

# Parents Guide to Soccer Offside

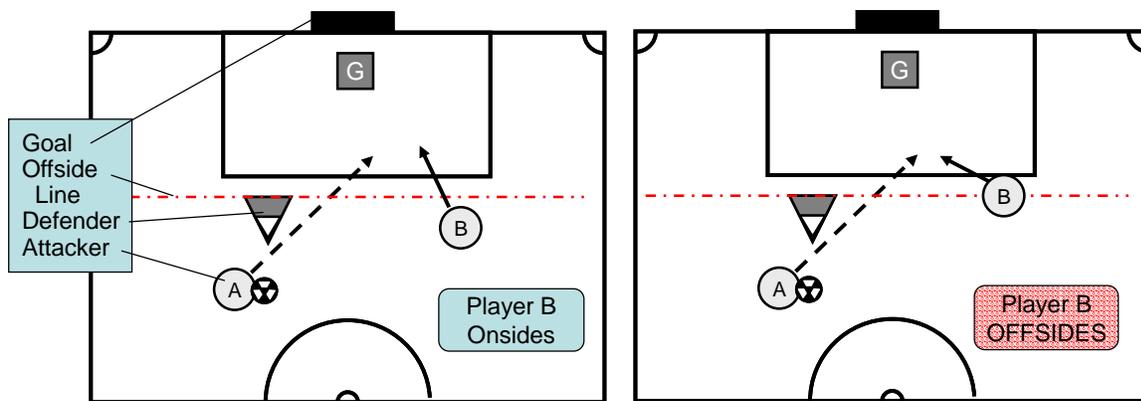
The offside rule was created to prevent offensive players from *camping out* or *cherry picking* near the opponent's goal even when play was on the other side of the field.

You can NEVER be offside in your own half of the field.

You can NEVER be offside if you are dribbling your own ball.

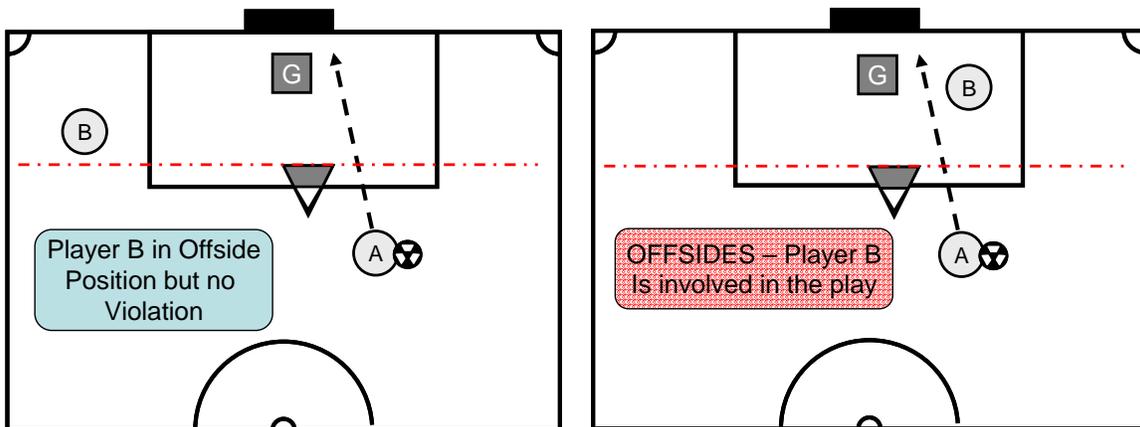
You can NEVER be offside if you are behind a ball that someone else is dribbling.

**Offside Rule:** A player is in an offside position if he is on his attacking half of the field and if he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second to last opponent, or the last two opponents (typically the goalie and the last defender). The offside rule is applied at the moment the ball is passed, not at the moment the ball is received.



When an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred

Just by being in an offside position is not a violation. The player in an offside position is penalized if in the opinion of the referee the player gained an advantage by being in that position such as he was involved in active play (received a pass) or interfered with an opponent (shielded the goalie).

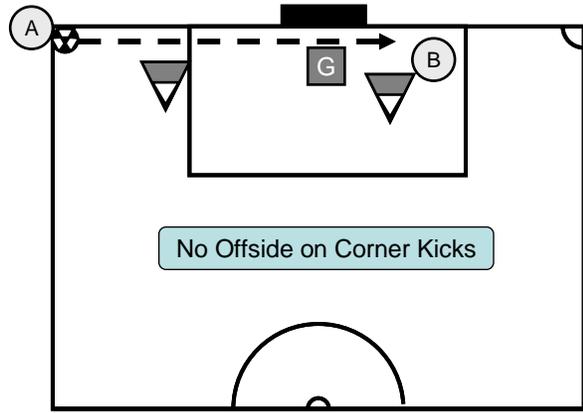
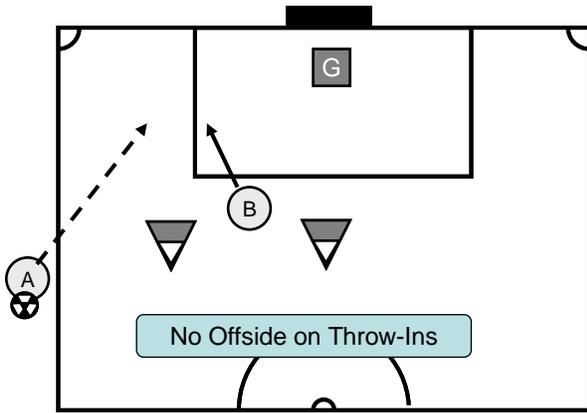


# Parents Guide to Soccer Offside

## NO OFFENSE:

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

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



Figures 1 & 2 - The offside rule is applied at the moment the ball is passed, not at the moment the ball is received.

