



2022 Grassroots Referee Certification Class

Session 1
Law Emphasis, Local Rules,
Misconceptions



Session 1 Agenda

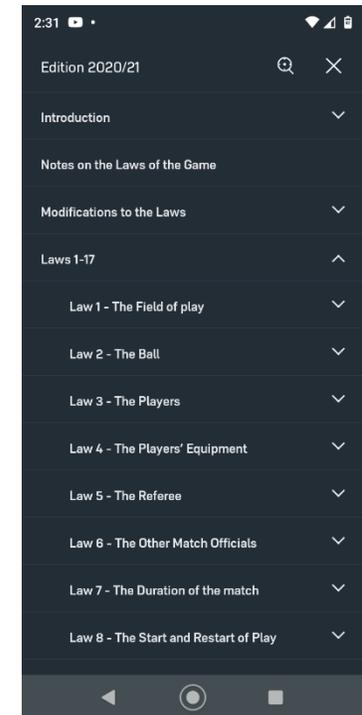
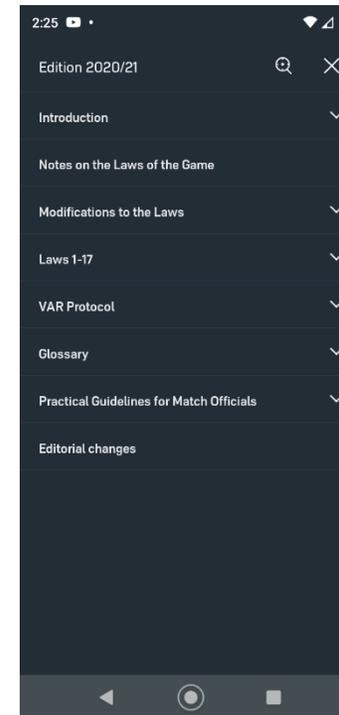
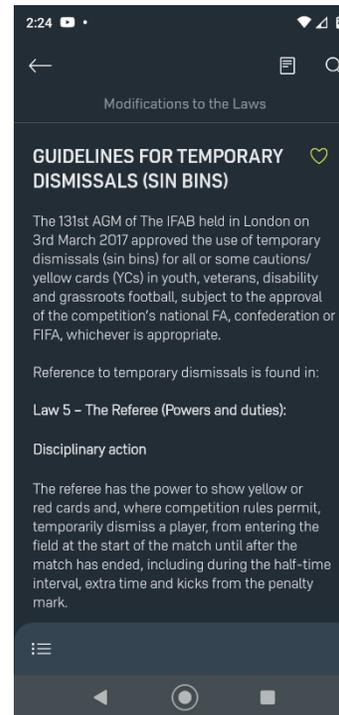
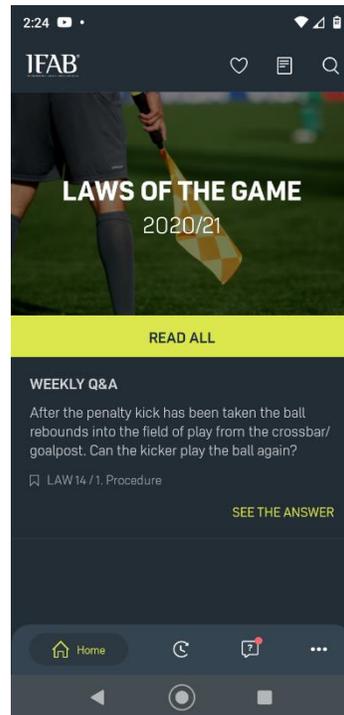
- **IFAB Laws of the Game - 17**
- **Local Rules of Competition**
- **Law 1 (Field)**
- **Law 2 (Ball)**
- **Law 3 (Players)**
- **Law 4 (Player Equipment)**
- **Law 5 (Referee)**
- **Law 6 (Other Match Officials)**

Session 1 Agenda (continued)

- **Law 7 (Duration)**
- **Law 8 (Start/Restart)**
- **Law 9 (Ball In/Out of Play)**
- **Law 10 (Outcome)**
- **Law 11 (Offsides)**
- **Law 12 (Fouls/Misconduct)**
- **Law 13 (Free Kicks)**
- **Law 14 (Penalty Kicks)**
- **Law 15 (Throw-in)**
- **Law 16 (Goal Kicks)**
- **Law 17 (Corner Kicks)**
- **Additional Questions**

IFAB Laws of the Game

- **IFAB 21/22 Laws of the Game (US Soccer Learning Center)**
- **IFAB 21/22 Laws Changes and Clarifications (US Soccer Learning Center)**
- **IFAB Laws of the Game App (Google Play, Apple App Store)**





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ROGER R.

Due to COVID-19, Court Closures may cause delays in background screening results. You may still submit a background screening request through the Learning Center, but the results may take longer than usual. These background screenings are processed by NCSI. Please check NCSI's website linked [here](#) for more information or a list of court closures.

REFEREE LICENSE PATHWAY

Welcome to U.S. Soccer's Learning Center.
 We believe that every player has the right to develop and compete in a fair, fun and safe environment under the oversight of a licensed referee. While in the Learning Center, you will have access to referee courses, resources and support.
 Welcome to the team!

REFEREE PATHWAY

REFEREE	FIFA	ASSISTANT REFEREE
REFEREE	P.R.O.	ASSISTANT REFEREE
REFEREE	NATIONAL	ASSISTANT REFEREE
	REGIONAL	
	GRASSROOTS	

Windows taskbar: Type here to search | 1:47 PM 1/4/2021

Courses.... Then "Go to Classroom".... Select "Resources"

Grassroots Course “RESOURCES”



COURSES ¹

GROUPS

INFO

FAQS

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RECOGNIZE TO RECOVER

WILLIAM E.

ADMIN

COURSE DETAILS

CALENDAR

CANDIDATES

GROUP MEMBERS

RESOURCES

ASSIGNMENTS

LIBRARY

COMMUNICATION

EVALUATIONS

Lecture Resources

Roster

GRASSROOTS REFEREE PROFILE

The tasks and related competencies of a Grassroots Referee.

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INFORMATION FOR NEW REFEREES

Information for New Referees

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REFEREE PROGRAM - STANDARDS OF DRESS

Referee Program - Standards of Dress

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2021/22 LAWS OF THE GAME

2021/22 Laws of the Game

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REFEREE POCKET GUIDE

Referee Pocket Guide

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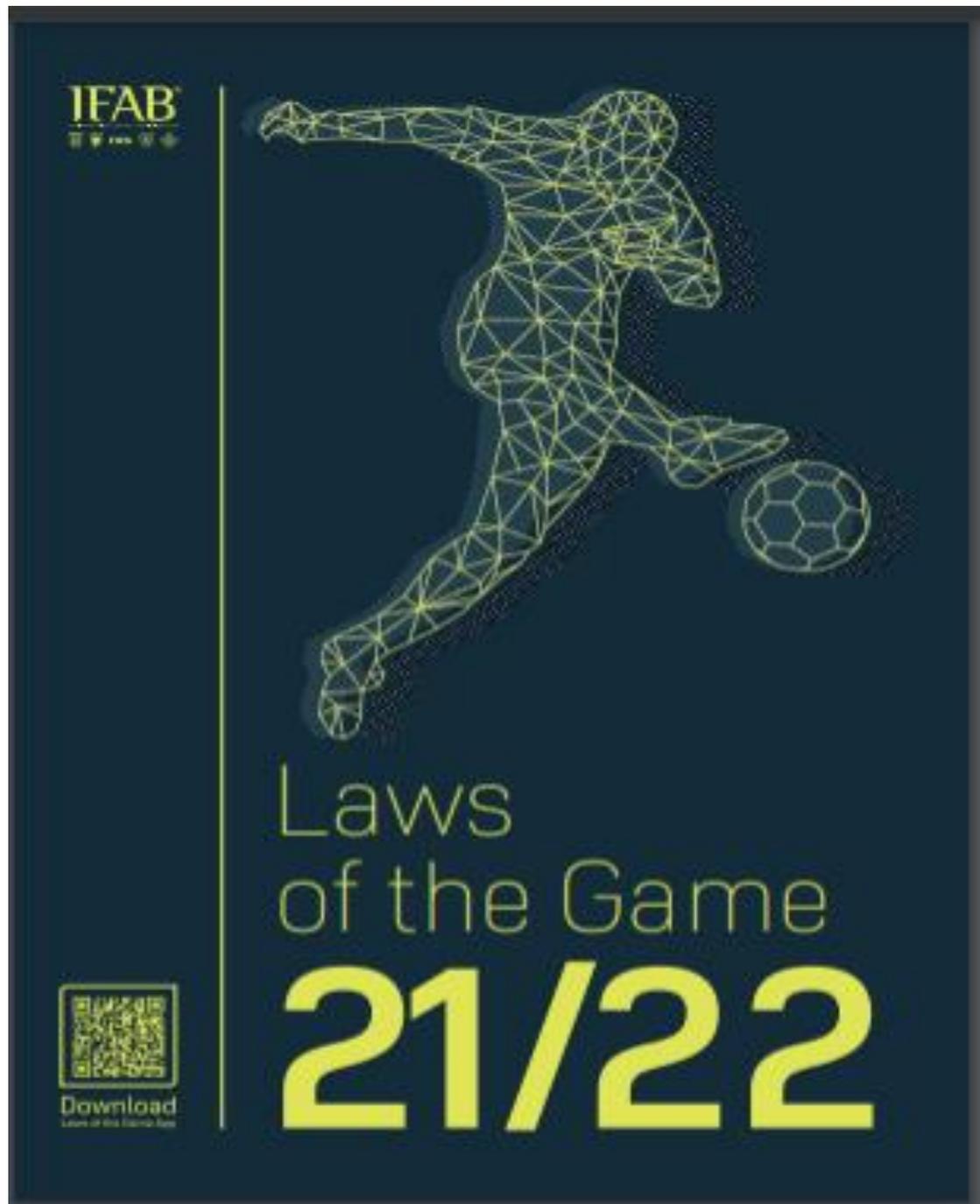
2021/22 IFAB LOTG CHANGES

2021/22 IFAB LOTG Changes

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Laws of the Game (LOTG)

115
Pages



LAW CHANGES for 2022

9 Pages

IFAB



Law changes 2021/22

IFAB

Outline summary of Law changes

Herewith an outline of the main changes/clarifications.

