

LAW 11 – Offside Review

WHAT IF ???





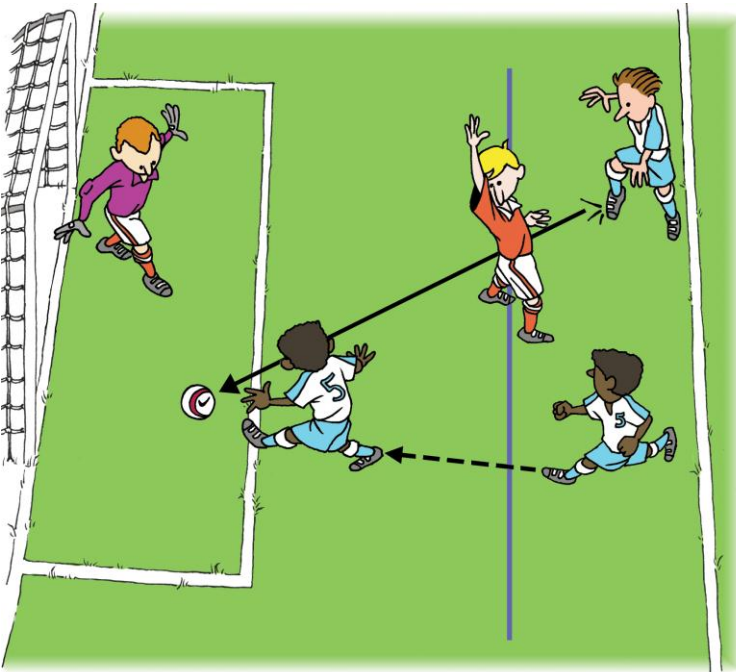
WHAT IF ???



1

An attacker got the ball several yards past our second to last defender, but the referee didn't call offside. Why?

An offside position is not judged when a player "got the ball", but where the player was when the ball was played by a teammate.

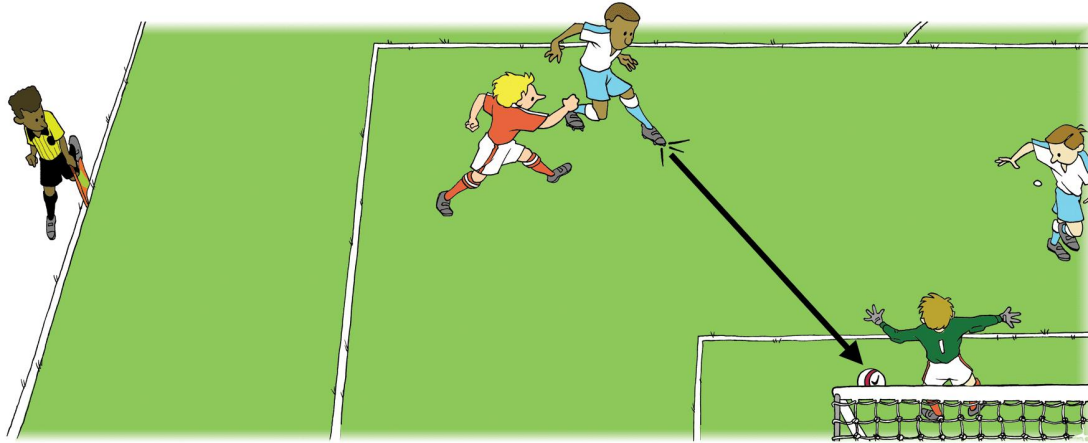


A2 receives the ball behind the second to last defender, but A2 was "onside" when the ball was played by A1.

This is called "coming from an offside position".

2

An attacker was clearly past the second to last defender when a teammate kicked the ball directly into the net. The referee counted the goal. Why?



If the player in the offside position did not:

- interfere with play
- interfere with an opponent
- gain an advantage by being in that position



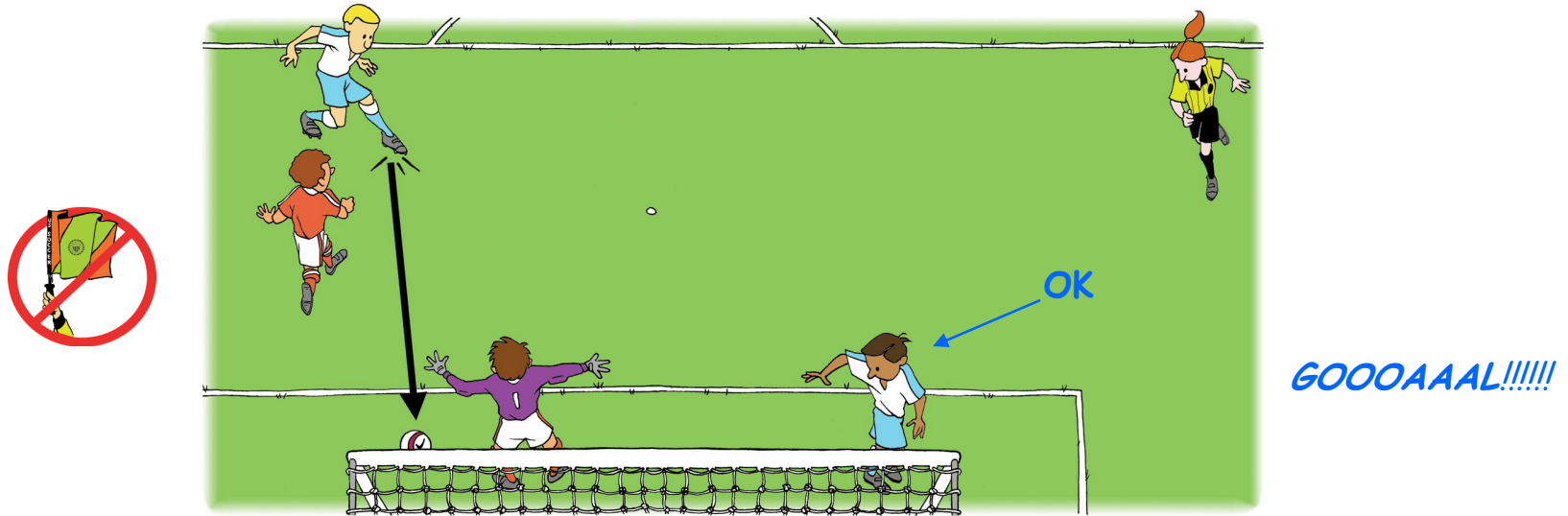
The player is not penalized for offside !

