

## Common Situations and Important Laws

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Referees should know the Laws of the Game. Youth referees should also know the Small-Sided Game rule changes that come from WYS and SnVYSA (and EYSA in regard to U11 and U12). Referees are encouraged to review these rules prior to each game.

### Law 11 - Offside

The following elements must be present for a player to be offside:

1. The player must be in the attacking half of the field.
2. The player must be closer to the opponent's goal line than the ball is (player is ahead of the ball).
3. Fewer than two opponents must be between the player and the opponent's goal line.
4. All the above conditions must exist at the time the ball is last touched by a teammate.
5. The player must be involved in active play by: a) interfering with play or with an opponent, or b) gaining an advantage by being in that position.
6. The player does not receive the ball directly from goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in.

In summary, to be offside a player not only must be in an offside position (elements 1 through 3) but also must gain an advantage by being in that position. Therefore, a player in an offside position may not be whistled for an offside infraction. Referees interpret Law 11 by whistling the offside infraction only if the player receives the ball by pass or deflection. If a player runs into an offside position to take advantage of that position but does not receive the ball, referees do not whistle a foul.

Offside infractions apply when the ball is passed by an attacking teammate. Deflections by a defender do not nullify an offside infraction. If a defender gains control of the ball, then passes the ball to an offside attacker by mistake, there is no offside. If a player is declared offside, the referee awards an indirect free kick at the spot where the offside player became involved in the play. If the offense occurs in the goal area, the defenders' free kick shall be taken from any place in the goal area.

### Law 12 - Fouls and Misconduct

**Direct Free Kick** Fouls calling for a direct free kick are known as penal fouls. A player has committed a penal foul if the player carelessly, recklessly, or with excessive force:

1. kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
2. trips or attempts to trip an opponent;
3. jumps at an opponent;
4. charges an opponent;
5. hits or attempts to hit an opponent;
6. pushes an opponent.

A player has committed a penal foul (whether or not acting carelessly, recklessly or with excessive force) if the player:

1. when tackling makes contact with an opponent before making contact with the ball;
2. holds an opponent;
3. spits at an opponent;

4. deliberately handles the ball.

Note: accidental contact between ball and hand or arm is not a foul.

A penalty kick is awarded if the penal foul is committed in the player's penalty area.

### **Indirect Free Kick**

The following, known as technical offenses, result in an indirect free kick:

1. Dangerous play;
2. Impeding the progress of an opponent (often called "obstruction" in the past);
3. Preventing a goalkeeper from releasing the ball from his hand;
4. Committing any other offense not previously mentioned in Law 12 for which play is stopped to caution or dismiss a player.

An indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team if a goalkeeper, inside his own penalty area, commits any of the following offenses:

1. Takes more than six seconds to release the ball from his hands;
2. Touches the ball again with his hands after it has been released from his possession and has not been touched any other player;
3. Touches the ball with his hands after a) it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate (except at U09 and below) or b) he has received it directly from a teammate's throw-in.