Changes affecting more than one Law

Notes on the Laws of the Game (all Laws) – metric units

- Clarification that, if there is any divergence between metric and imperial units, the metric units are authoritative

Laws 4, 5, 12 and VAR protocol – non-violent inappropriate behaviour

- To allow some non-violent inappropriate behaviour to be considered 'offensive, insulting or abusive' and result in a sending-off, 'action(s)/acting' replace 'gesture(s)/gesturing' in the relevant descriptions

Laws 1, 2 and 4 – FIFA Quality Programme

- Information about the FIFA Quality Programme is now included after the VAR protocol – details have been removed from the Law text

Individual Law changes (in Law order)

Law 1 – The Field of Play

- The goalposts and crossbar (and goals) must be the same shape
- The GLT signal can be sent to the video operation room (VAR)

Law 6 – The Other Match Officials

- There is now a FIFA list of international video match officials (VMOs)

Law 7 – The Duration of the Match

- Stoppage time relates to 'lost' playing time

Local VSL Rules / AGE Specific

Age Bracket	U8	U10	U12	U13-14	U15-16	U17-19
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Slide Tackles	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Heading	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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Offside	No	Yes - Modified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
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**Uniforms must be of like color with numbers on the back

***Substitutions may be made at any stoppage of play **with the permission of the referee**



Page
31

LAW 1 – THE FIELD OF PLAY

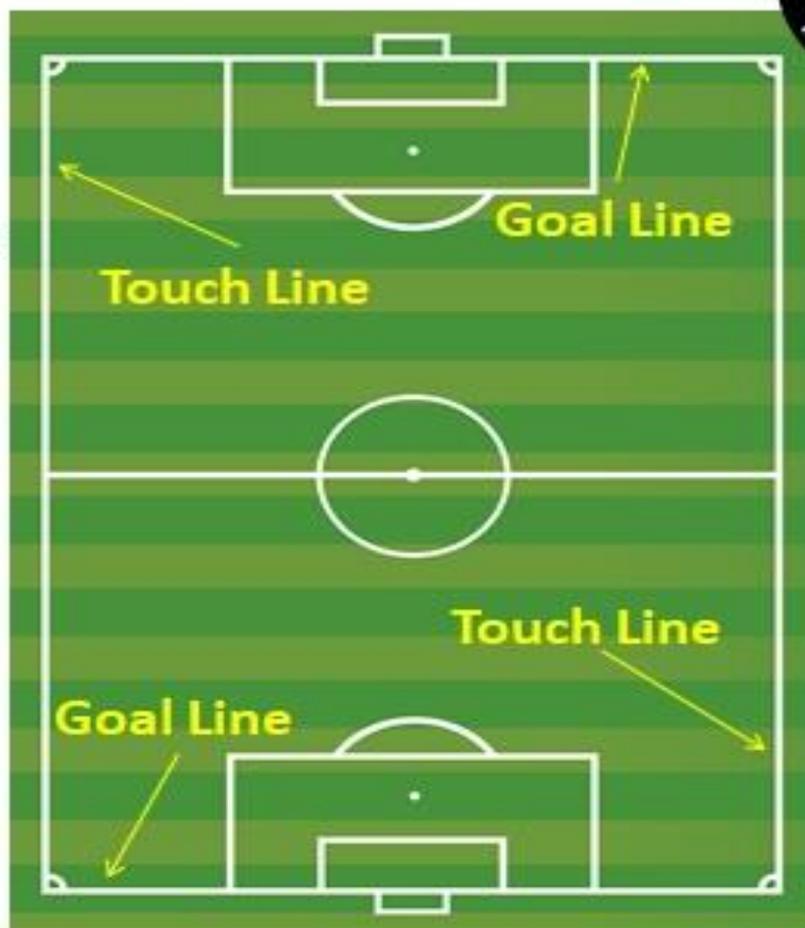
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Grassroots Referee Course

FIELD SIZE



- Field size will vary
- Must be a rectangle
- Touch lines
 - 100-130 yards
- Goal lines
 - 50-100 yards



FIELD MARKINGS



FIELD SAFETY



- Safety is the top concern
- Referees must inspect field
 - Arrive at least 30 minutes before game
 - Referee decides if field is safe to play
 - Tell home team coach of problems
 - Home team is responsible for field



GOAL SAFETY



GOAL ALIGNMENT

**Back edge
of Post
aligned
with back
edge of goal
line ?**

**Is it
CENTERed
within the
Penalty
area ?**



CORNER FLAGS



U-10 soccer

7v7

Build Out Line

The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting

When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play (from the opponent) or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play

Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punting is not allowed)

After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal

U-10 soccer

7v7

Build Out Line

If a goalkeeper punts the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense

If the punt occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

U10 Build Out line...

~1/2 way between top of Penalty area and midfield line



U-10 soccer

7v7

Concussion Initiative

Deliberate heading is not allowed in 7v7 games

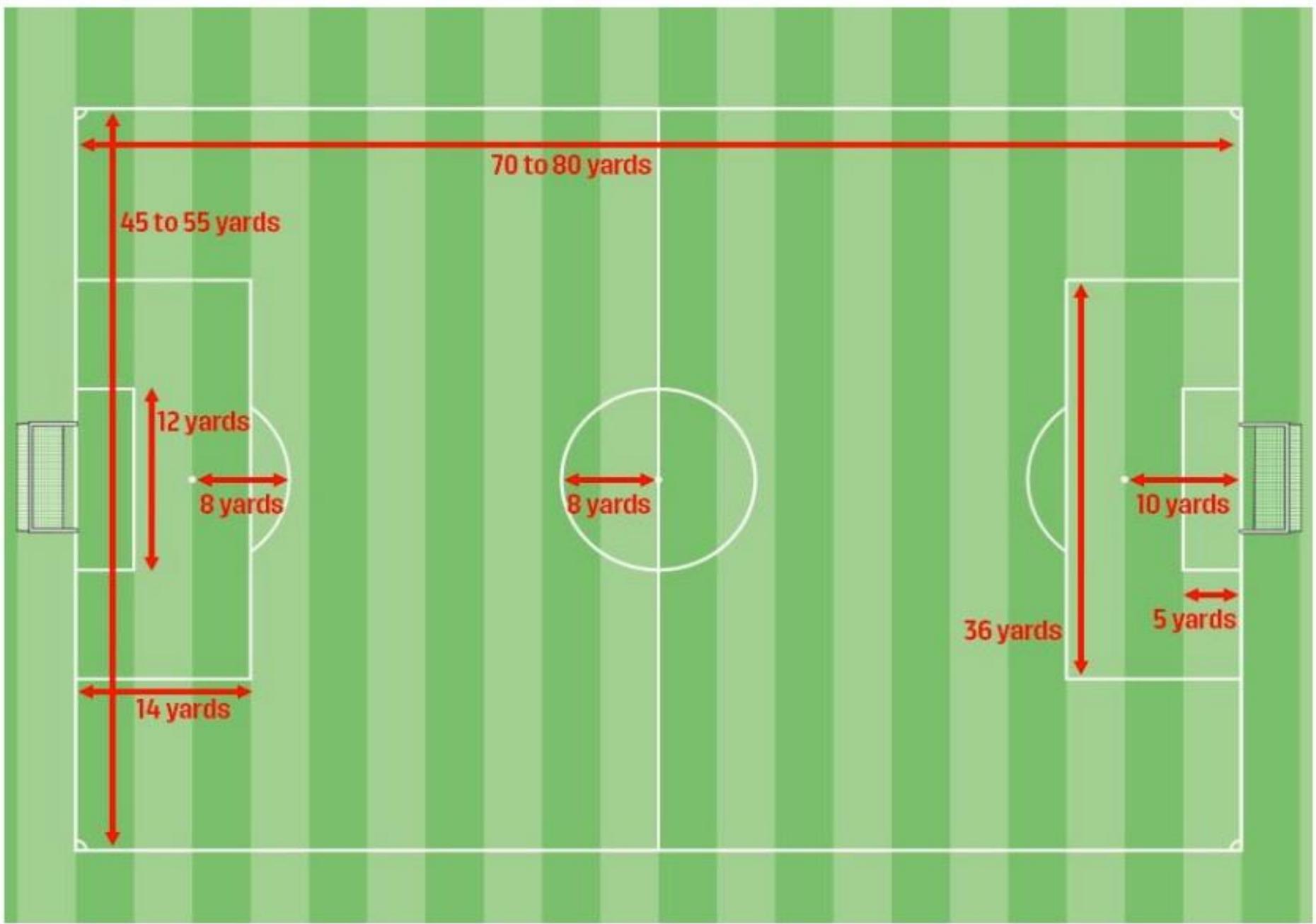
If a player deliberately heads the ball in a game, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense

If the deliberate header occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

U12 Field...

General dimensions

9 v 9





Page
41

LAW 2 – THE BALL

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM
GRADE 8 REFEREE COURSE
COMPETITIVE YOUTH TRAINING

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Page
45

LAW 3 – THE PLAYERS

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NUMBER OF PLAYERS



- Maximum of 11 players
 - Each team must have a designated goalkeeper at all times

- Minimum of 7 players
 - Begin game
 - Continue game
 - Unless situation is temporary

Local VSL Rules / AGE Specific

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CHECKING IN PLAYERS



CASTS

LATE ARRIVALS



- Players who arrive late can play
- Assistant referee or fourth official can perform inspection
- Player can enter during play with permission from the referee
- Or player may need to wait for the next substitution opportunity to make sure inspection is performed



SUBSTITUTIONS

PROCEDURE



- Substitute reports to official
- Referee is informed
- Player leaves the field with the referee's permission
 - Typically at the halfway line
- Substitute enters the field with the referee's permission
 - Only after the player being replaced has left the field
 - Only at the halfway line

GOALKEEPERS



- Any player may change with the goalkeeper
 - During a stoppage
 - With the referee's permission