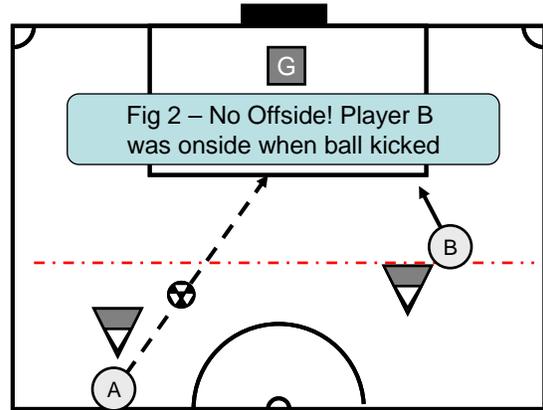
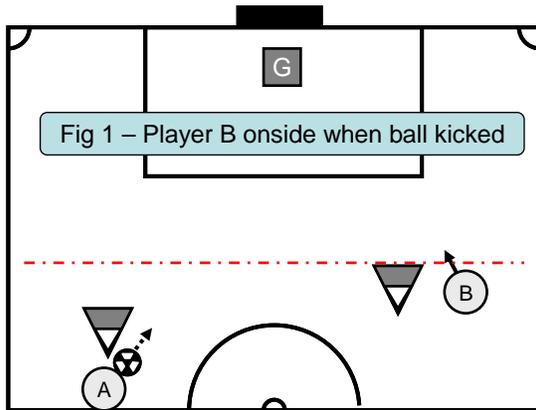
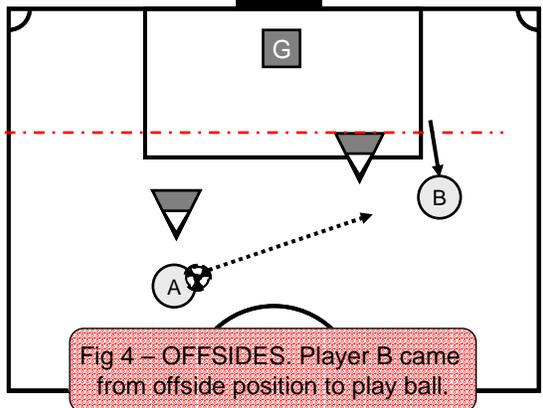
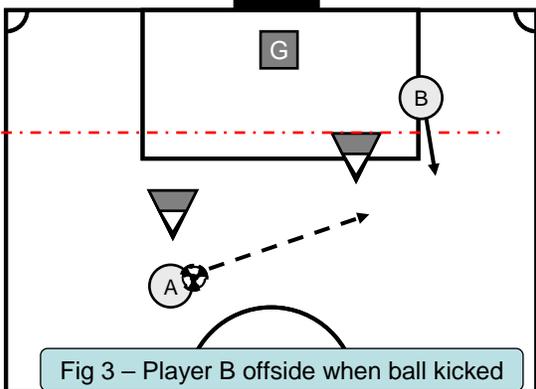


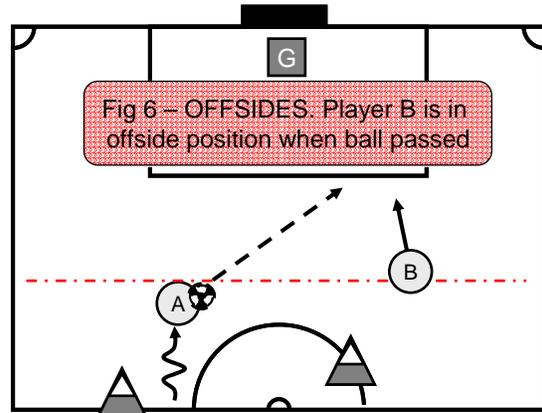
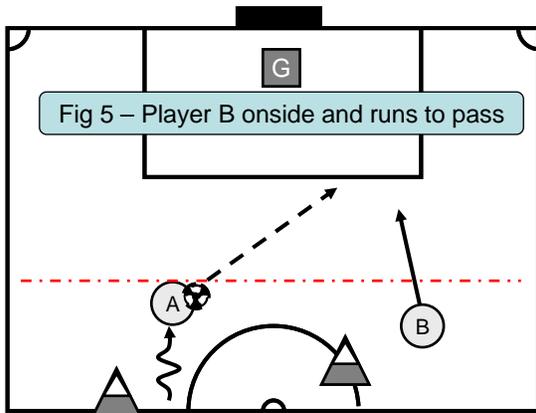
Figure 3 & 4 – Player B is in offside position when ball is kicked and comes back to play the ball. This is an Offside Violation!



## Parents Guide to Soccer Offside

Figures 5 - You can NEVER be offside if you are dribbling your own ball and you can NEVER be offside if you are behind a ball that someone else is dribbling. Both Player A & B are beyond the second to last defender. Player B is onside when Player A passes the ball.

Figure 6 – Player B is in the offside position while Player A is in possession and dribbling forward. Offside is not called. However when Player A passes the ball Player B becomes involved in active play. Offside Violation!



Figures 7 - There is no offside offense if a player receives the ball directly from a corner kick. However when Player B passes back to Player A he is in an Offside position. Offside Violation!