GOOOOAL!!!!!!

Offside position by itself is not enough to interfere with an opponent.

3

The attacker was right down at the goal line near the side of the net. Didn't that interfere with the goalkeeper? Isn't an attacker that close to the goal automatically interfering with play?



The attacker is not interfering with the goalkeeper unless the attacker:

- blocks the goalkeeper's view of play
- is in the path of the goalkeeper
- says or does something specifically to directly interfere with the goalkeeper

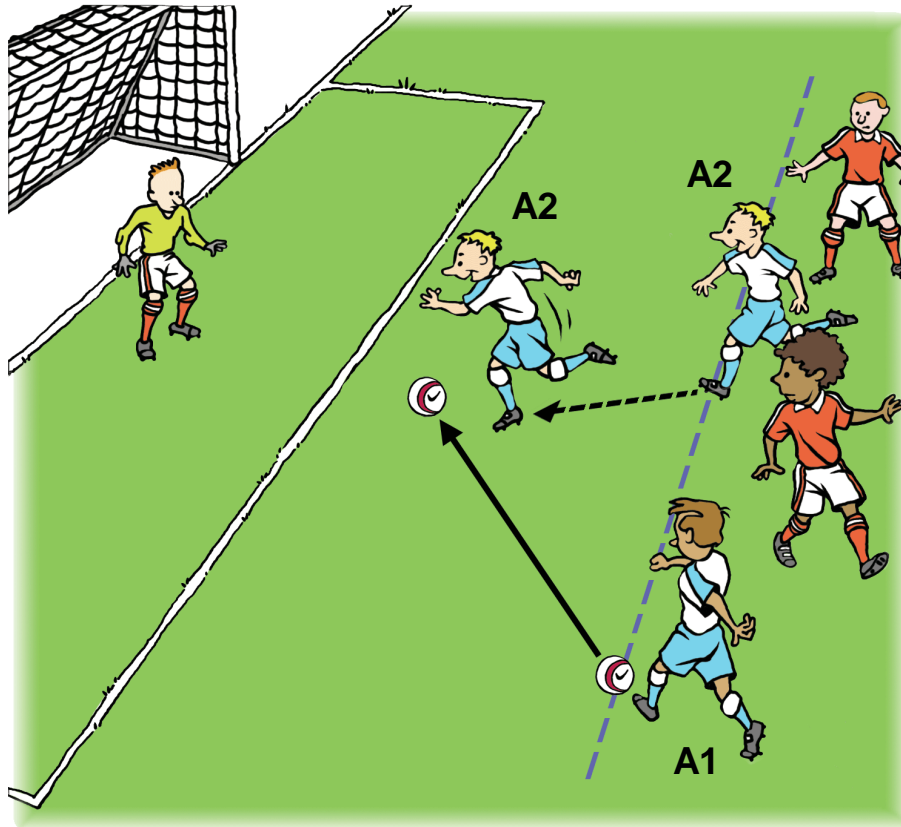


WHAT IF ???



4

Player A1 is attacking with no defenders in front of him except the goalkeeper. Teammate A2 is following behind him. What if player A1 plays the ball and his teammate runs up to take possession?



If player A2 is behind, or even with, the ball when player A1 last touched the ball, there is no offside position and therefore no offside violation.



A2 was not nearer the goal line than the ball when the ball was last played by A1.

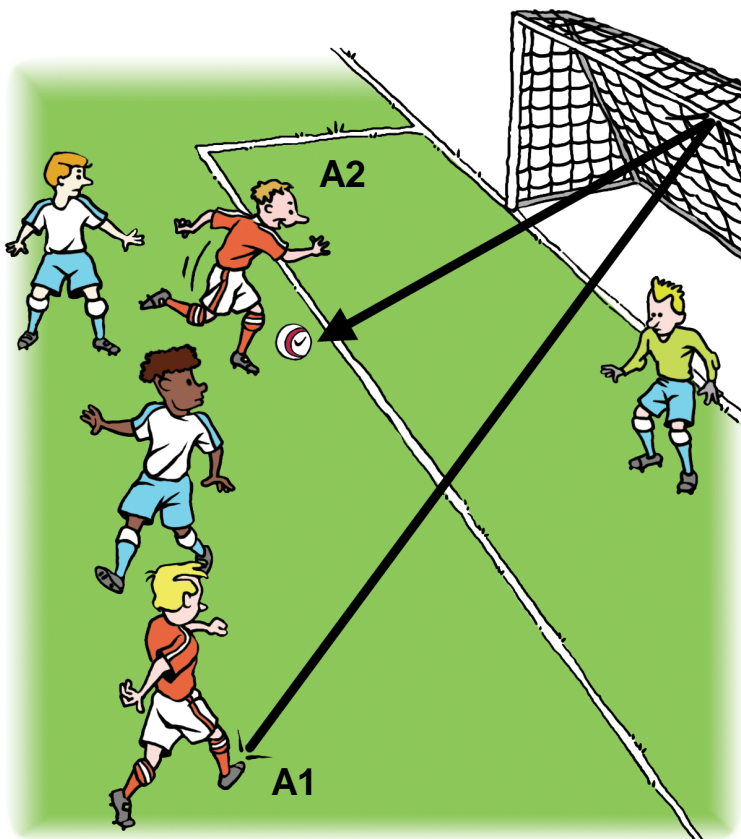


WHAT IF ???



5a

Player A1 shoots on goal and the ball bounces back from the crossbar to A2?



Player A2 was in an offside position when A1 played the ball.