- Without referee's permission
 - Both players cautioned at next stoppage

- Substituting the goalkeeper
 - Standard procedure



TOO MANY PLAYERS

OFFENSES AND SANCTIONS



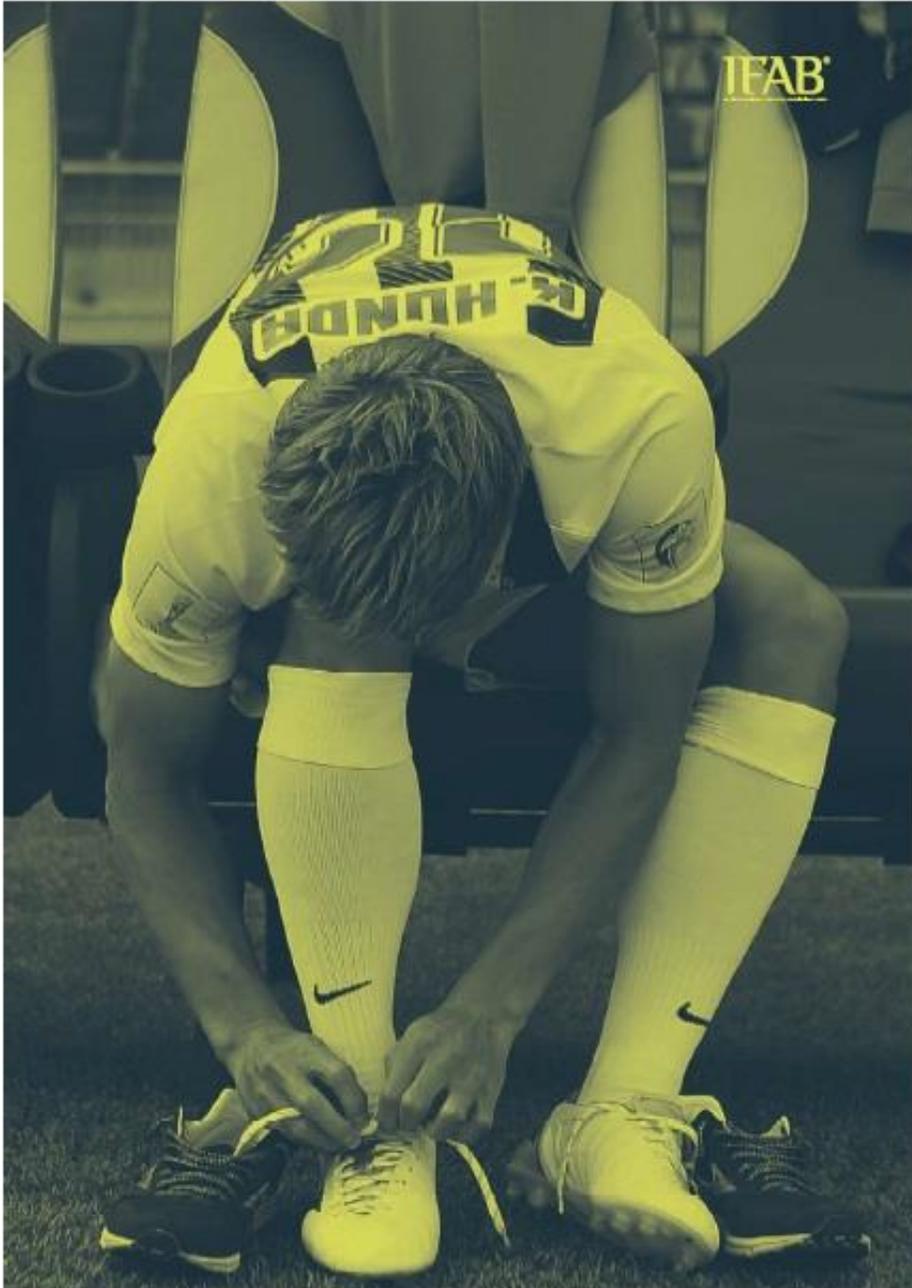
- Stop play if needed
 - Not immediately if no interference
- Take disciplinary sanction which may include dismissal of a team official or caution/send-off of a substitute or substituted player
- Restart play with a direct free kick from the position of interference or indirect free kick for opposing team if play was stopped without interference



LAW 4 – THE PLAYER’S EQUIPMENT

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Five S's (Mandatory)

Shirt
Shorts
Shoes
Socks
Shin guards

Not Allowed

Jewelry
Dangerous Equipment

OFFENSES AND SANCTIONS



- Player is asked to make correction
- Must leave at next stoppage if not corrected
- Can only return with referee's permission and equipment is checked by a match official
- Caution issued if player returns without permission
- If play was stopped to issue a caution, restart with an indirect free kick from position of the ball when play was stopped



Page
59

LAW 5 – THE REFEREE

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UNIFORM



UNIFORM

Women's apparel shown

EQUIPMENT



- Whistle
- Watch
- Pen or pencil
- Notebook
- Yellow and red cards
- Coin
- Assistant referee flags
- Referee Bag

Referee Uniform/Equipment Sources

- Officialsports.com
- Refereestore.com

Referee Signals

(Page 64-65)

6. Referee signals

Refer to graphics for approved referee signals.



Penalty kick



Advantage (1)



Advantage (2)



Indirect free kick



Direct free kick



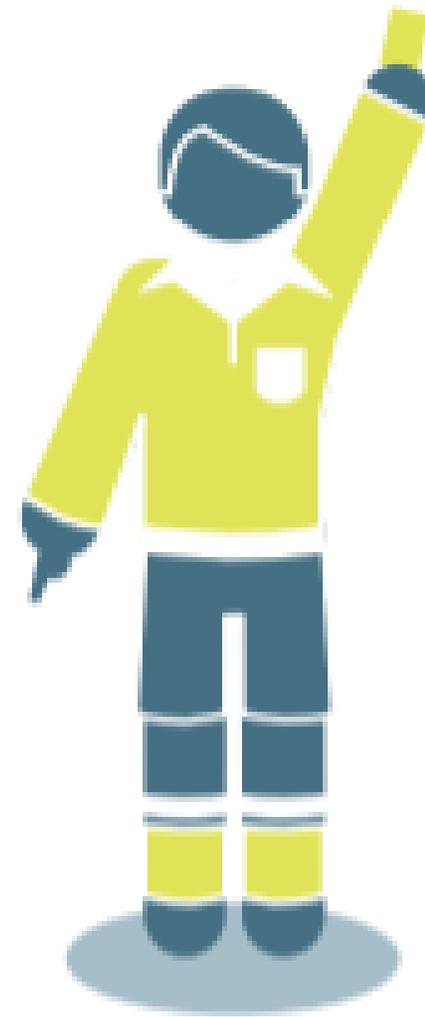
Corner kick



Goal kick

Referee Signals

(Page 66)



Red and yellow card |

WHISTLE

(Page 196)



- Kick-off
- Penalty kick
- Foul
- Misconduct
- Serious injury
- Suspension of termination of game
- End of period play

WHISTLE

(Page 197)



- Whistle after delaying restart
 - Enforce minimum required distance
 - Substitutions
 - Injury evaluation
 - Cards for misconduct
 - Need to talk with player or coach

- Never used with dropped ball

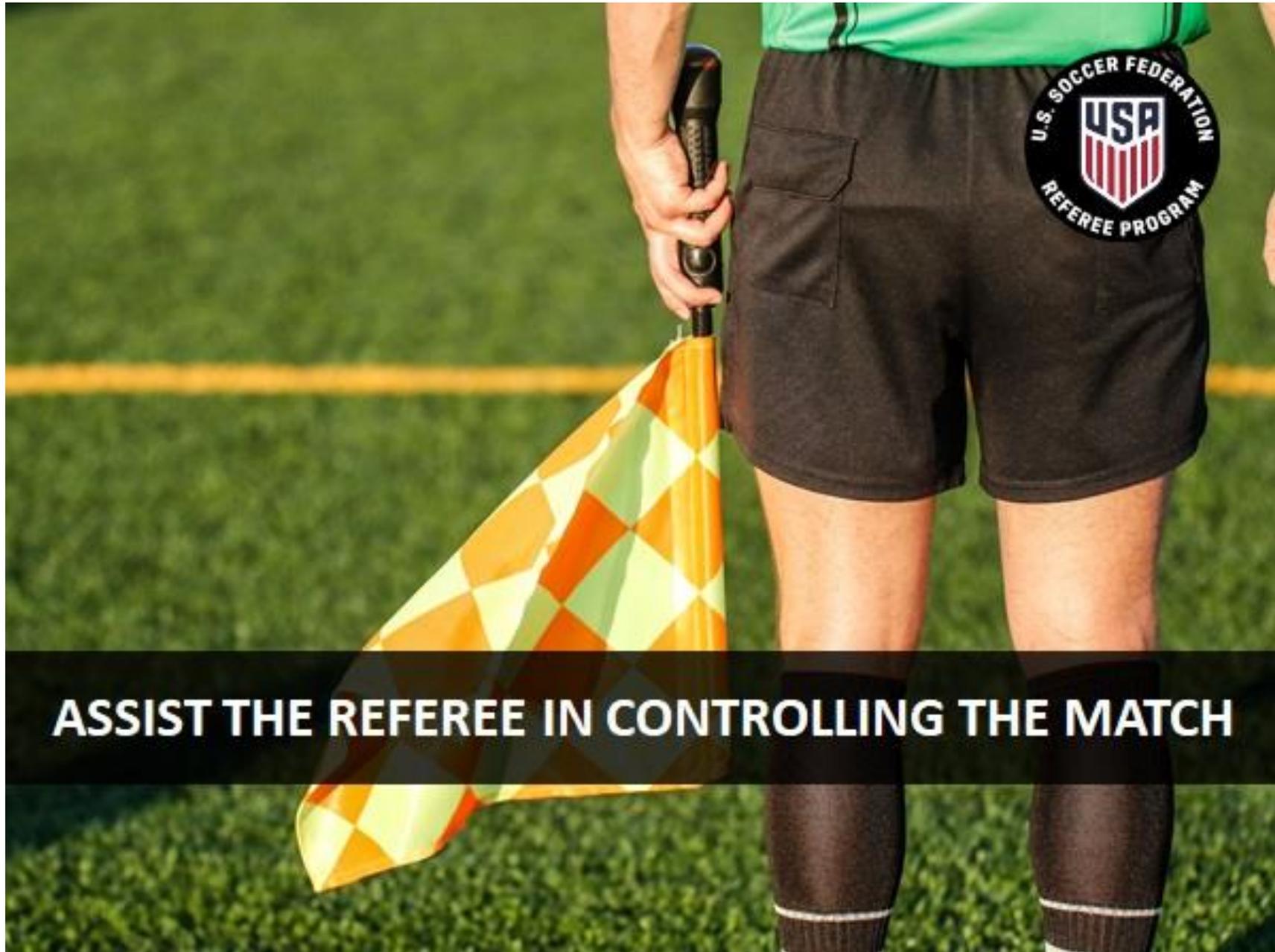


Page
69

LAW 6 - THE OTHER MATCH OFFICIALS

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ASSIST THE REFEREE IN CONTROLLING THE MATCH



TEAMWORK

ASSISTANCE AND TEAMWORK



- Inspect the field, balls, and players' equipment
- Determine if problems with equipment or bleeding have been resolved
- Monitor the substitution procedure
- Maintain back-up records of time, goals, and misconduct
- Manage players

Page 198 - 201

COMMUNICATION



- Visual - Eye contact between the referee and assistant referees
 - Assistant referees should look at the referee before signaling with the flag
- Verbal – Only when necessary
- Assistant referees provide information but the final decision will be made by the referee

POSITION



- Moves off the field and behind touch line
 - Only on one half of the field
- Even with the second-to-last opponent
- Follows the ball to the goal line
- Follows pre-game instructions

6. Assistant referee signals

Refer to graphics for approved assistant referee signals.