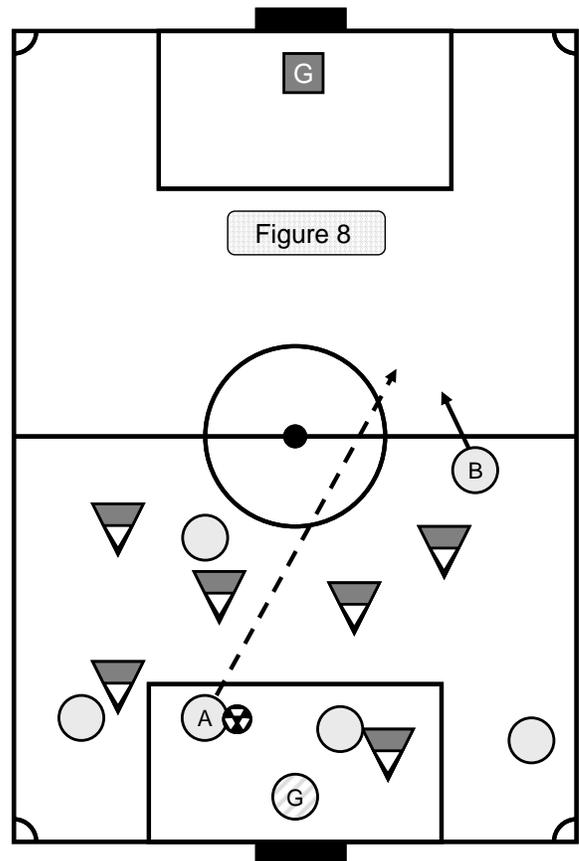
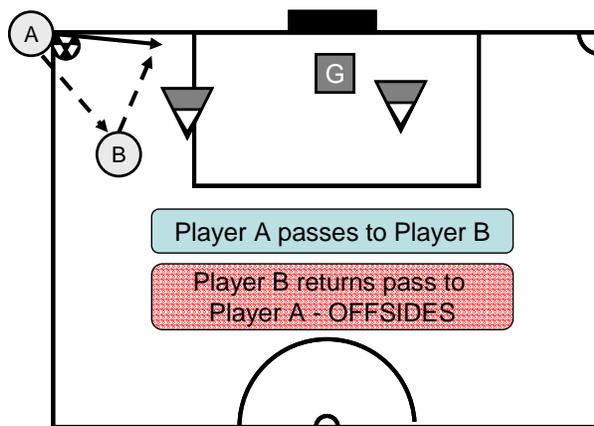
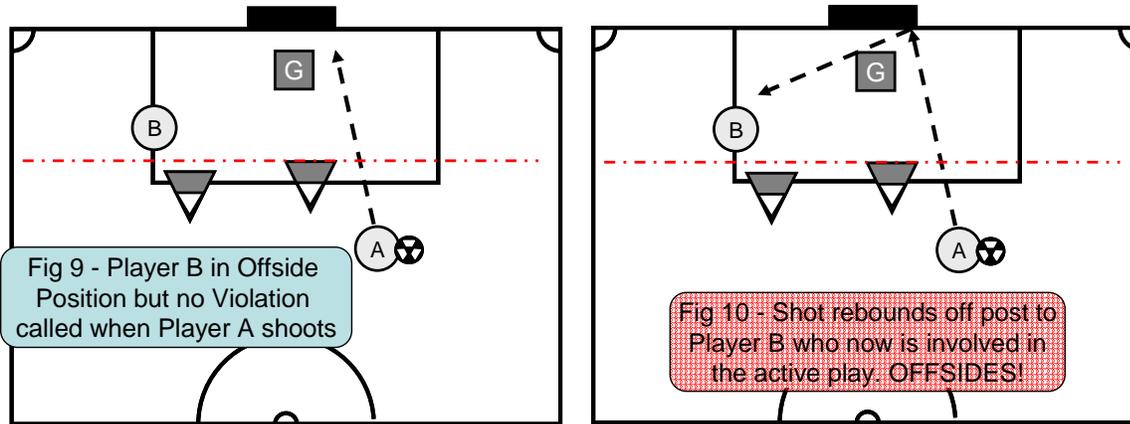


Figure 8 - You can NEVER be offside in your own half of the field. Player B is beyond the second to last defender, but he is in his own half of the field and is onside when the ball is kicked. No offside violation.

## Parents Guide to Soccer Offside

Figure 9 – Player A shoots on Goal. Player B is in offside position but is not involved in the play. No offside violation called.

Figure 10 – Shot rebounds off post toward Player B, who is now involved in active play. Offside Violation called!



## Web Offside resources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offside\\_\(football\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offside_(football)) - text definitions

<http://users.erols.com/soccertip/offside/offside.htm> - text and diagram tour!

<http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html> - Laws of the game

# Parents Guide to Soccer Offside

## The Offside Trap

A well coordinated group of defenders can play the offside trap just to make things more difficult and confusing for the offense, the referee, and the parents! The offside trap is a strategy where defenders try to draw an offside violation by running forward right before a potential pass. This puts an unsuspecting offensive player in an offside position. The offside trap is risky if all the defenders don't move up together and get ahead of the offensive player before a pass is attempted.

Defenses frequently move forward in a static offside trap when free kicks are being taken to prevent offensive players from setting up near the goal for a header. This can cause a foot race back toward the goal for a well time offensive break.

Figure 11 – Player B is in an onside position as player A gets ready to pass a thru ball.

Figure 12 – The Defenders make a coordinated run forward putting Player B in an offside position right before player A kicks a thru ball pass.