The ball bounced back from the crossbar to A2. A2 is called for offside for being "*involved in active play*" by "*gaining an advantage.*"

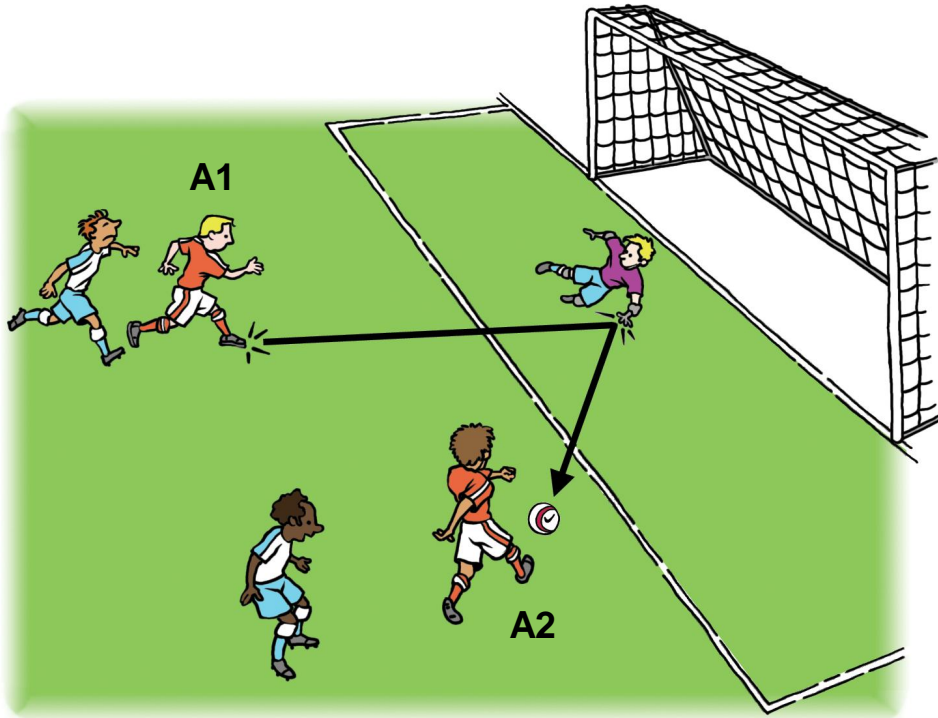


WHAT IF ???



5b

Player A1 shoots on goal and the ball bounces back from the goalkeeper to A2?



A2 is called for offside for being "involved in active play" by "gaining an advantage." The ball rebounded from the goalkeeper.

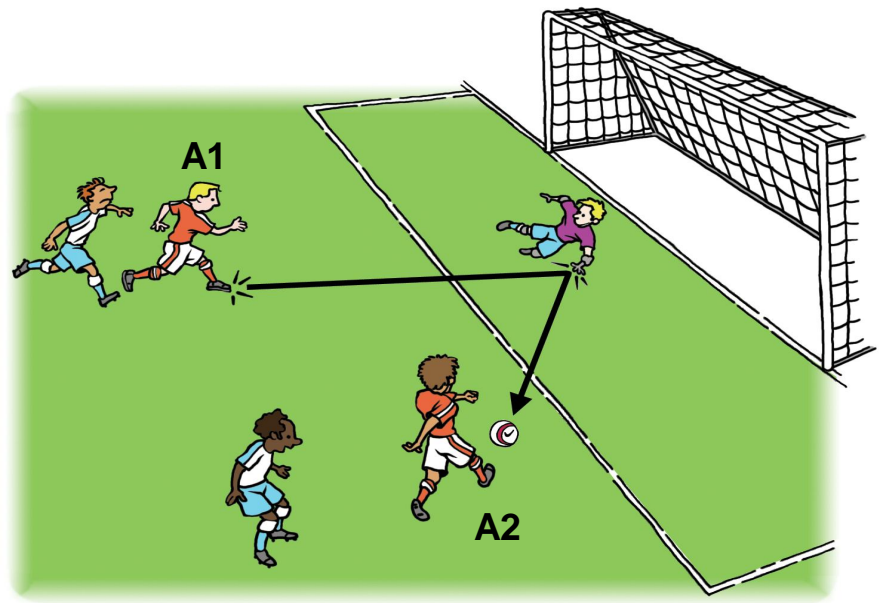
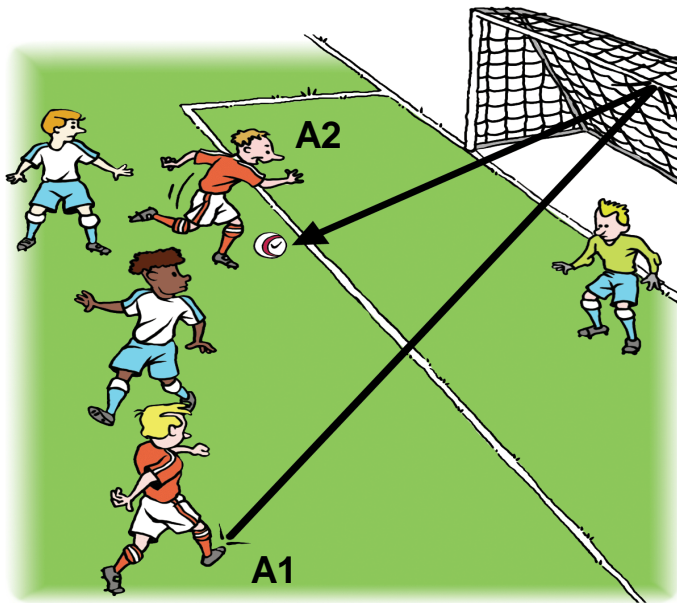


WHAT IF ???



5c

In either case, if A1's original shot had gone directly into the net.....



GOOOOAAAL!!

6

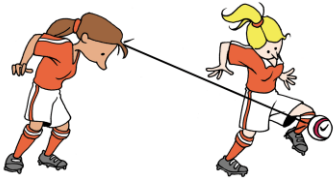
You say that an attacker must have played the ball before a teammate in an offside position can be called for offside. What does “play the ball” mean here?

Law 11 refers to the ball being touched or played by a teammate.