Substitution |



Free kick for attacking team |



Free kick for defending team |

Assistant Referee Signals

Pg 72



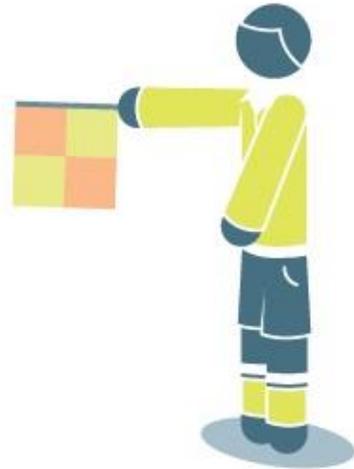
Throw-in for attacking team



Throw-in for defending team



Corner kick



Goal kick

Assistant Referee Signals

Pg 73



Offside



Offside on the
near side of the field



Offside in the
middle of the field



Offside on the
far side of the field

Assistant Referee Signals

Pg 74



LAW 7 - THE DURATION OF THE MATCH

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HALFTIME INTERVAL

**10 minutes
for most
VSL games**



ADDITIONAL TIME

ALLOWANCES FOR TIME LOST



- Made by the referee for all time lost in the period through:
 - Substitutions
 - Assessment/Removal of injured players
 - Wasting Time
 - Disciplinary sanctions (Yellow/Red Card)
 - Stoppage for reasons permitted by competition (hydration breaks)
 - Any other reason including significant delays to a restart (i.e. goal celebration)
- * **Don't end a game when a team is about to engage in a scoring opportunity**
 - * **However, do not add time unless it is absolutely necessary!**



VERMONT SOCCER ASSOCIATION LIGHTNING POLICY

SEVERE WEATHER

**“30-minute
rule”**



Page
81

LAW 8 - THE START AND RESTART OF PLAY

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KICK-OFF PROCEDURE



KICK-OFF PROCEDURE for Each Half



- Referee
 - Scans players and field
 - Makes sure that the correct number of players are on the field and in their own half
 - Makes eye contact with assistant referees to signal readiness

- Assistant referees
 - Supervise bench areas
 - Positioned with second-to-last opponent
 - Unfurl flag to signal readiness

PROCEDURE for Each Kick-off



- All players in their own half
 - Except player taking the kick-off
- All opponents are at least 10 yards away until the ball is in play
- The ball is stationary on center mark
- The referee gives a signals (whistle)
- The ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves
- The ball can be kicked in any direction
- The Kicker cannot touch the ball again until touched by another player
 - Indirect free kick OR
 - Direct free kick for deliberately handling the ball

Drop Balls

- **Outside Influence**
- **Injury**
- **Ball Hitting Referee (change resulting)**

- **Ball is dropped to the team last in possession (ex. GK in penalty area)**
- **Opponents must be 4 yds away**
- If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with:
 - a goal kick if it enters the opponents' goal
 - a corner kick if it enters the team's goal

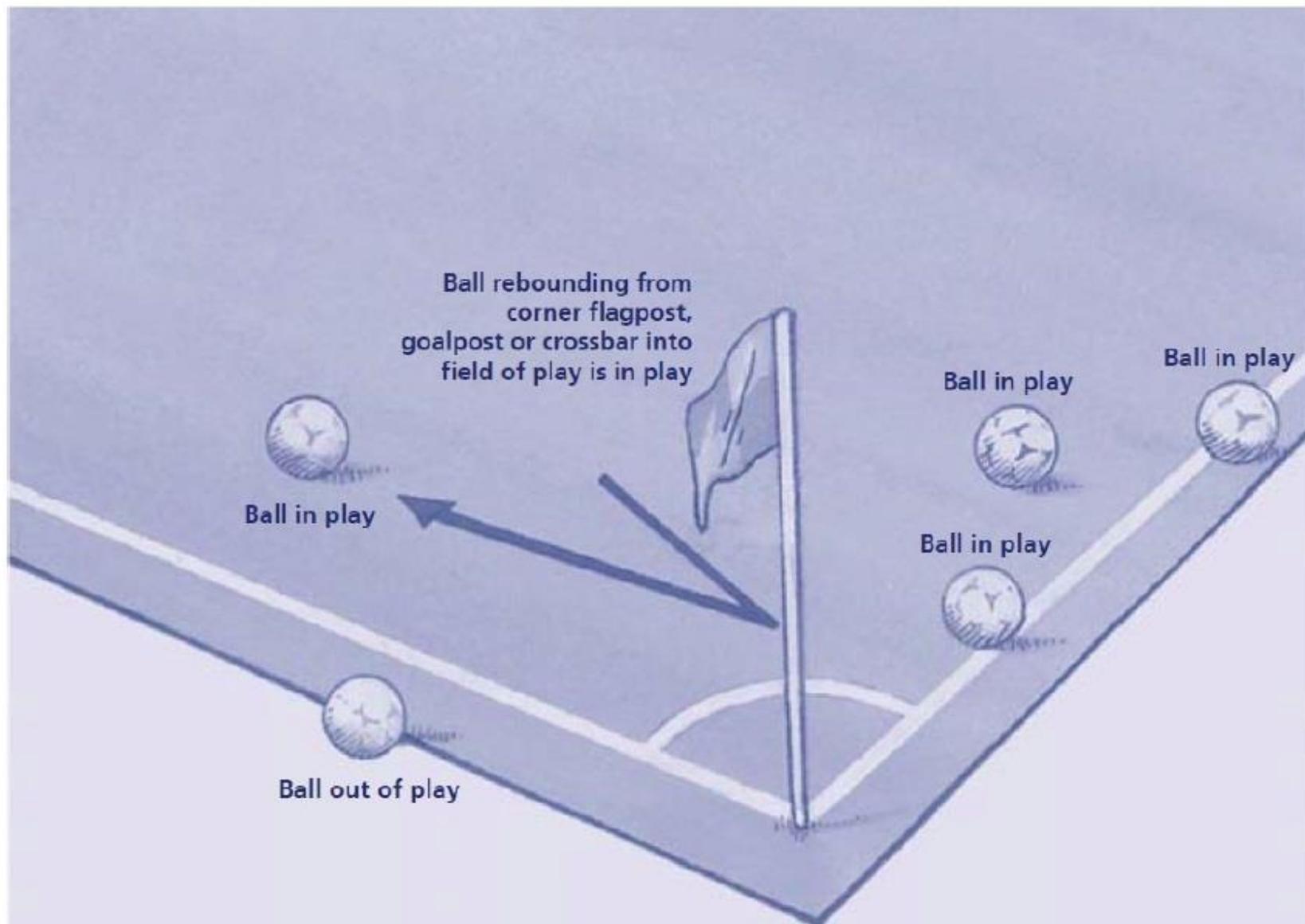


Page
85

LAW 9 - THE BALL IN AND OUT OF PLAY

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Page
87

LAW 10 – DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF A MATCH

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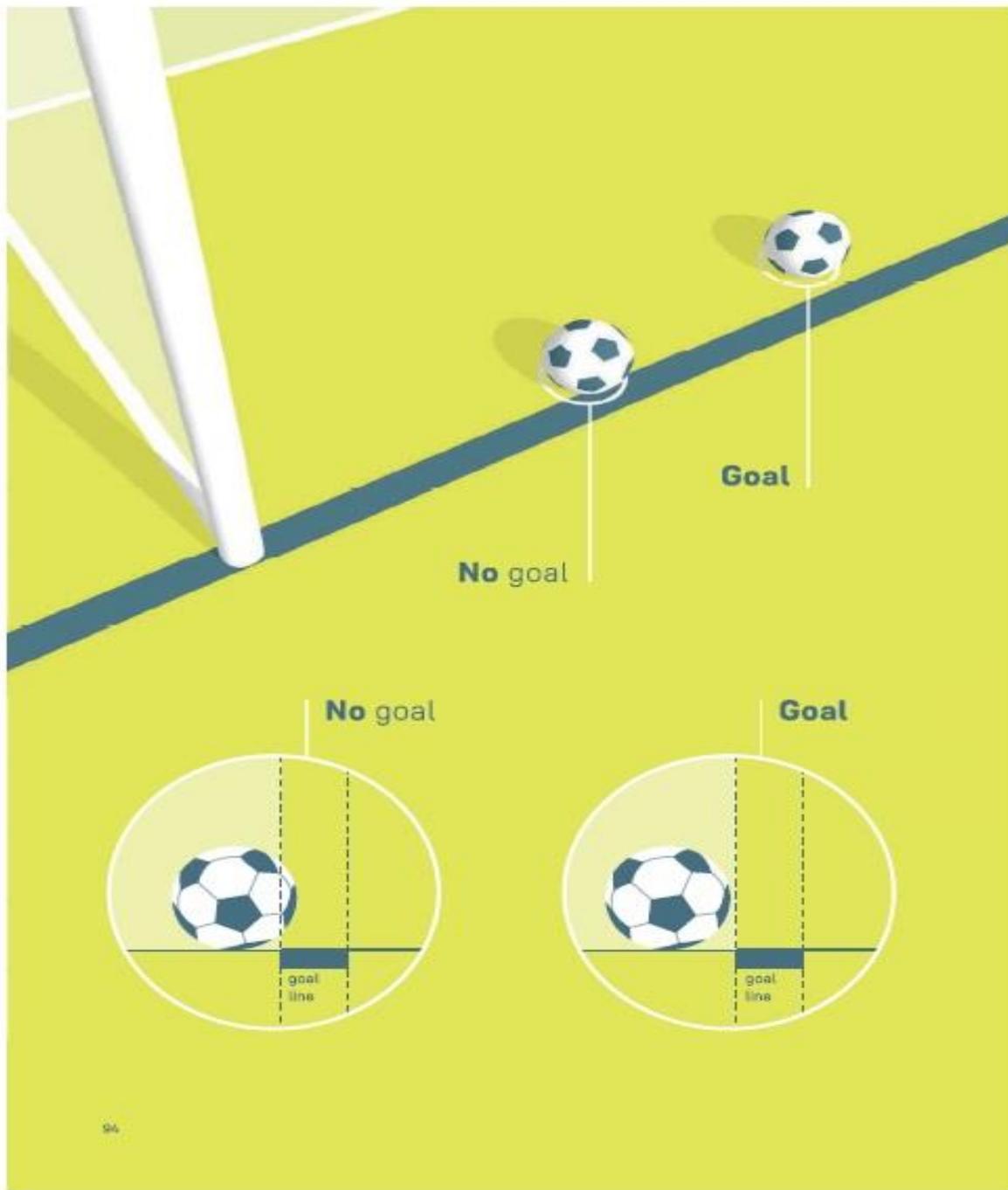
1. Goal scored

A goal is scored when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, between the goalposts and under the crossbar, provided that no offence has been committed by the team scoring the goal.