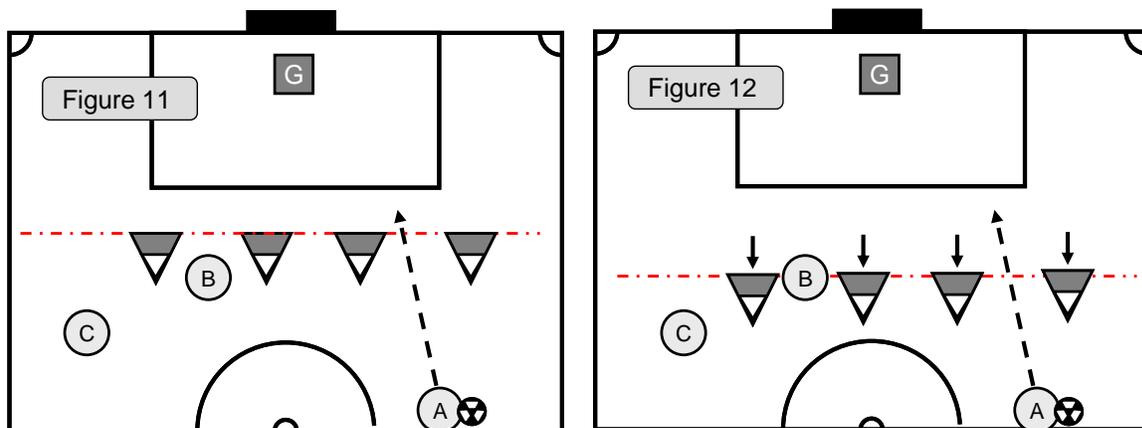
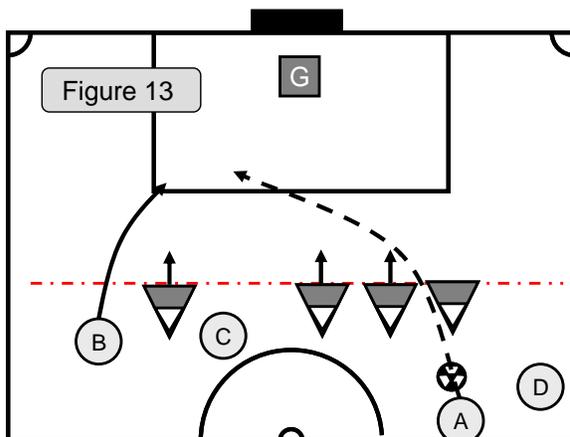


Figure 13 – The Static Offside Trap on a free kick. Defenders move up to prevent attackers from setting up near the goal. Player A is preparing to take the kick, Player B is preparing to make a run, Defenders are preparing to race back and cover the run.



# FIFA Laws of the Game 2007/2008

July 2007 - Authorised by the International Football Association Board

## LAW 11 - OFFSIDE

### Offside Position

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

A player is in an offside position if:

- he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.

A player is not in an offside position if:

- he is in his own half of the field of play; or
- he is level with the second last opponent; or
- he is level with the last two opponents.

### Offence

A player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he 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 Offence

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

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

### Infringements/Sanctions

For any offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred. \* (see page 3)

## LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

### *Decisions of the International F.A. Board*

#### **Decision 1**

*In the definition of offside position, "nearer to his opponents' goal line" means that any part of his head, body or feet is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent. The arms are not included in this definition.*

#### **Decision 2**

*The definitions of elements of involvement in active play are as follows:*

- *Interfering with play means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate.*
- *Interfering with an opponent means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent.*

## Parents Guide to Soccer Offside

- *Gaining an advantage by being in that position means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a post or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position.*

### LAW 11 – OFFSIDE

#### Infringements

When an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to be taken from the position of the offending player when the ball was last played to him by one of his team mates.

If a defending player steps behind his own goal line in order to place an opponent in an offside position, the referee shall allow play to continue and caution the defender for deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission when the ball is next out of play.

It is not an offence in itself for a player who is in an offside position to step off the field of play to show the referee that he is not involved in active play. However, if the referee considers that he has left the field of play for tactical reasons and has gained an unfair advantage by reentering the field of play, the player shall be cautioned for unsporting behaviour. The player needs to ask for the referee's permission to reenter the field of play.

If an attacking player remains stationary between the goal posts and inside the goal net as the ball enters the goal, a goal shall be awarded.

However, if the attacking player distracts an opponent, the goal shall be disallowed, the player cautioned for unsporting behaviour and play shall be restarted with a dropped ball in the position where the ball was located. \* (see page 3)

### LAW 11 – OFFSIDE Question & Answers

1. *A player moving quickly towards his opponent's goal is penalised for an offside offence. From what position is the resulting indirect free kick taken?*

The kick is taken from his position when the ball was last played to him by one of his team-mates \*.

2. *Does a referee penalise a player who is in an offside position and moves off the field of play to show the referee that he is not involved in active play?*

No. It is not an offence in itself to be in an offside position and there is no need for the player to leave the field of play. However, if the referee considers that he has left the field for tactical reasons and has gained an unfair advantage by re-entering the field of play, the player should be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

3. *A defending player moves beyond his own goal line in order to place an opponent in an offside position. What action does the referee take?*

The referee allows play to continue and cautions the defender for deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission, when the ball is next out of play.

4. *An attacking player's movement takes him between the goal posts*

## Parent Guide to the Wonders and Mysteries of Offside

*into the goal net and at the same time, a team-mate kicks the ball into the goal. What action does the referee take if*

*a) The player who is between the goal posts remains stationary as the ball enters?*

No action should be taken. A goal is awarded.