There are a number of ways a player can “touch” or “play” the ball. A few may be:



- Kick the ball



- Head the ball

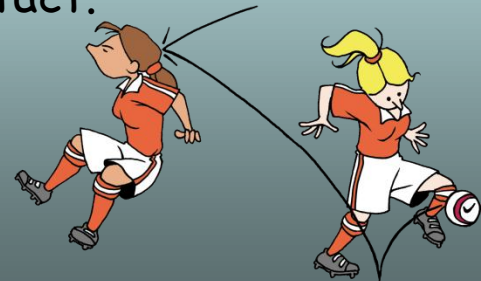


- Chest trap



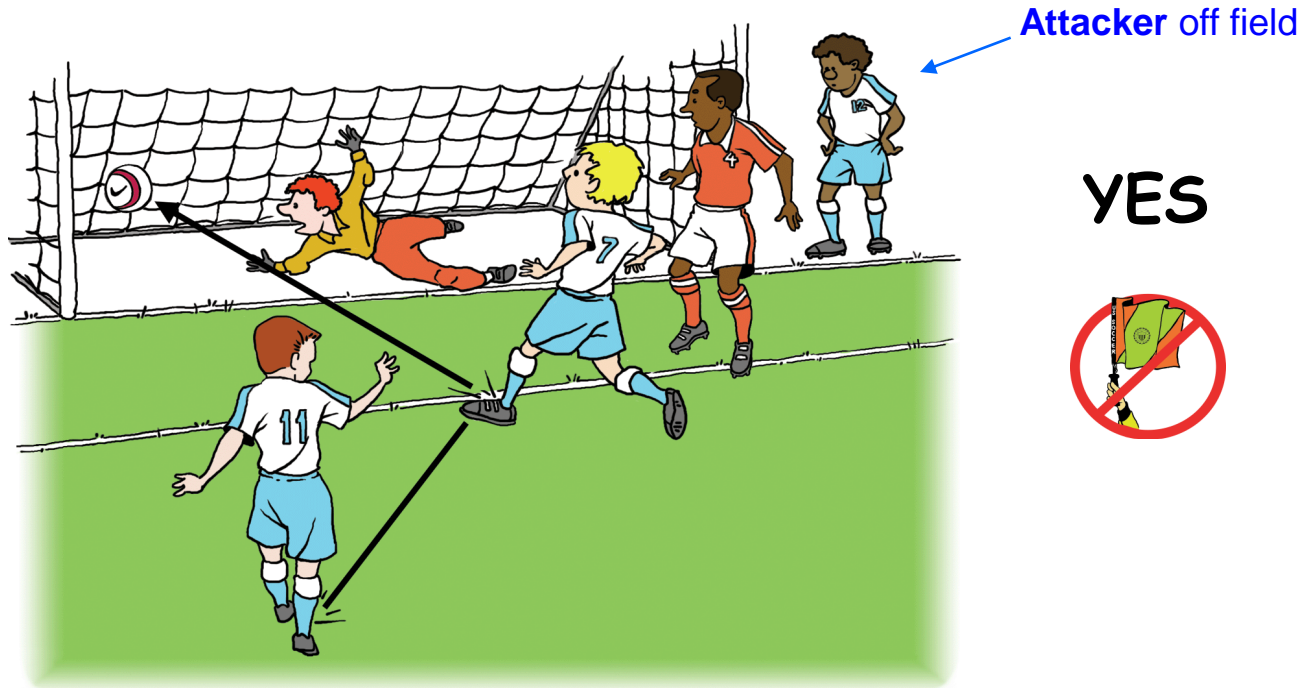
- Stop the ball with a foot

“Play the ball” for an attacker means **any** contact by the player with the ball - even accidental or unintended contact.



7

Can an attacker step off the field to show that he is not participating in play?



This is one of several ways an attacker can show they are not involved in active play. It is legal and the attacker doesn't need the referee's permission either to leave the field or to return - it is considered "normal play."

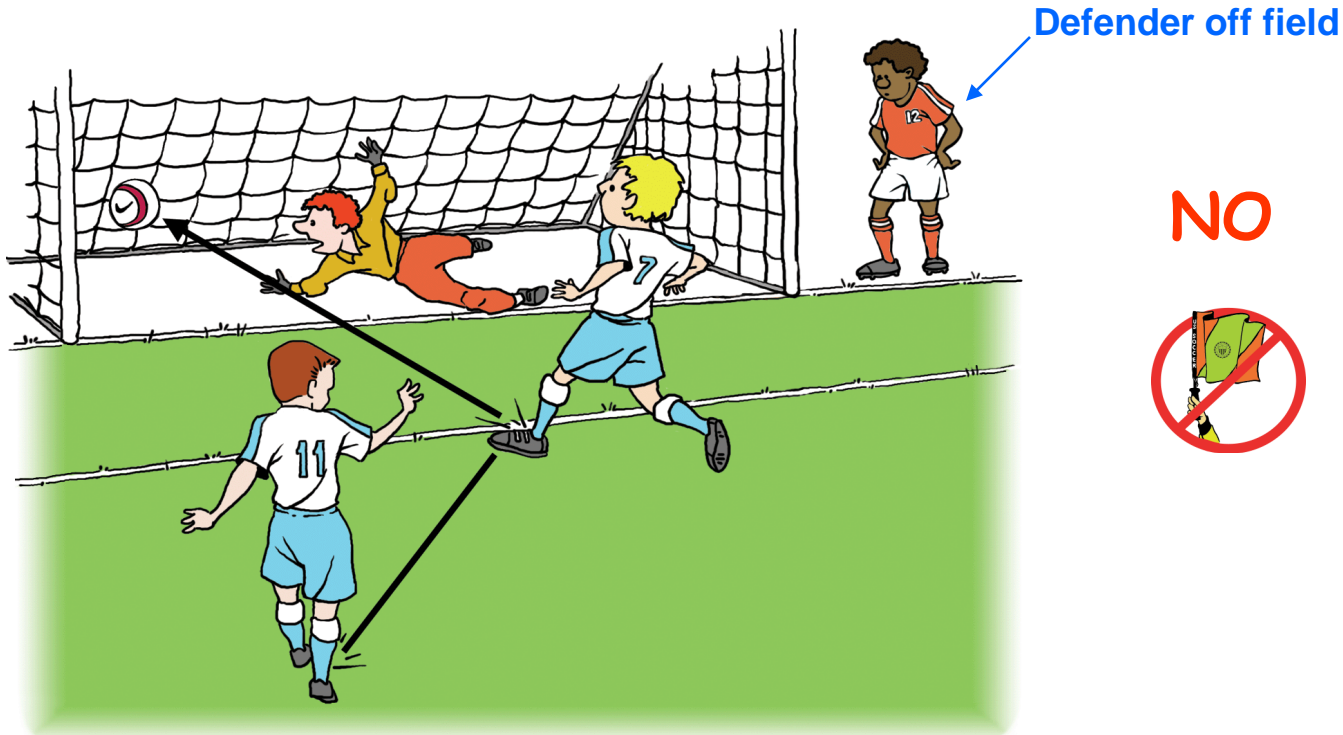


WHAT IF ???