NOT A GOAL WHEN ...



- A goal is NOT allowed if it is scored directly from:
 - An indirect free kick
 - Any free kick into the kicking team's goal
 - A throw-in
 - A dropped ball
- Directly Off Attackers Arm (unintentional)



In general, with less than ideal positioning, only call it a good goal if you are 100% certain it completely crossed the Goal line



Page
93

LAW 11 - OFFSIDE

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM

Grassroots Referee Course

OFFENSE



This and all subsequent OFFSIDES scenarios found on pages 203 to 209...

“other Advice” in back of Rule Book

NO OFFENSE

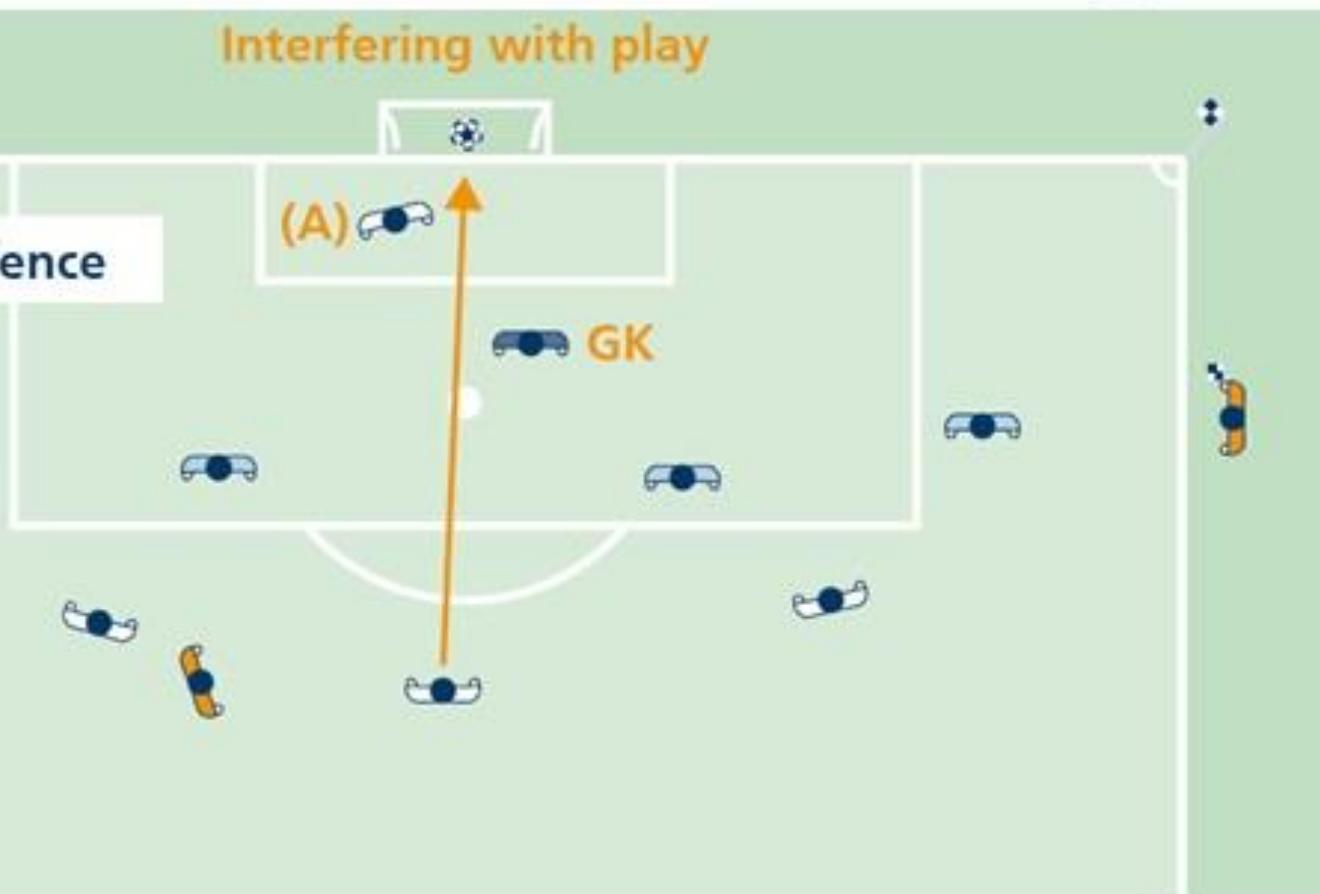


2

Interfering with play

Not offside offence

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



NO OFFENSE



3

Interfering with play

Not offside offence

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



OFFENSE

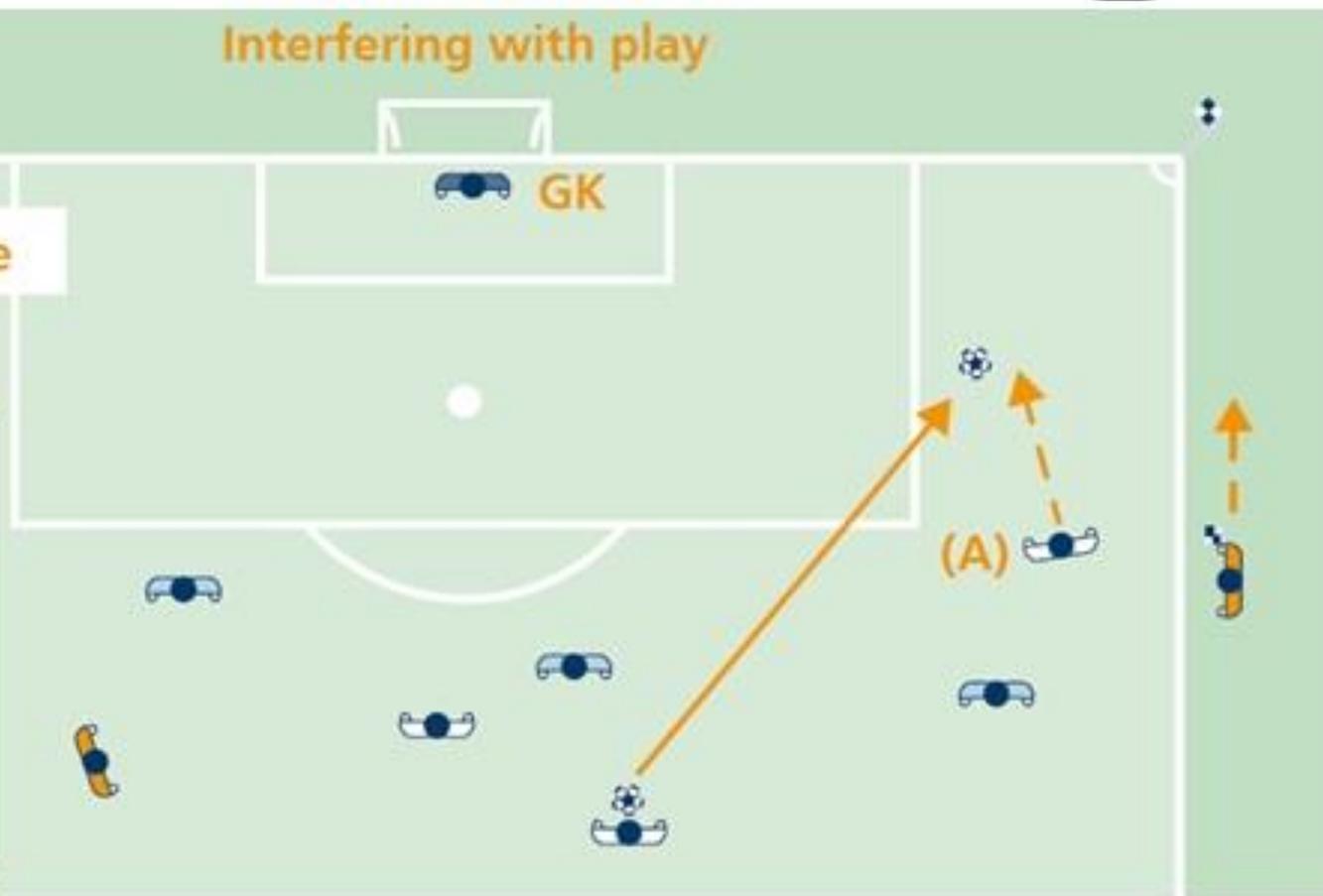


4

Interfering with play

Offside offence

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



NO OFFENSE



