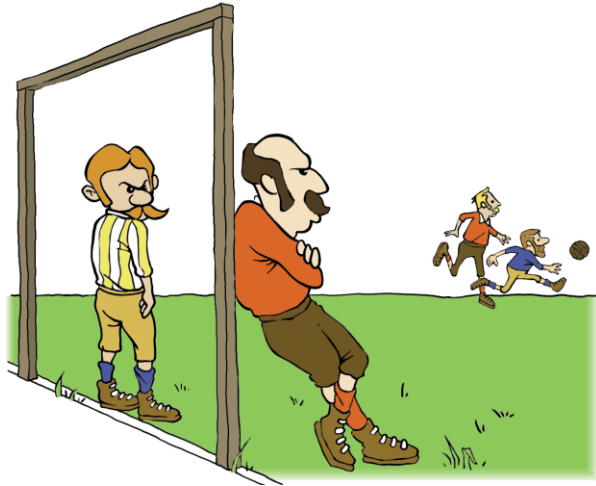
OFFSIDE

Made Easy



United States Soccer Federation, Inc.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

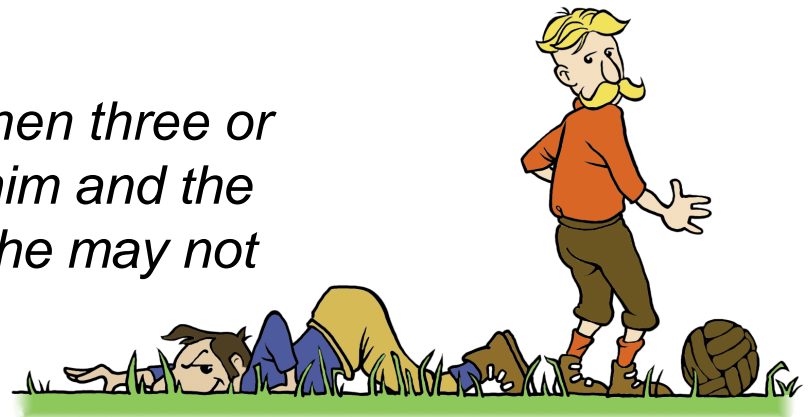


A common term for team was “side” – so that offside meant “away from the team”

The idea was that a player should not just stand around the goal waiting for a teammate to send the ball to him so he could score

“A player is considered “sneaking” when three or less of the opposite side are before him and the ball behind him, and in such a case, he may not kick the ball”

Etonian Rule, 1847



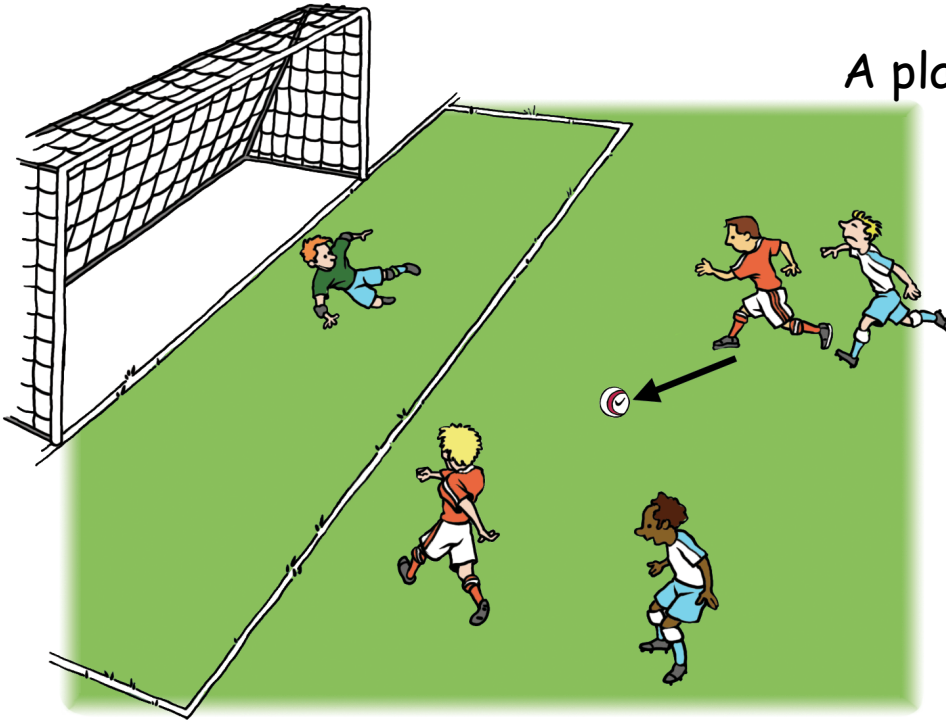


WHAT DOES IT SAY ?

OFFSIDE POSITION

A player is in an offside position if:

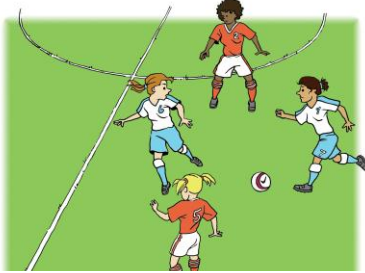
1. the player is in their opponent's half of the field,
2. and is nearer to the opponent's goal line than the ball,
3. and is ahead of the second to the last opponent.





WHAT DOES IT SAY ?