8

Can a defender step off the field to put an attacker in an offside position?



This defender is counted as one of the last two defenders, even though he is off the field (the defender is considered to be standing on the goal-line). Attacker #7 thus has two defenders in front of him and he is not considered to be in an offside position.

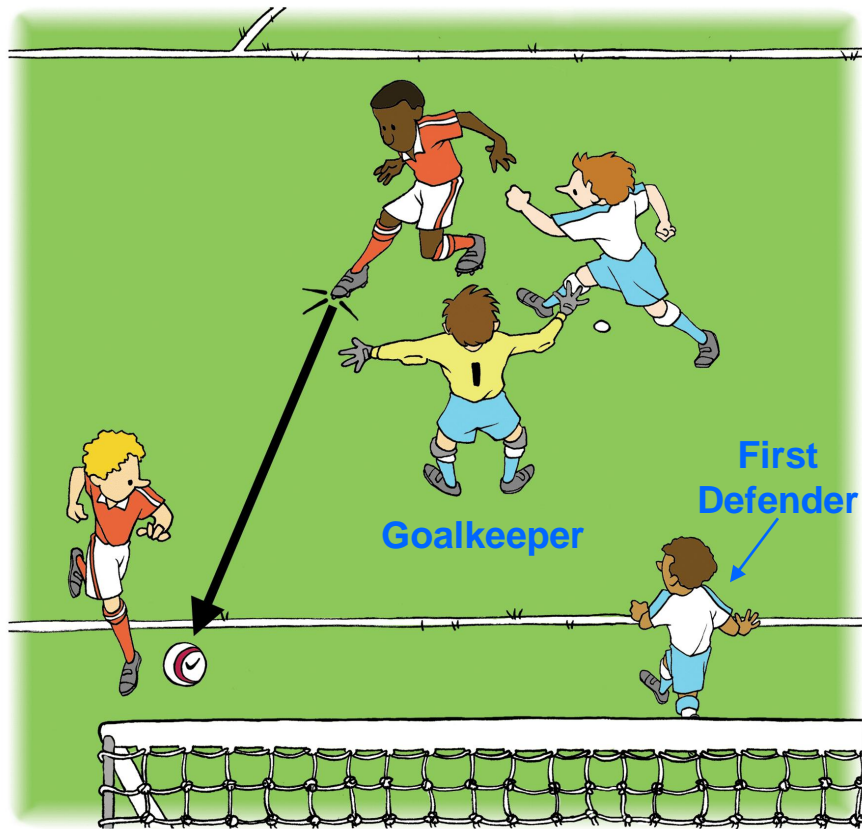


WHAT IF ???



9a

Does the last or second-to-last defender have to be the goalkeeper?



NO

All defenders are counted in figuring out who the last or second-to-last defender is.



The goalkeeper moves to challenge for the ball and a defender steps back to protect the goal. The goalkeeper then becomes the second-to-last defender.

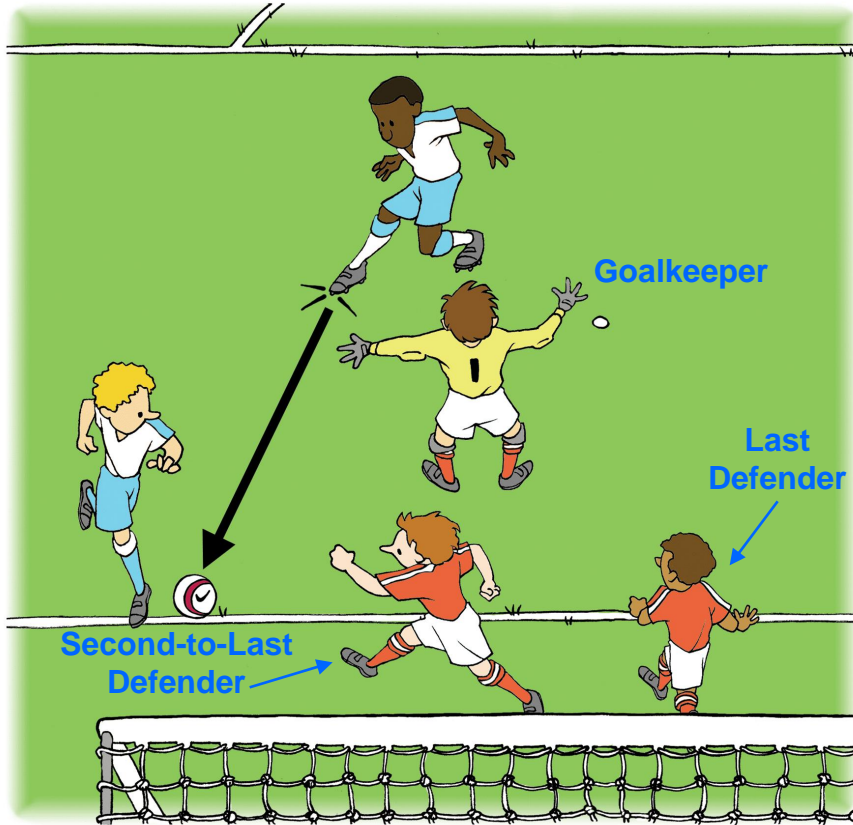


WHAT IF ???



9b

Does the last or second-to-last defender have to be the goalkeeper?



There are two defenders between the attacker and the goal, neither of whom is the goalkeeper.