OFFENSE

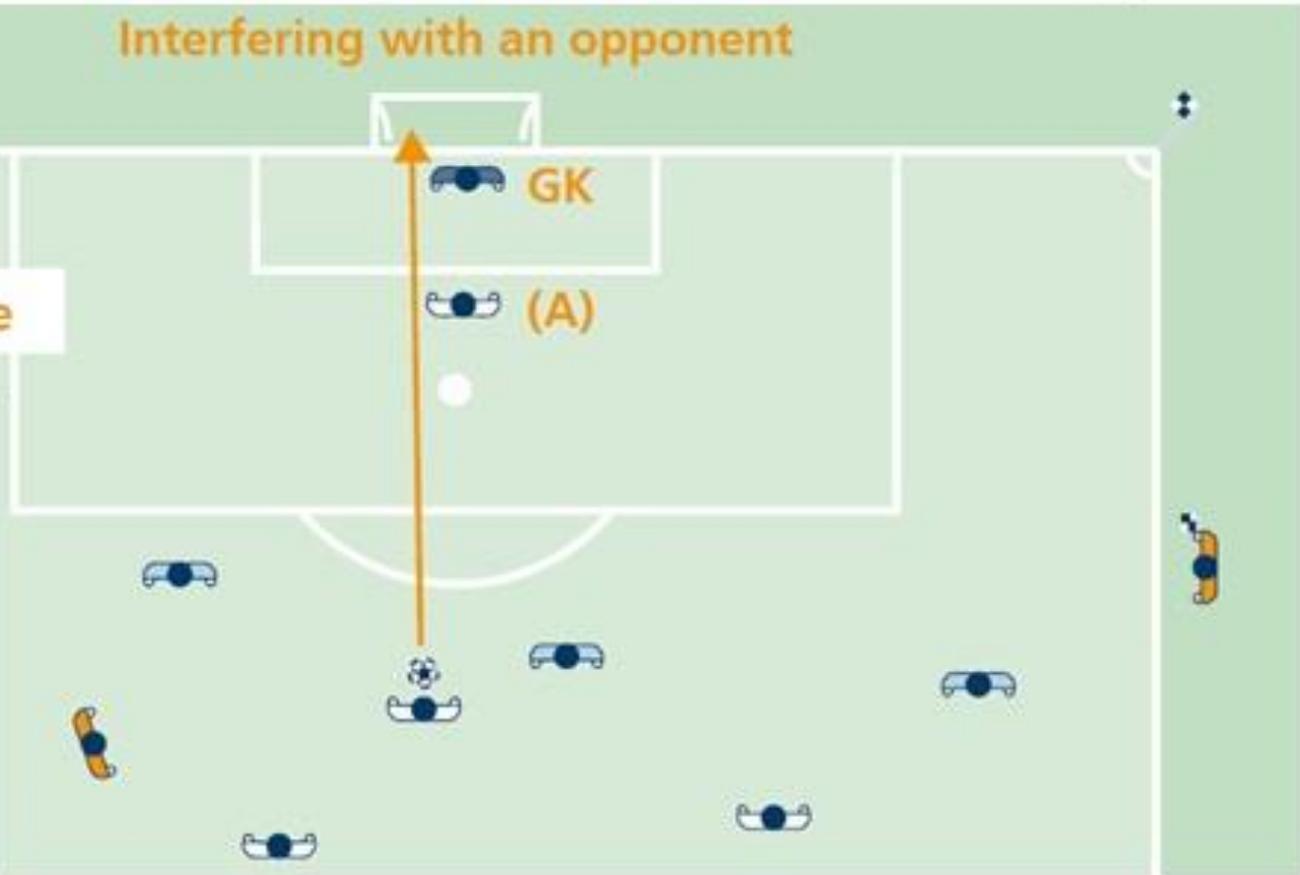


6

Interfering with an opponent

Offside offence

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



NO OFFENSE

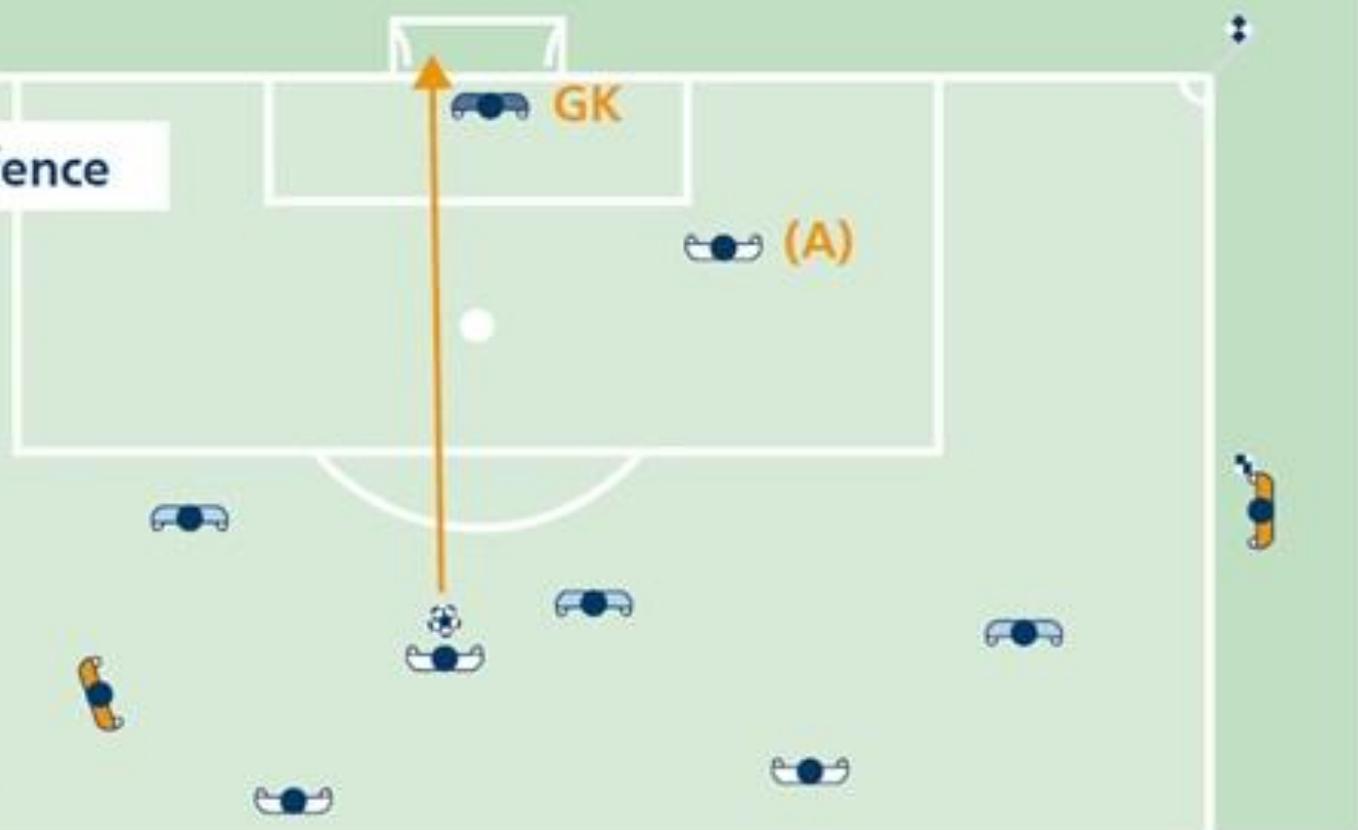


7

Interfering with an opponent

Not offside offence

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



NO OFFENSE

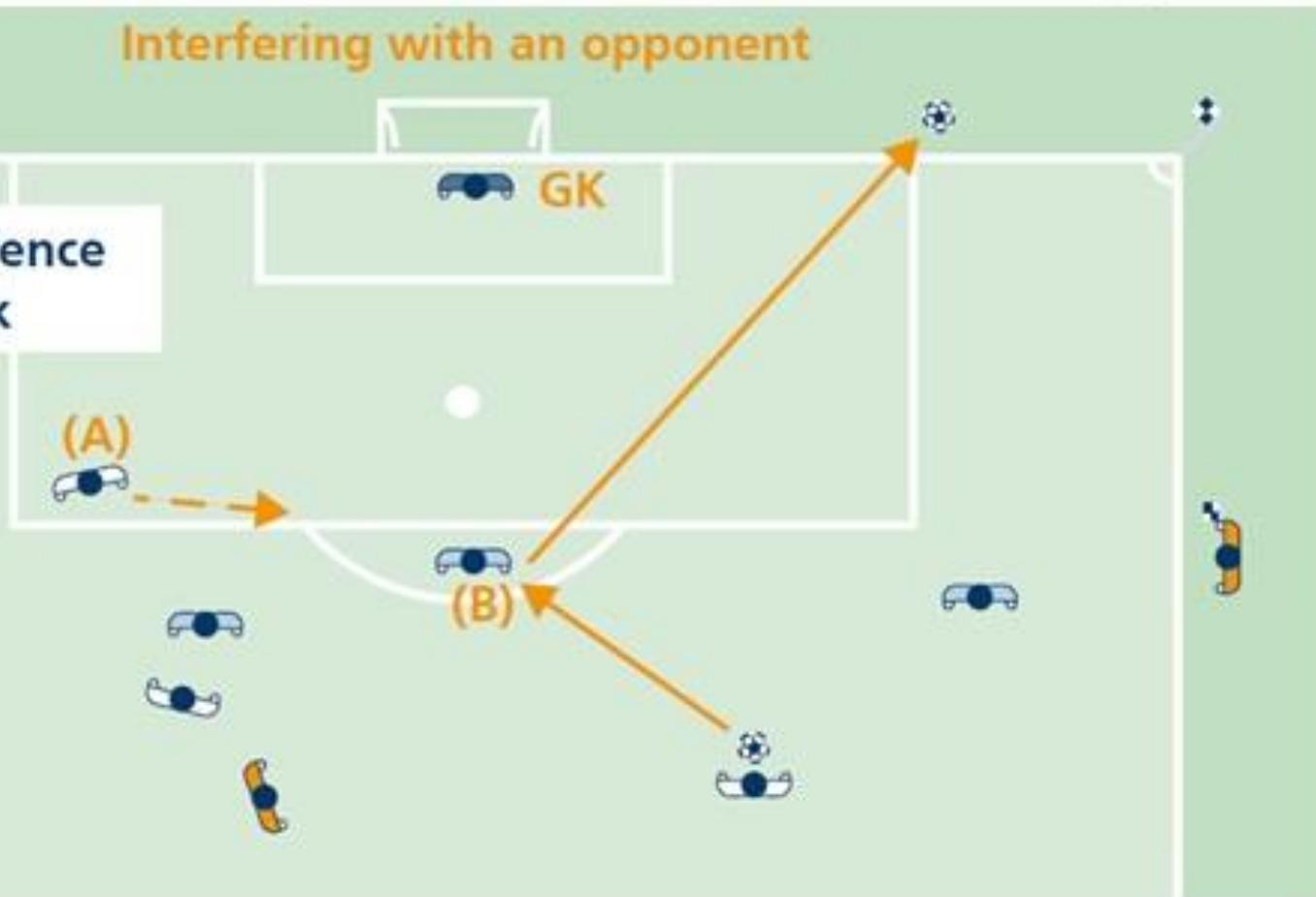


8

Interfering with an opponent

Not offside offence
Corner kick

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



OFFENSE

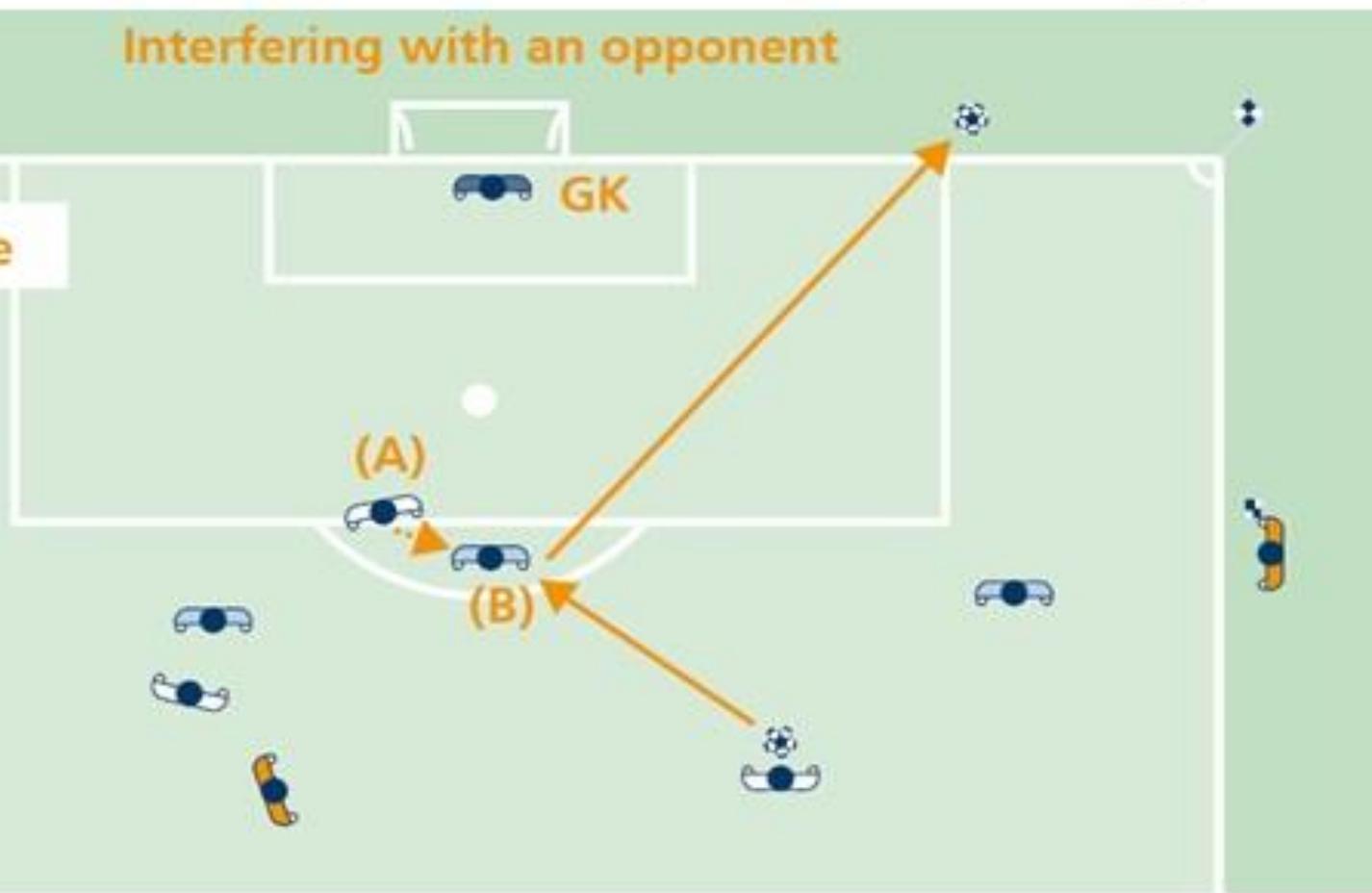


9

Interfering with an opponent

Offside offence

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



OFFENSE

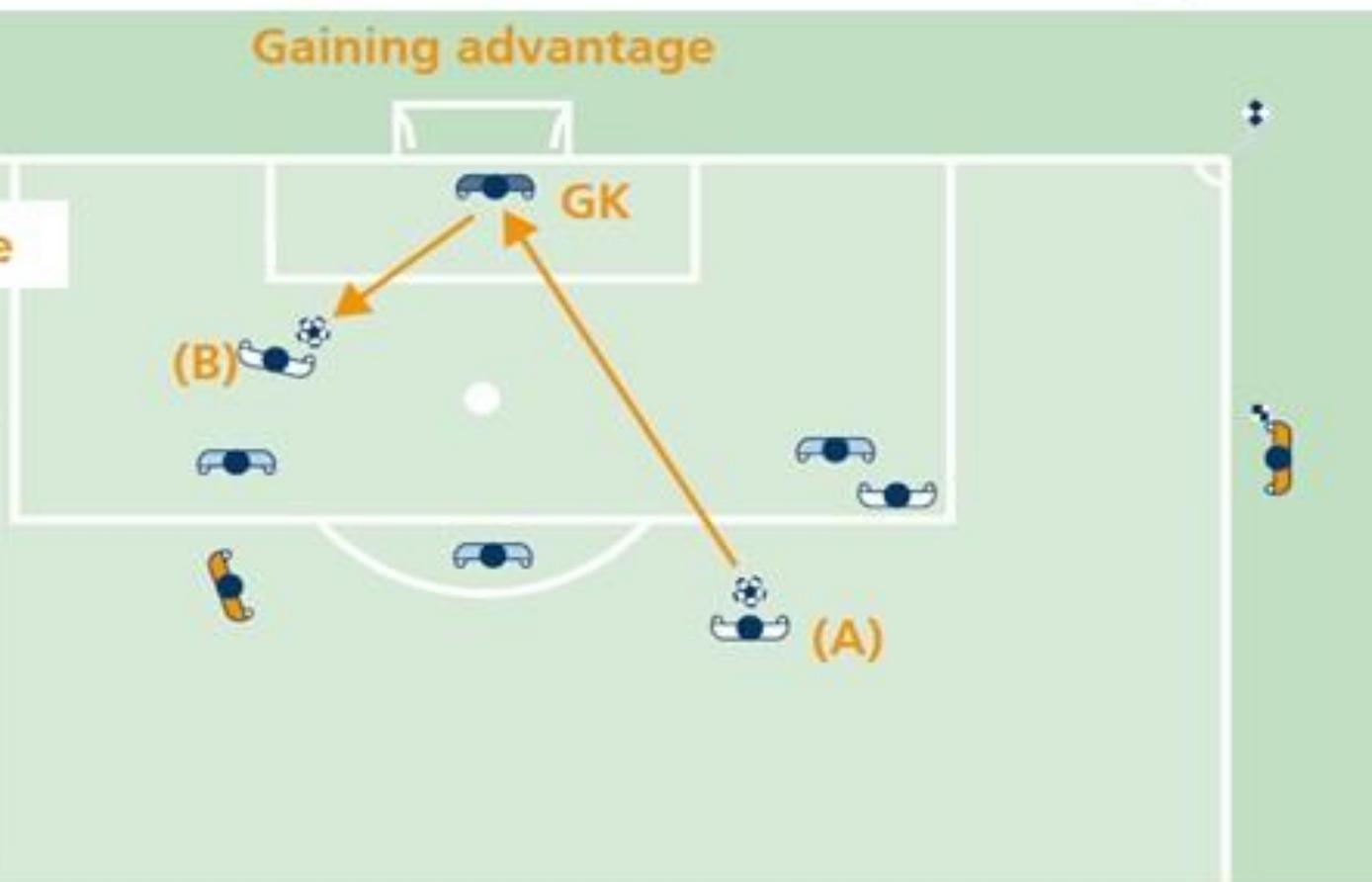


10

Gaining advantage

Offside offence

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



OFFENSE



11

Gaining advantage

Offside offence



NO OFFENSE

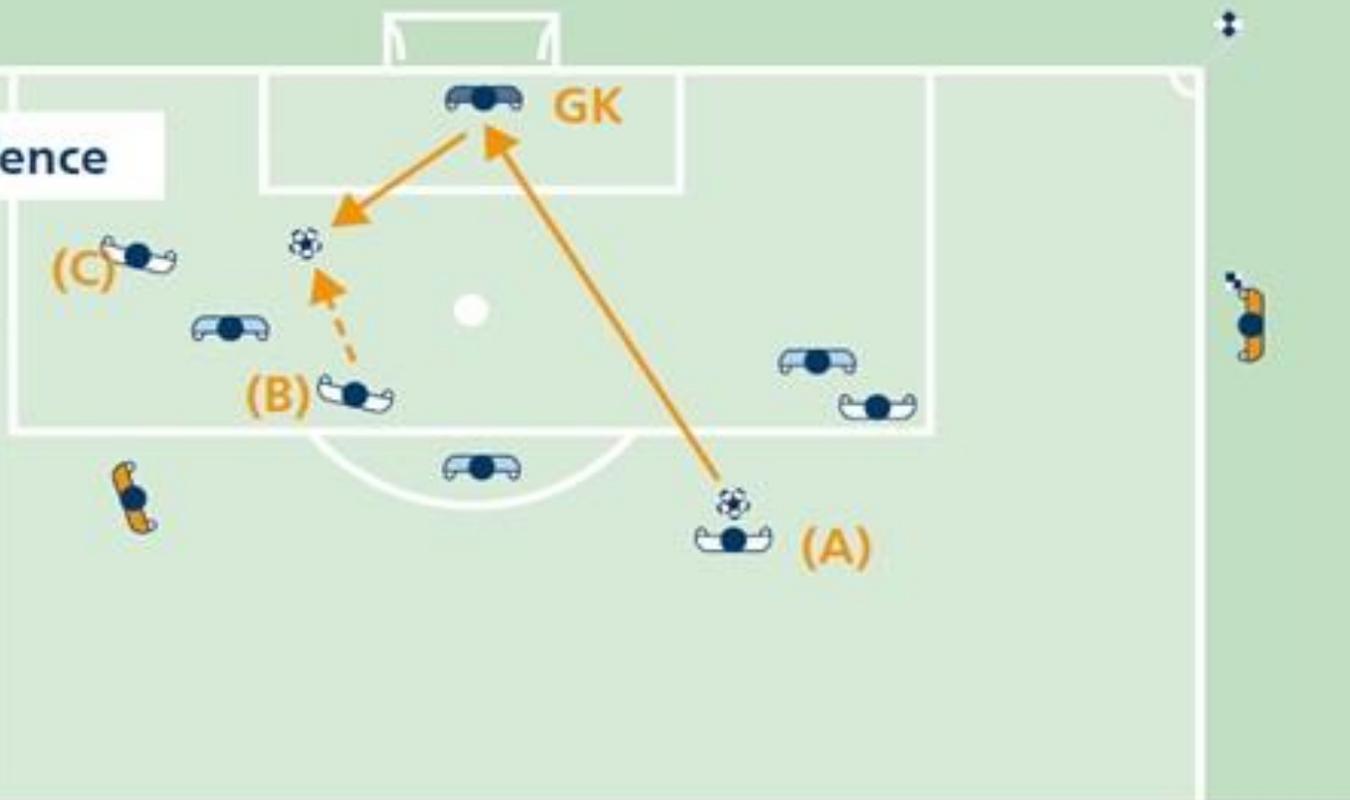


12

Gaining advantage

Not offside offence

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



OFFENSE