A player is NOT in an offside position if the player:



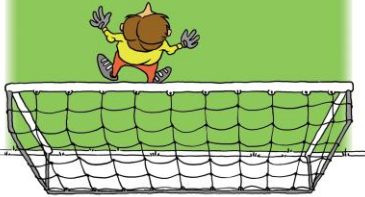
- is completely in their own half of the field of play

or



- is even with the second to the last opponent

or



- is even with the last two opponents



A player can be in an offside position and not be guilty of being offside.

OFFENSE

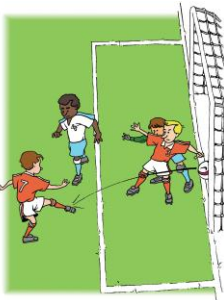


A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by a teammate, the player is, in the opinion of the referee, *involved in active play* by:



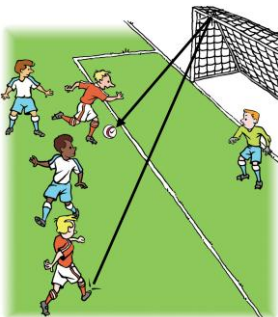
interfering with play

or

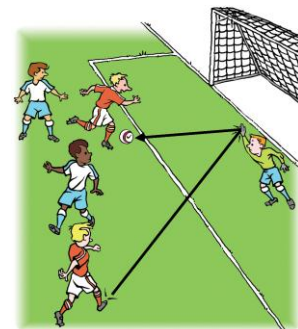


interfering with an opponent

or



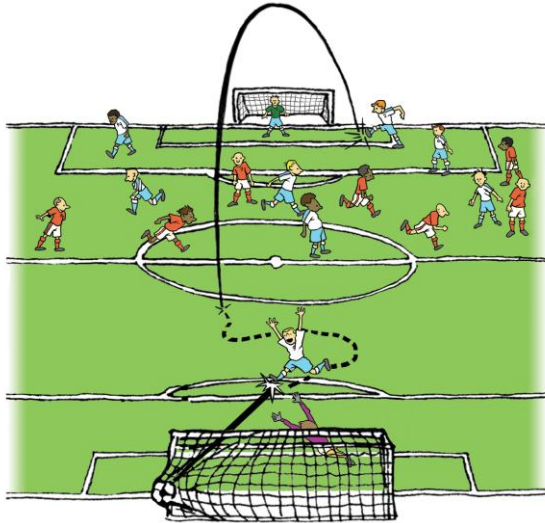
gaining an advantage by being in that position



NO OFFENSE



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



a goal kick



a throw-in

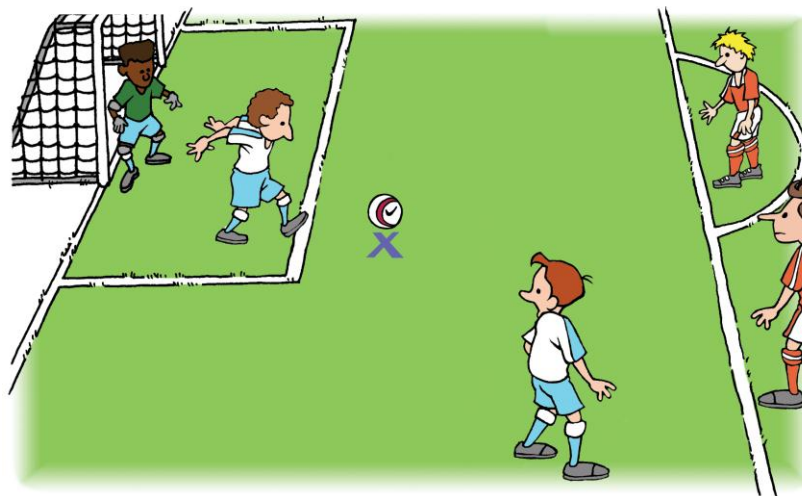
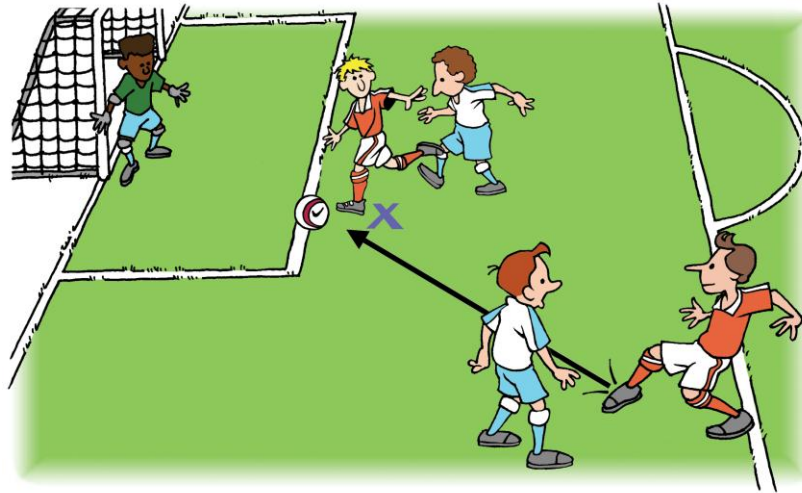