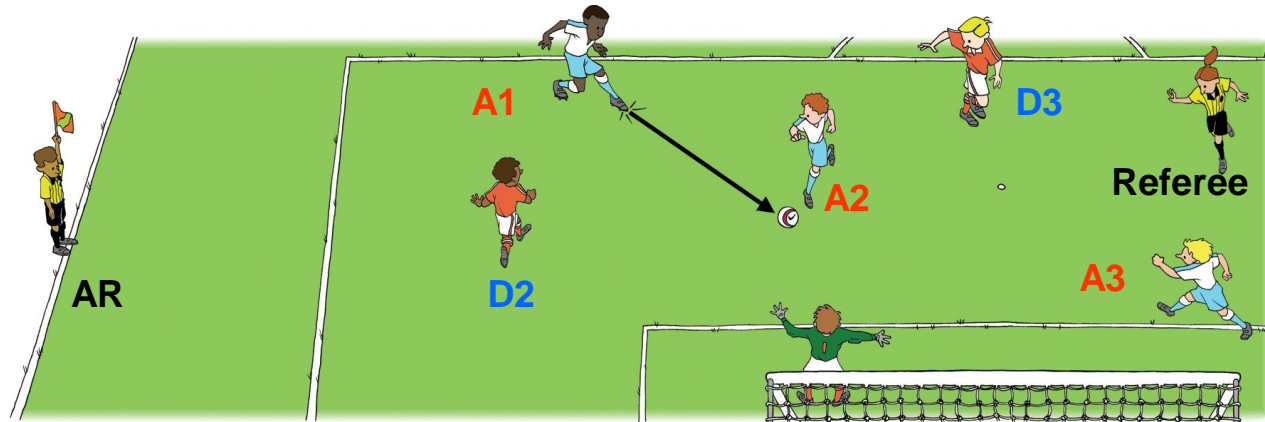
WHAT IF ???



10

The AR called offside, but the referee waved the flag down.
Can the referee do that?

YES



- The AR does not “call” offside.
- The AR is in the best position to judge who is in an offside position.
- The AR’s flag is a signal to the Referee that an attacker is in an offside position and might be involved in active play.
- Active play, however, is often closer to the Referee than to the AR.
- The Referee is therefore usually in a better position to judge involvement.
- The Referee always makes the final decision about “calling” offside.

11

Can a player be offside on a dropped ball?



- Offside is judged only when the ball is touched or played by an attacker.
- It is the referee who last touches the ball on a dropped ball restart ... so no one can be guilty of offside at that moment.
- But, once the ball hits the ground, the dropped ball is over and it is then possible to be called offside if a teammate, who took part in the dropped ball, then touches or plays the ball to an attacker in an offside position.

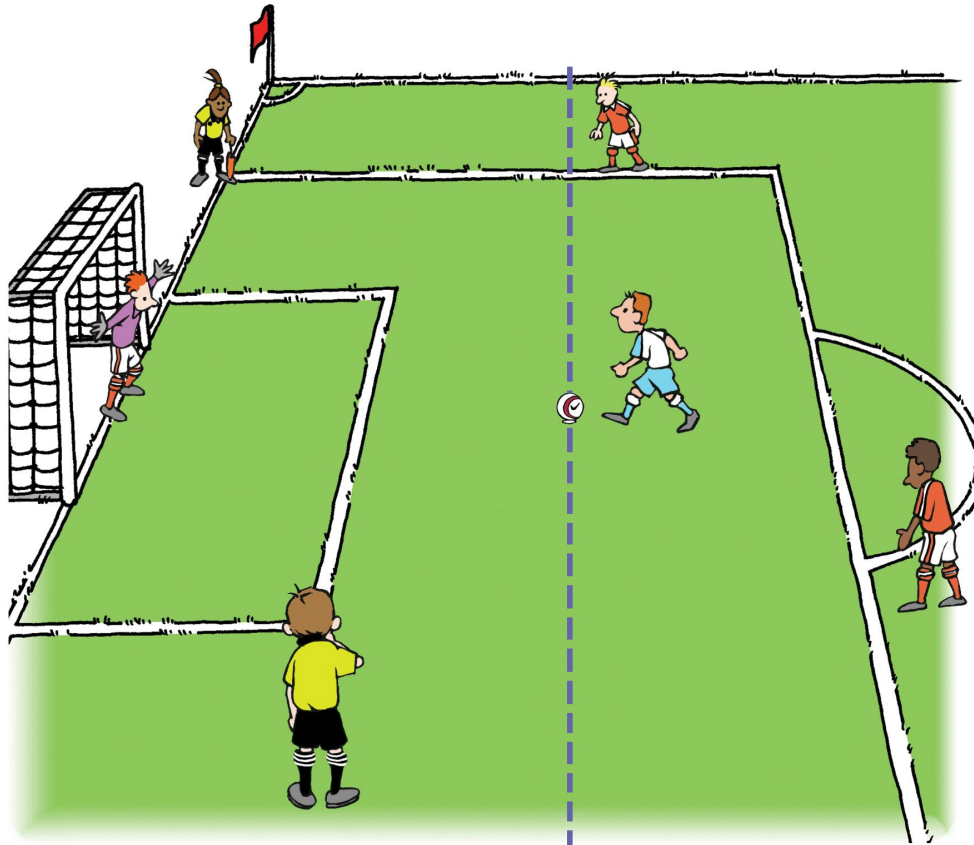
If attacker A1 kicks the ball after it hits the ground, her teammate, A2, can then be offside if she becomes involved in play.,

12

Can an attacker be offside on a penalty kick?



NO



- One of the rules for the penalty kick is that, except for the goalkeeper, all players have to be **behind the ball** when the referee gives the signal for the kick to occur.
- The referee will not signal for the penalty kick to be taken, if anyone other than the goalkeeper is ahead of the ball.
- Once the ball is kicked, it is in play and the offside Law then applies.