*b) The actions of the player distract an opponent?*

The goal is disallowed and the player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour.

Since the offence was committed off the field of play, play is restarted with a dropped ball at the place where it was located when play was stopped\*.

*5. Is a team-mate allowed to stand in an offside position when a penalty kick is being taken?*

No. Players must be behind the penalty mark.

*6. Player A plays the ball to a team-mate B in an onside position, although there is another attacker C in an offside position. Play continues, and afterwards, in the next phase of play, player B sends the ball to player*

*C, who now is in an onside position. He scores a goal. What action does the referee take?*

The referee awards the goal; because when player C received the ball he was in an onside position. He would not be penalised for being in an offside position in the first phase since he was not involved in active play.

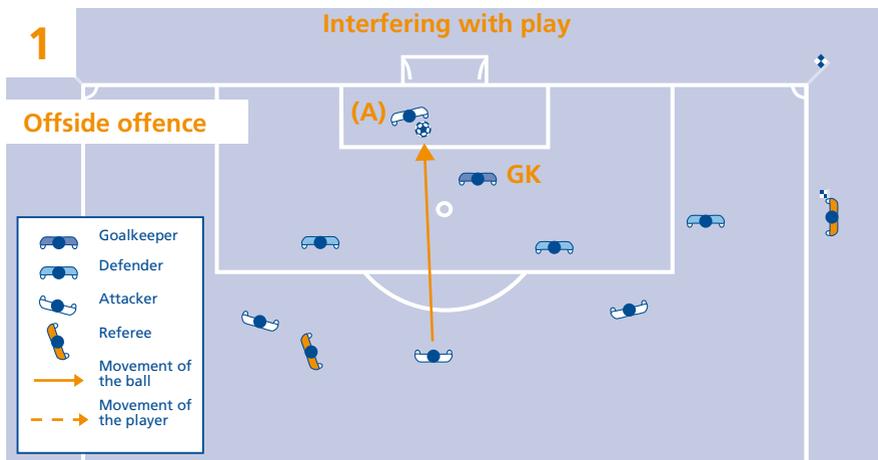
*7. The ball is played to a player in an offside position by a team-mate, but a defending player touches it deliberately with his hand. What action does the referee take?*

If, in the opinion of the referee, the player in the offside position should be penalised for being involved in active play, he will penalize the offside and restart the match with an indirect free kick\*.

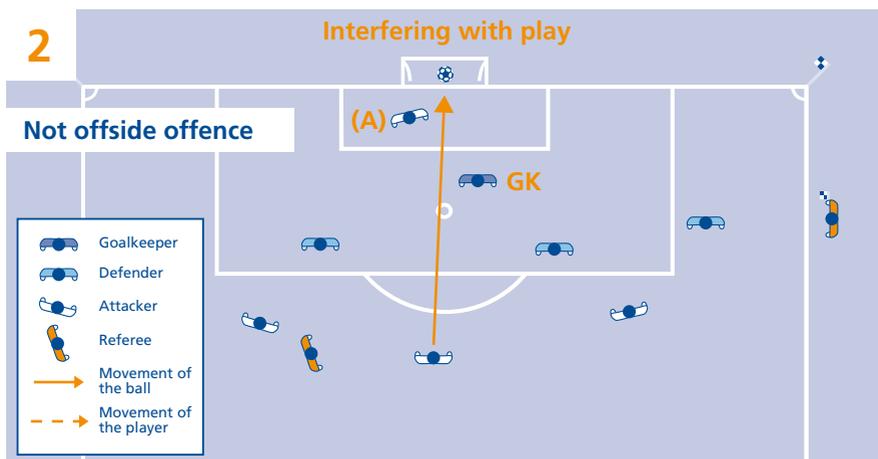
However, if in the referee's opinion, the player should not be penalized for being involved in active play, a direct free kick, or a penalty kick, will be awarded against the player who handled the ball.

*8. A player in an offside position but not interfering with any opponent runs towards the ball played by a team-mate. Must the referee wait until he touches the ball to penalise him?*

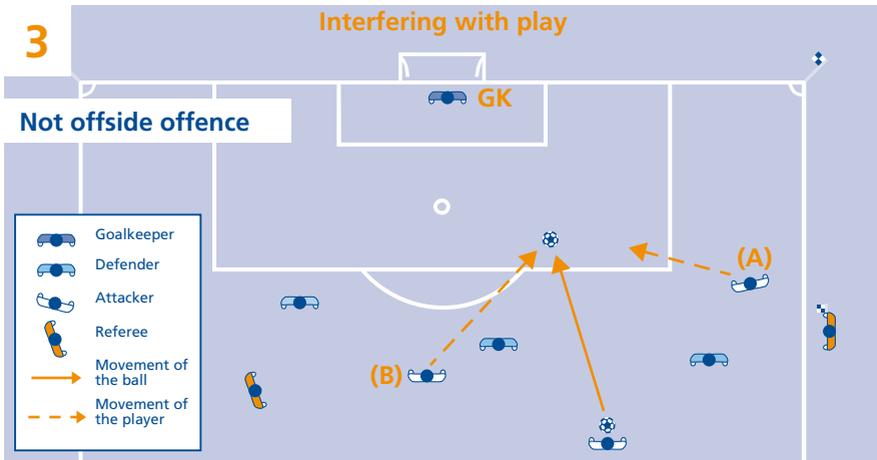
Yes. The referee must wait and see if the player in an offside position finally interferes with play by touching the ball.