a corner kick

SANCTIONS FOR OFFSIDE



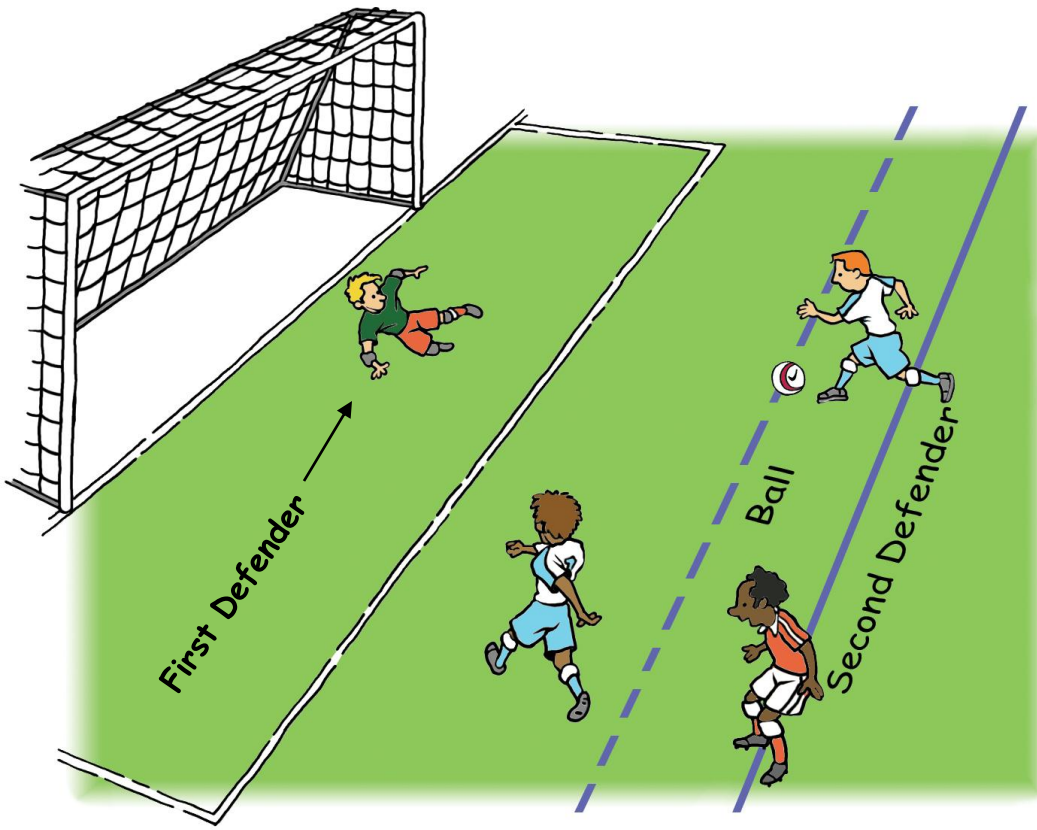
When a player is offside, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where that player was located.*



* Unless the offside offense occurred inside the goal area - then the restart can be taken from anywhere inside the goal area



Here are the questions a referee or assistant referee must answer when deciding if a player is offside:



- Is the player in an **offside position**?
- Is the player “**involved in active play**” ?
- Is this situation covered by one of the **exceptions** ?
- What is the **restart** for being judged offside ?
- Where does the restart occur ?



What is an offside position?