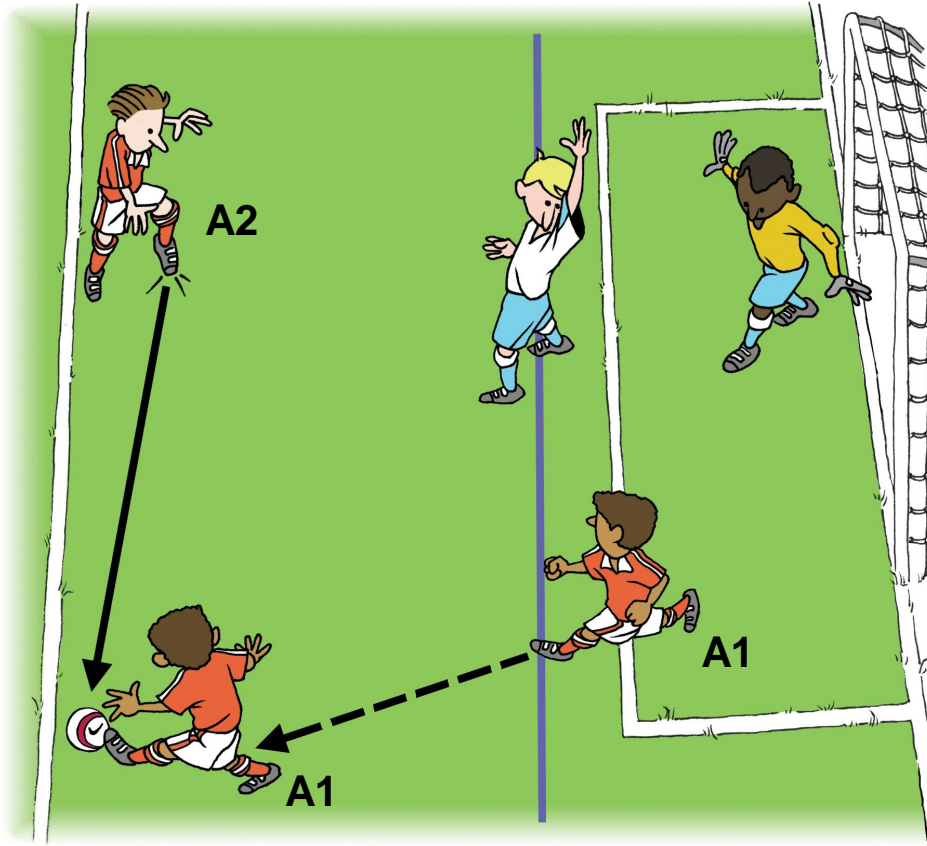


WHAT IF ???



13

The referee called my player offside even though he was way behind the second-to-last defender when he got the ball. How can that be?



It isn't important where an attacker gets the ball, it's where the attacker was when a teammate last played or touched the ball



Player A1 was in an offside position when the ball was played by A2 and "came back" to get the ball.

The referee and AR have to remember where a player was when the play started.



WHAT IF ???



14

Can an attacker do anything to avoid being called offside other than stepping off the field?



YES

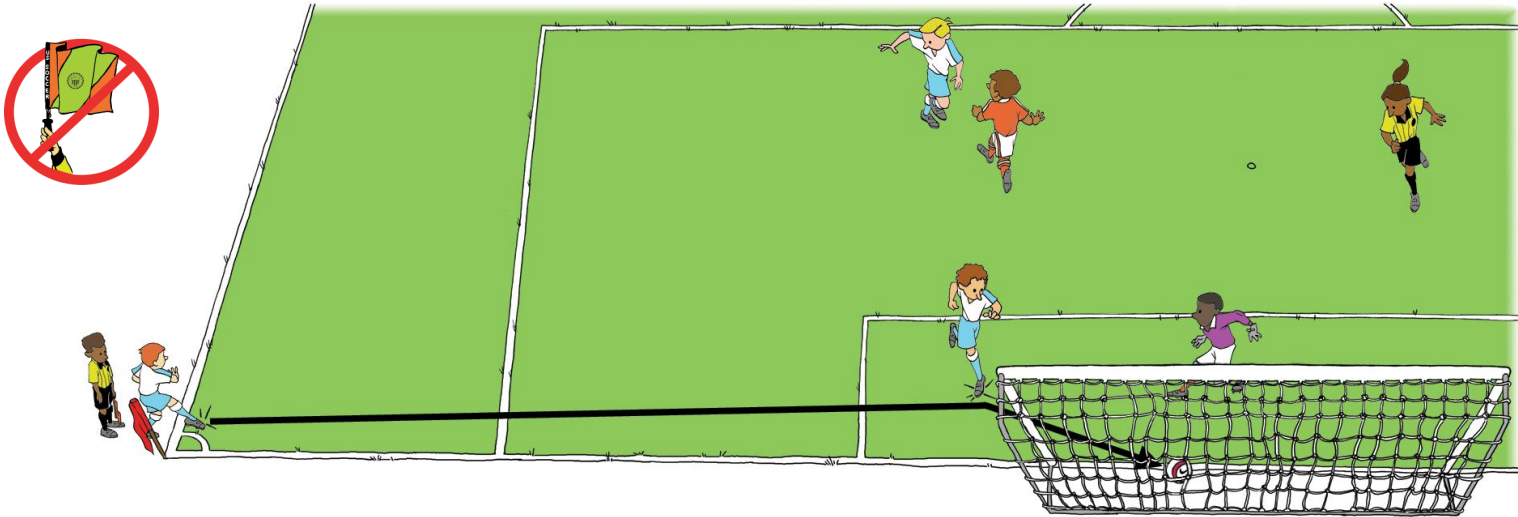
- Move away from the area of active play
- Turn away
- Make eye contact with the referee and stand still
- Do anything that clearly indicates that you are not involved in the play

But.....

- *The action has to be clear and obvious*
- *It has to be seen and recognized by the referee*

15

Corner kicks are an exception in calling offside. But I've seen offside called on corner kicks. Why?

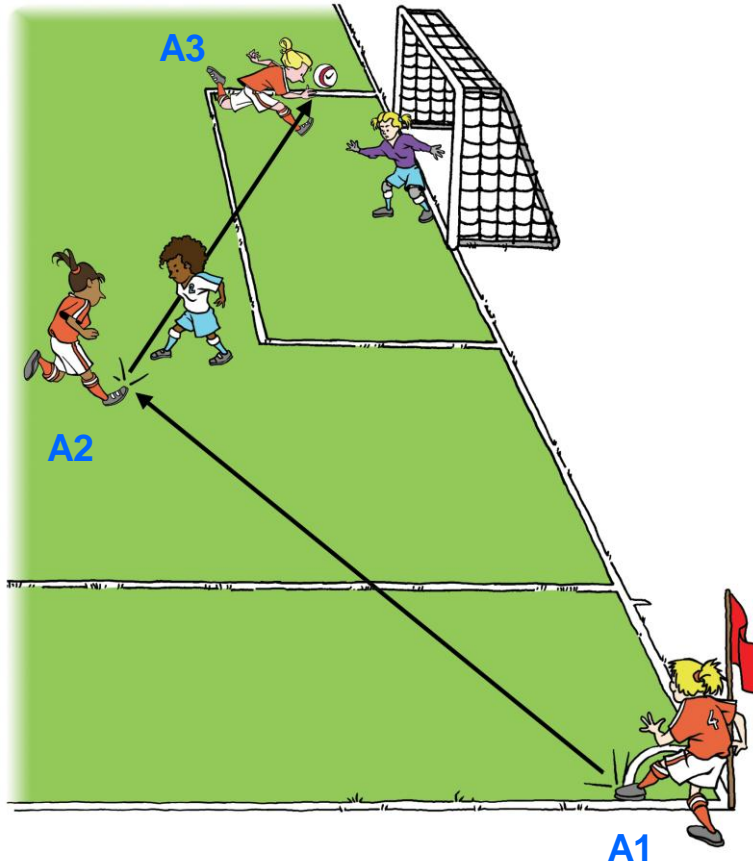


This exception applies only if the ball is received *directly* from the corner kick.