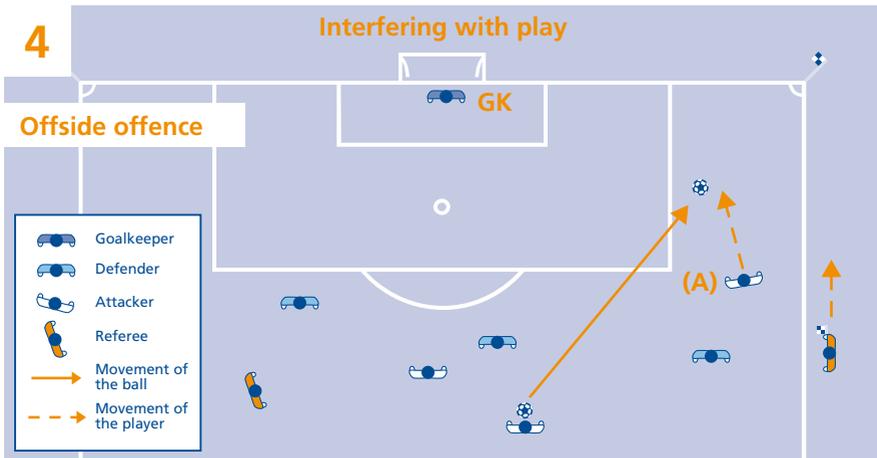
An attacker **in an offside position (A)**, not interfering with an opponent, **touches the ball**.  
The assistant referee should raise the flag when the player **touches the ball**.



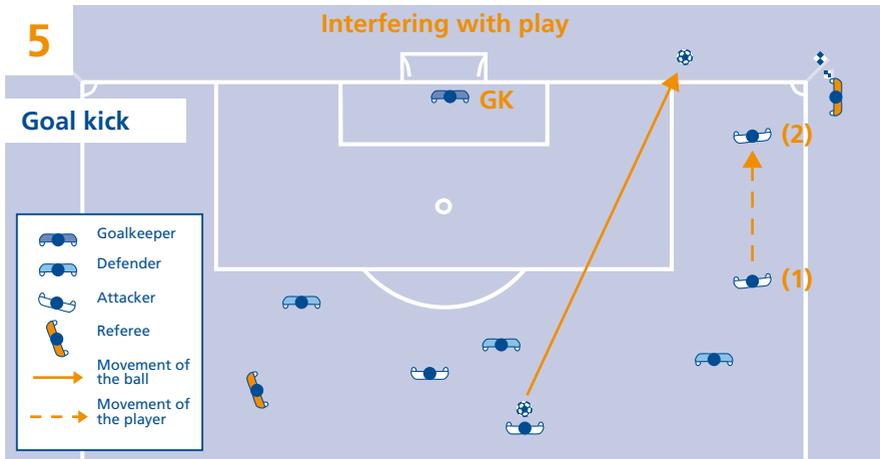
An attacker **in an offside position (A)**, not interfering with an opponent, **does not touch** the ball.  
The player cannot be penalised because he did not touch the ball.



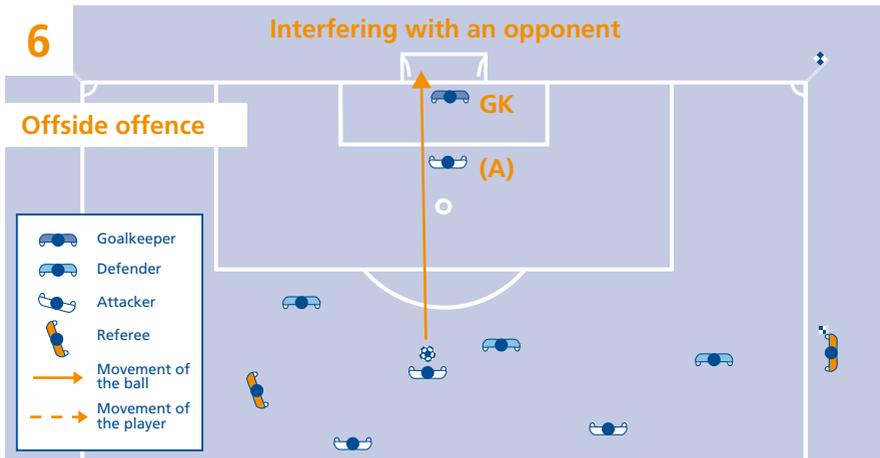
An attacker **in an offside position (A)** runs towards the ball and a teammate in **inside** position (B) runs also towards the ball and plays it. Player (A) cannot be penalised because he did not touch the ball.



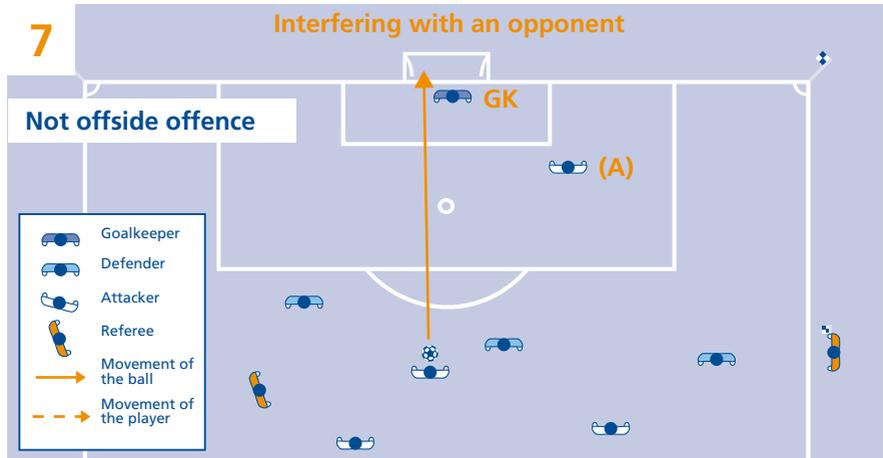
A player in an **offside position (A)** may be penalised before playing or touching the ball if, in the opinion of the referee, no other team-mate in an inside position has the opportunity to play the ball.