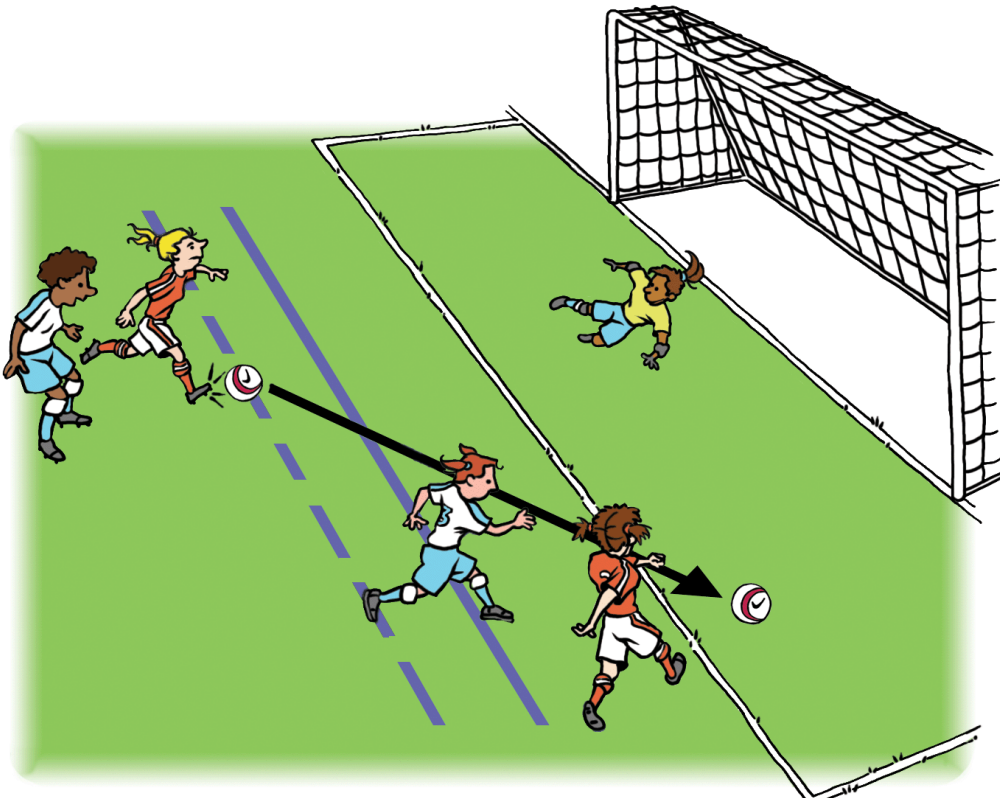
In the other team's half of the field



Nearer to the other team's goal line than the ball



Nearer to the other team's goal line than the last two opponents



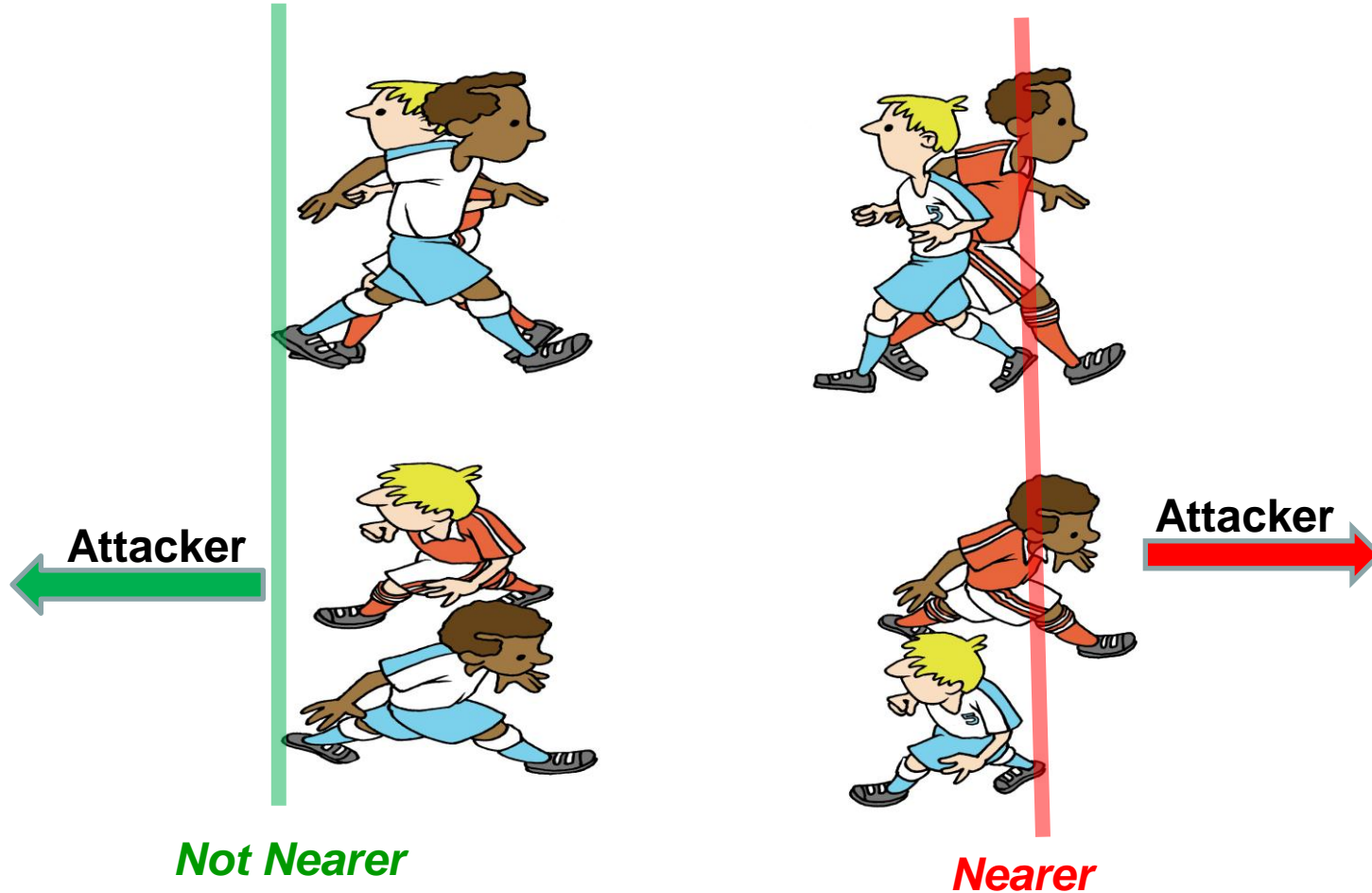
"Last two opponents"

Two players on the other team closest to their goal line (usually but not necessarily including the goalkeeper)



"Nearer to"

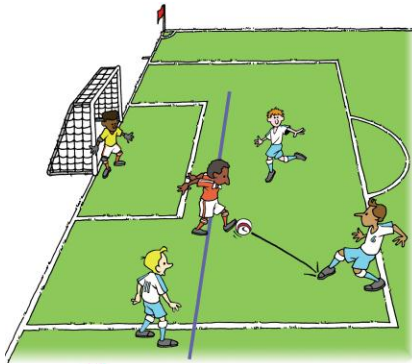
The attacker is closer to the goal line than the defender



Nearer to is based on any body part that can play the ball - like, legs, or feet, and heads. Arms don't count.