"Directly" in this case means no other teammate has touched or played the ball.

15

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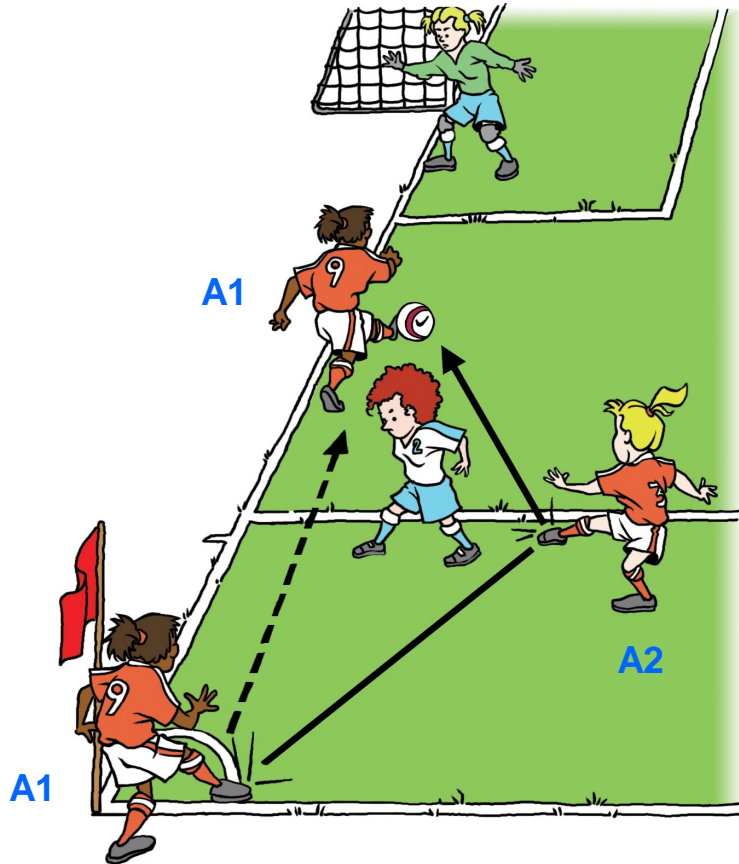
Once another attacker touches or plays the ball after a corner kick, the corner kick is over and the ball is back in normal play and the offside rules apply as usual.



A2 receives the ball directly from the corner kick. The corner kick is now over. A3 then receives the ball from A2 (on the second touch). A3 must be called for offside.

15

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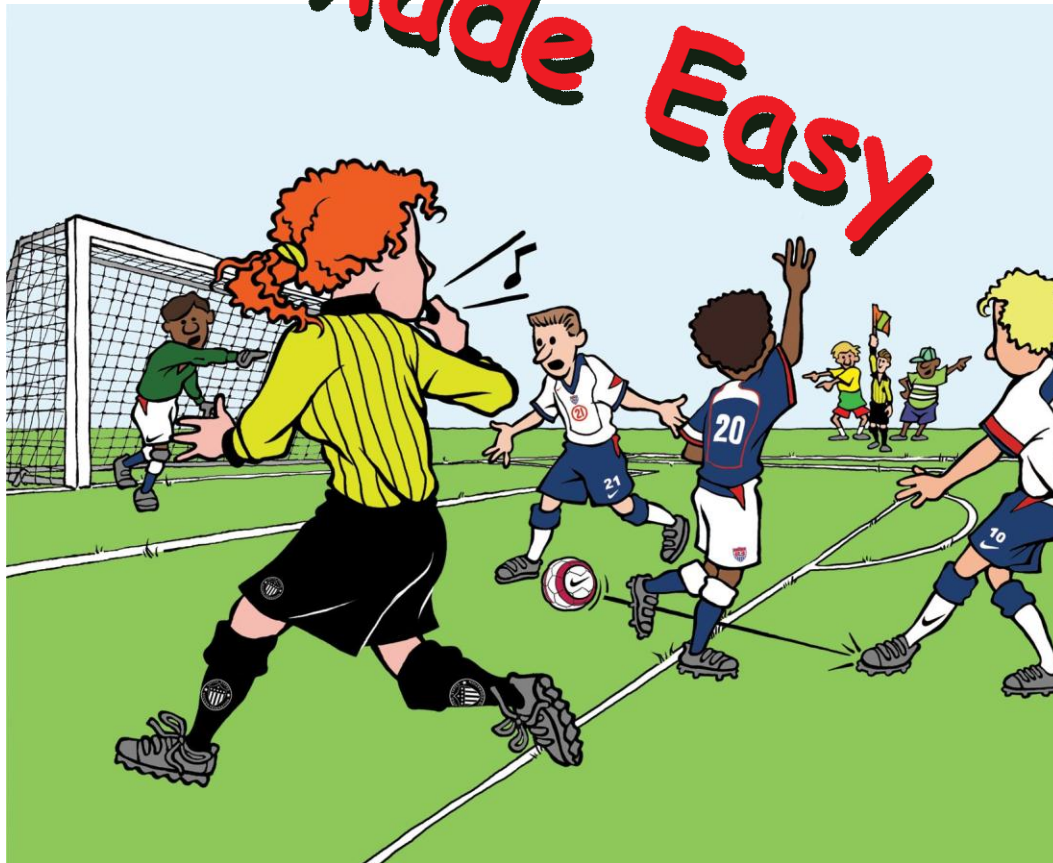
A2 receives the ball directly from the corner kick by A1. The corner kick is now over.

So, when A1 then runs into the field and A2 plays the ball back to her, A1 must be called for offside, because she received the ball from the "second touch" and not from the corner kick itself.



OFFSIDE

Made Easy



United States Soccer Federation, Inc.