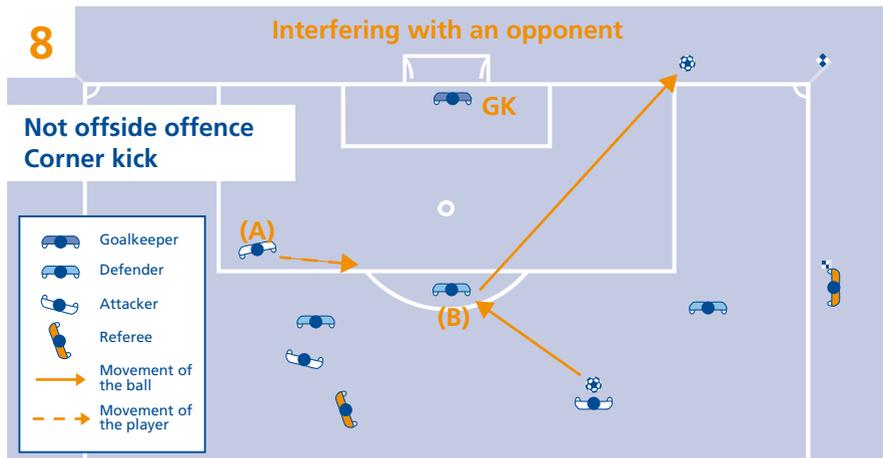
An attacker **in an offside position** (1) runs towards the ball and **does not touch the ball**.  
 The assistant referee should signal “goal kick”.



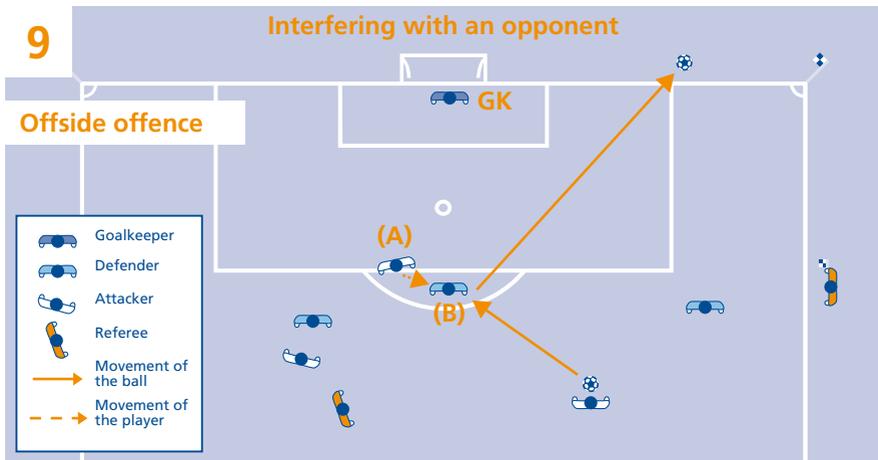
An attacker **in an offside position** (A) is obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision. He should be penalised because he prevents an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball.



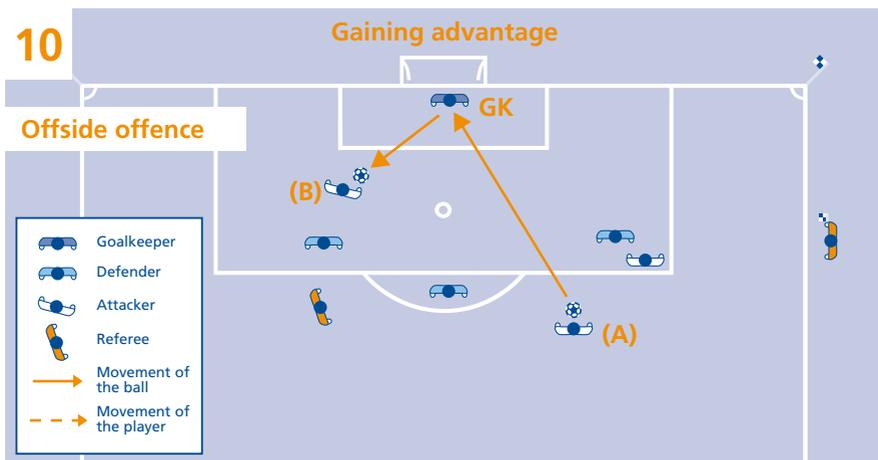
An attacker **in an offside position** (A) is **not** obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision or making a gesture or movement which deceives or distracts him.



An attacker **in an offside position** (A) runs towards the ball but he does not prevent the opponent from playing or being able to play the ball. (A) is **not** making any gesture or movement which deceives or distracts (B).



An attacker **in an offside position** (A) runs towards the ball preventing the opponent (B) from playing or being able to play the ball. Player (A) is making any gesture or movement which deceives or distracts player (B).