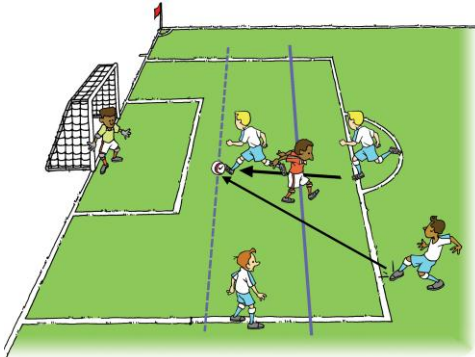


"ON-SIDE"

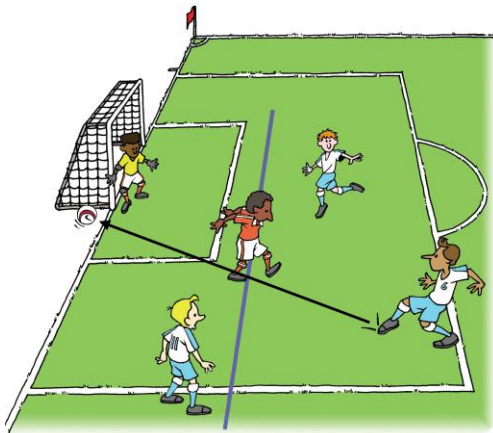


- A defender completely controls the ball (not just touches it),

A defender has to control the ball, not just touch it, to start a new play.

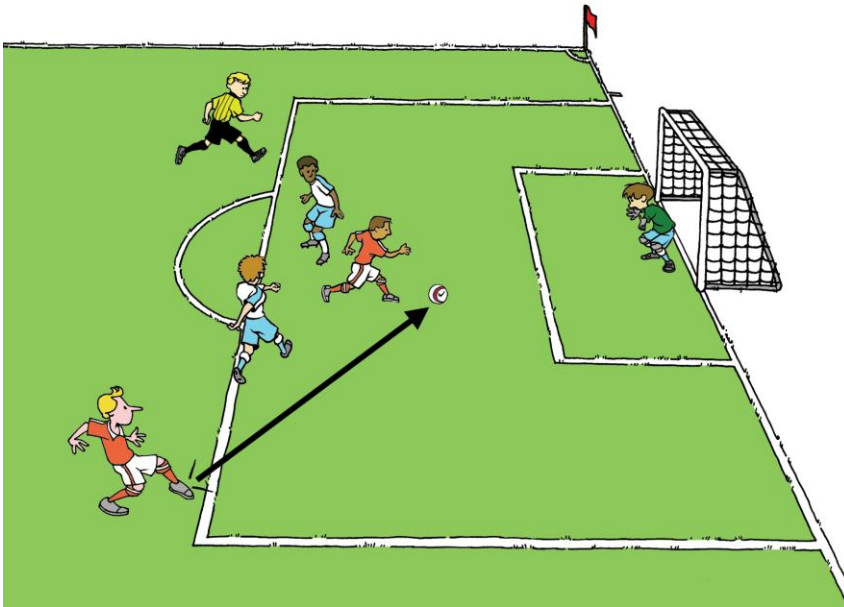


- A teammate touches or plays the ball again and this time you aren't in an offside position when that happens,



- The ball leaves the field and the other team has the restart.

"Involved In Active Play"

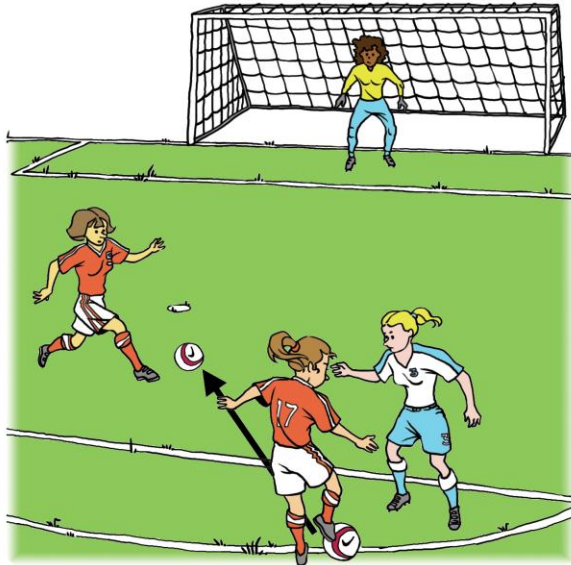


- Interfering with play
or
- Interfering with an opponent
or
- Gaining an advantage

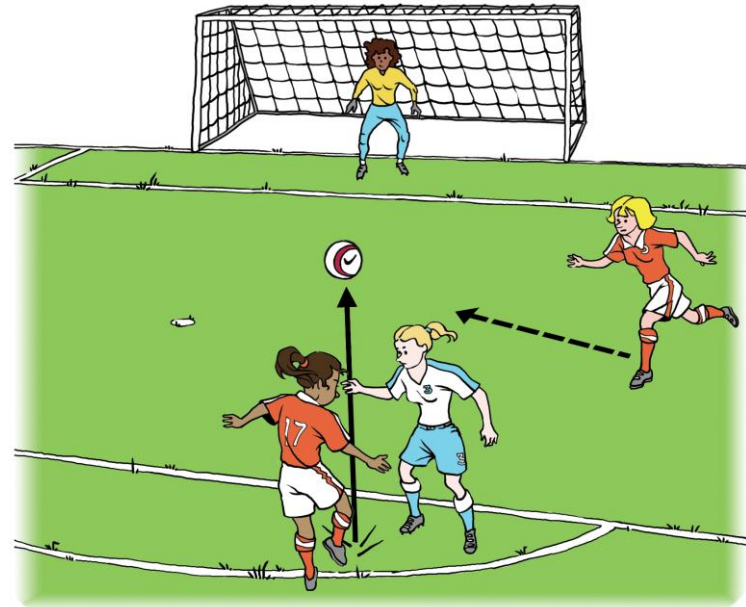
"Active play" the area around and moving with the ball (there is no specific distance)

"Involved" able to play the ball or to prevent an opponent from playing the ball (**does not require actually touching the ball**)

Interfering With Play



Having the ball passed to you by a teammate (most common way)

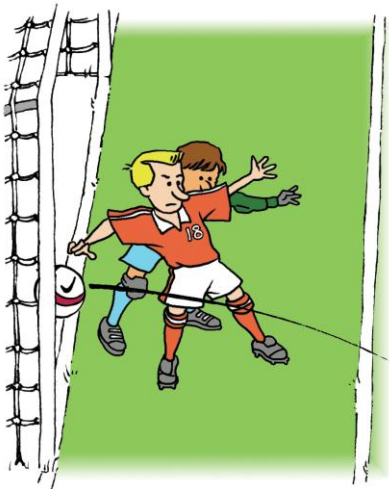


Moving to play a ball that wasn't played directly to you



You are not guilty of interfering with play **until** you actually **touch the ball**

Interfering With An Opponent



Blocking movement or line of sight of the defending goalkeeper (most common way)

- just being near the goalkeeper is not enough to "interfere" with goalkeeper.



Being in the way of an opponent - forcing the opponent to stop, swerve, or slow down

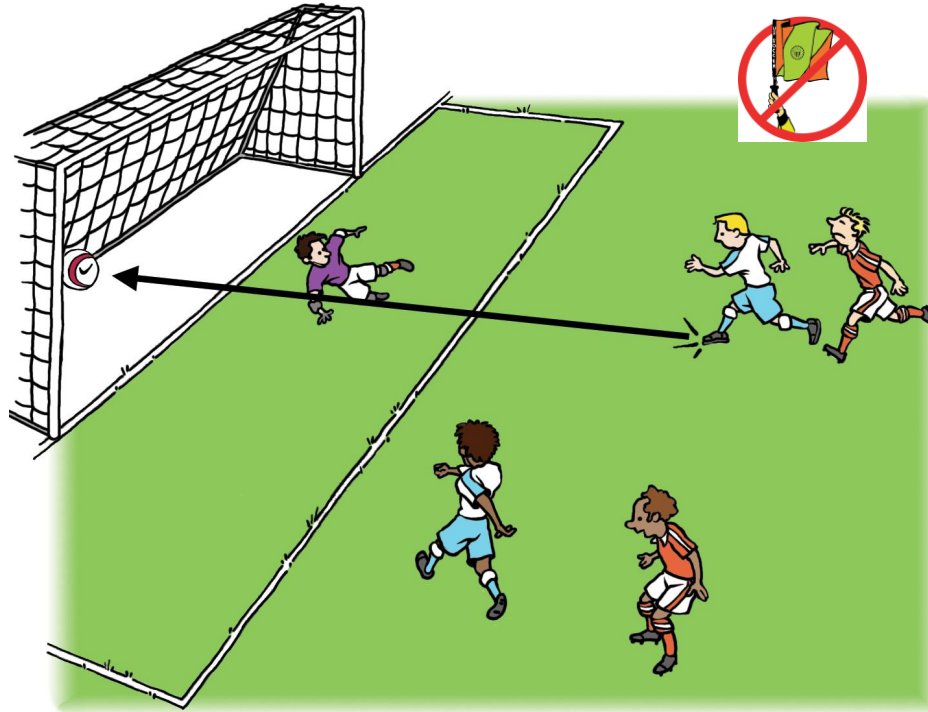


Interfering With An Opponent

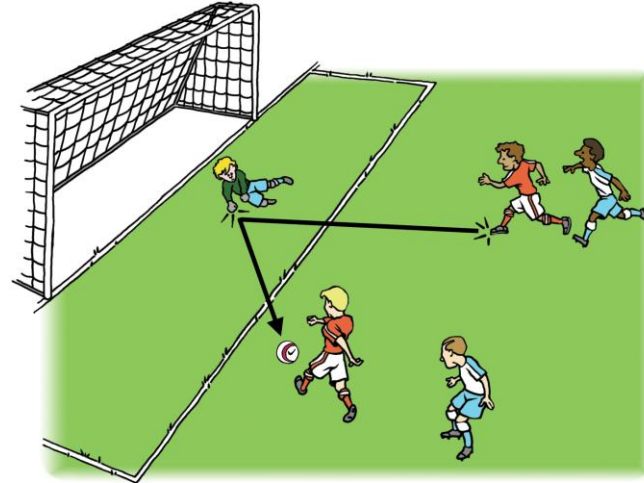
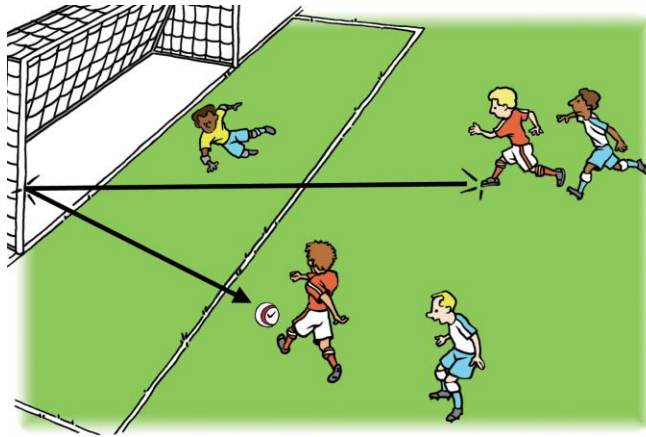


REMEMBER!!!