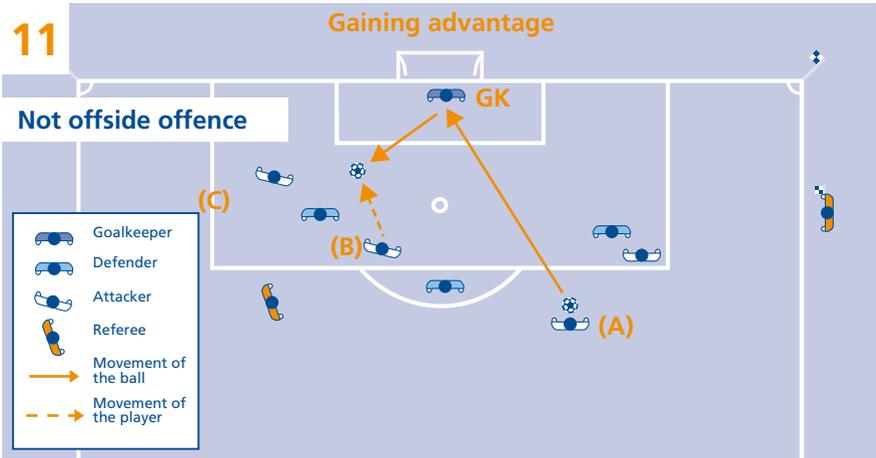
The shot by a team-mate (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper to player (B) who is penalised for **playing the ball** having been previously **in an offside position**.

11

Gaining advantage

Not offside offence

	Goalkeeper
	Defender
	Attacker
	Referee
	Movement of the ball
	Movement of the player



The shot by a team-mate (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper. Player (B) is an inside position plays the ball.

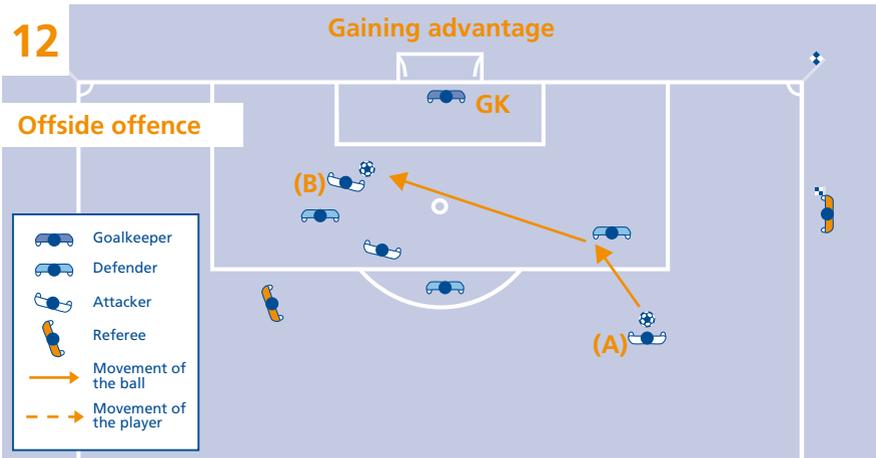
Player (C) **in an offside position** is not penalise because he did not gain advantage for being in that position because he did not touch the ball.

12

Gaining advantage

Offside offence

	Goalkeeper
	Defender
	Attacker
	Referee
	Movement of the ball
	Movement of the player



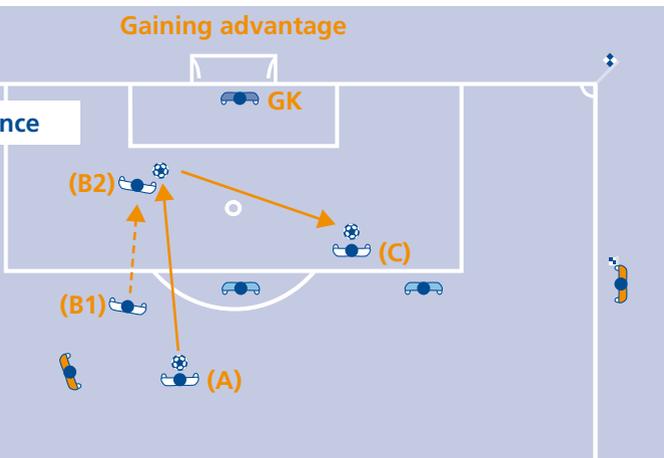
The shot by a team-mate (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper to player (B) who is penalised for **playing the ball** having been previously **in an offside position**.

# 13

## Gaining advantage

### Not offside offence

	Goalkeeper
	Defender
	Attacker
	Referee
	Movement of the ball
	Movement of the player



An attacker (C) **is in an offside position**, not interfering with an opponent, when a team-mate (A) passes the ball to player (B1) in an inside position who runs towards the opponent's goal and passes the ball (B2) to team-mate (C). Attacker (C) cannot be penalised because when the ball was passed to him, he was **in an inside position**.

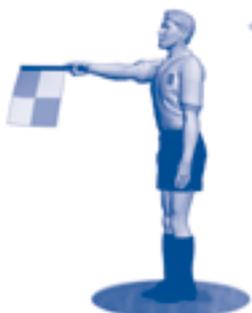
## ASSISTANT REFEREE SIGNALS



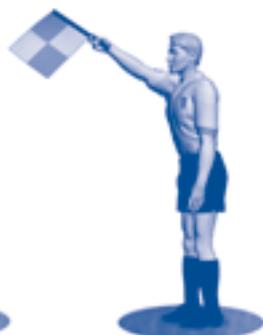
Offside



Offside on the  
near side of the field



Offside on the centre  
of the field



Offside on  
the far side of the field



Foul by defender



Foul by attacker