Just being in an offside position anywhere on the field is not necessarily interfering with an opponent



Gaining An Advantage



Receiving a ball deflected off the goalpost, crossbar, referee, goalkeeper, or another defender

Must have been in an offside position when teammate played the ball, not when the ball was deflected

Gaining An Advantage



Gaining an advantage as an offside violation is rare and can easily be missed because everyone (except the referee!) tends to forget how the play started or because it is difficult to say when a defender **plays** the ball rather than simply deflects it.

“Deflected” means that the ball was not controlled even if it is touched deliberately



Offside

- Judged only when your own team has the ball
- Doesn't matter if the other team has the ball



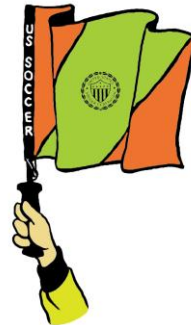
You can **never** be offside when **you** are the one playing the ball.

Second to Last Defender



Position + Involvement

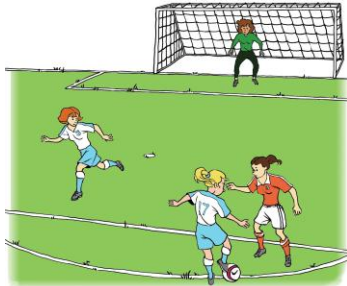
Offside



Involvement?



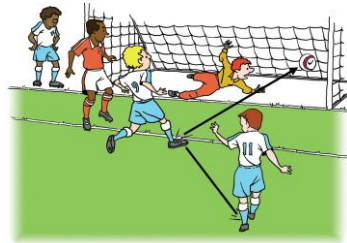
An attacker in an offside position who is in the area of active play can attempt to avoid being called for offside by:



Clearly moving out of active play (backing away, standing still or moving in the opposite direction).



Clearly catching the referee's attention and establishing to the referee's satisfaction that the attacker will not make any attempt to play the ball.



Stepping off the field (where, of course, the ball cannot be played).

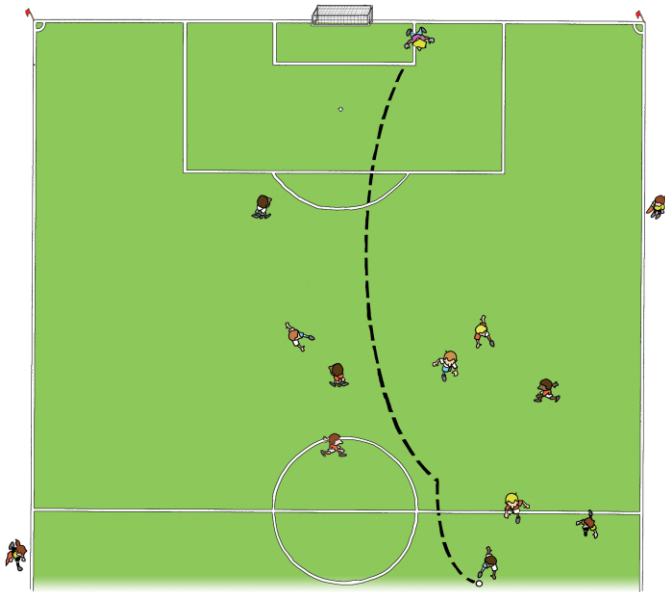
EXCEPTIONS



An attacker in an offside position cannot be called for offside if the ball comes directly from a:



Goal kick



Corner kick



Throw-in

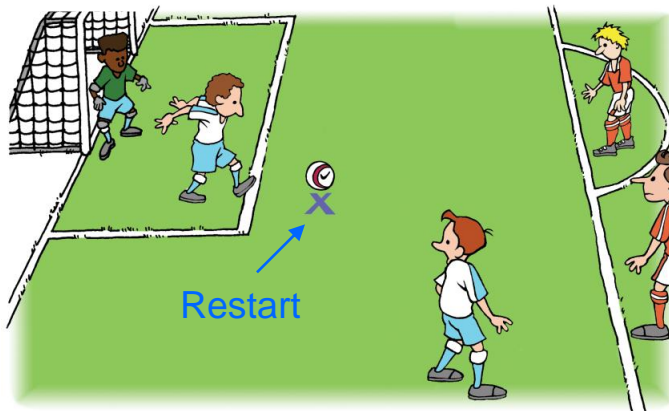
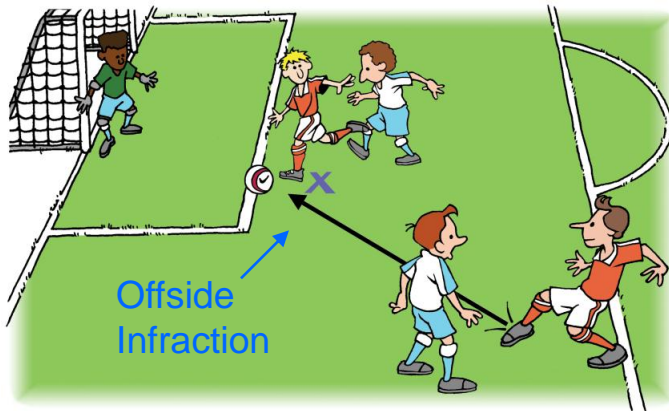


WHAT IS THE RESTART ?



The restart is an indirect free kick for the other team.

Where?

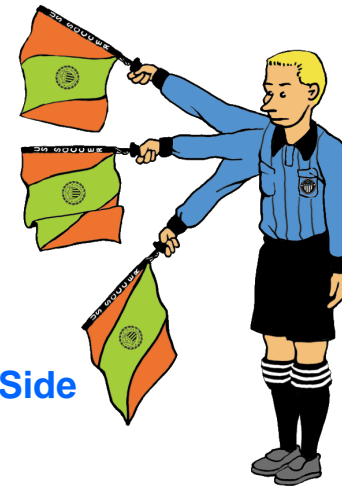


Where the offside attacker was at the time when the teammate played or touched the ball (except in the goal area, in which case the kick can be taken from anywhere inside the goal area)

Far Side


Middle


Near Side




Remember!!!



-  Being in an offside position is not against the Law

-  Offside position depends on where the attacker is at the time a teammate plays the ball
 - Ahead of the ball
 - Ahead of the second to last defender
 - In the other team's half of the field

Not when or where the attacker gets the ball!

-  Even if a player is in an offside position, the attacker cannot be called offside if the ball is received **directly** from a:
 - Goal Kick
 - Corner Kick
 - Throw In

Remember!!!



Offside is called **only** if, when in an offside position, an attacker becomes involved in play by:

- **Interfering with play**
(for example, having the ball passed to you or running to and touching the ball)
- **Interfering with an opponent**
(for example, blocking a player on the other team)
- **Gaining an advantage**
(for example, getting a ball that bounces off a crossbar)

Remember!!!



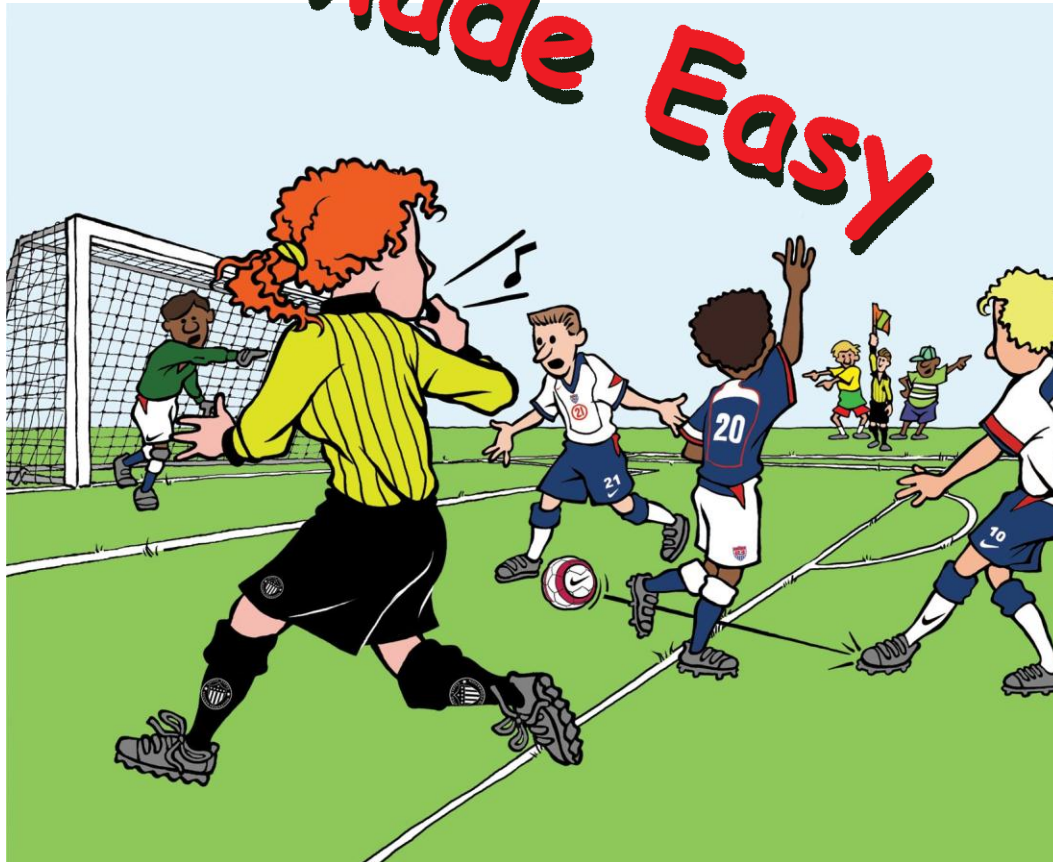
- ① "Involvement in active play" is based on the opinion of the referee

- ① An attacker in an offside position can become "Onside" only if:
 - The ball leaves the field,
 - A teammate touches or plays the ball again, or
 - A defender plays (controls) the ball



OFFSIDE

Made Easy



United States Soccer Federation, Inc.