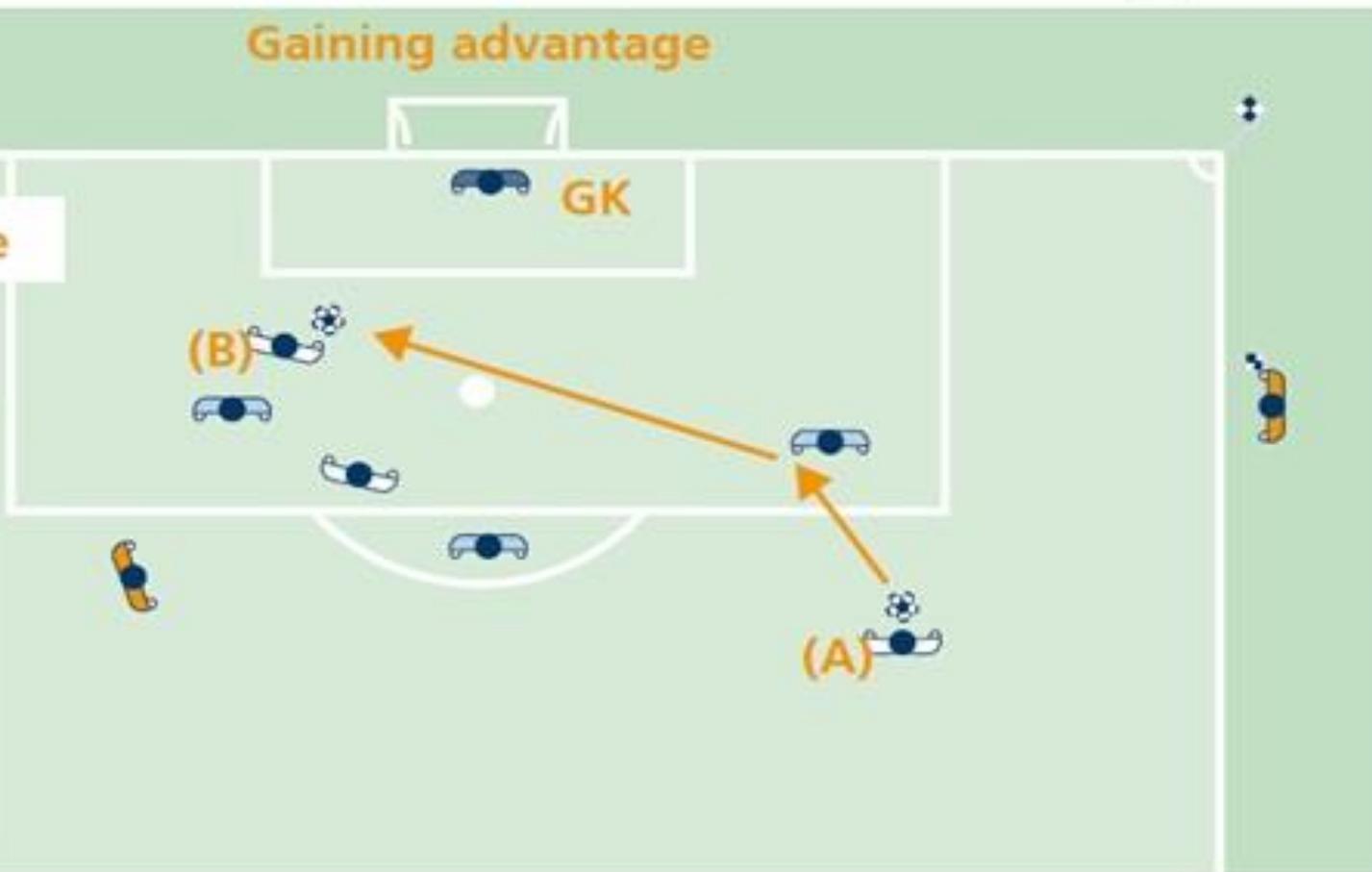


13

Gaining advantage

Offside offence

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



NO OFFENSE

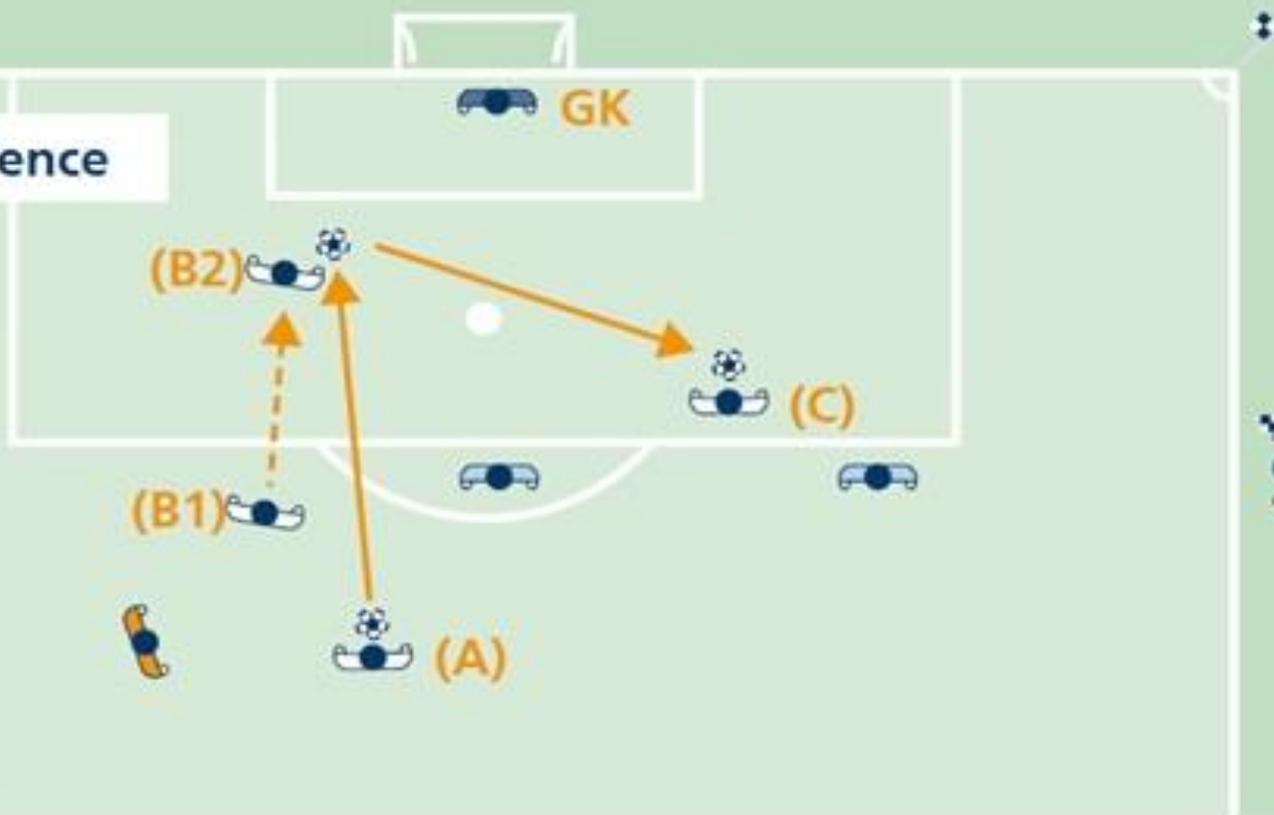


14

Gaining advantage

Not offside offence

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





Page
97

LAW 12 - FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM

Grassroots Referee Course

OVERVIEW



- Fouls/Offenses
 - Direct free kick fouls (*Page 97 - 98*)
 - Indirect free kick fouls (*Page 100 – 101*)

- Misconduct
 - Cautionable offenses (*Page 103 - 104*)
 - Sending-off offenses (*Page 105 - 106*)

FREE KICKS Awarded for Offenses



- Direct free kick fouls (*Page 97 - 98*)

- Indirect free kick fouls (*Page 100 - 101*)

1. Direct free kick.... A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- charges
- jumps at
- kicks or attempts to kick
- pushes
- strikes or attempts to strike (including head-butt)
- tackles or challenges
- trips or attempts to trip If an offence involves contact, it is penalised by a direct free kick.
- Careless is when a player shows a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or acts without precaution. No disciplinary sanction is needed
- Reckless is when a player acts with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent and must be cautioned
- Using excessive force is when a player exceeds the necessary use of force and/or endangers the safety of an opponent and must be sent off A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences:
 - a **handball** offence (except for the goalkeeper within their penalty area)

1. Direct free kick... A direct free kick is awarded if a player commits any of the following offences against an opponent in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force:

- holds an opponent
- impedes an opponent with contact
- bites or spits at someone on the team lists or a match official
- throws an object at the ball, an opponent or a match official, or makes contact with the ball with a held object

INDIRECT FREE KICKS

PLAYS IN A DANGEROUS MANNER



For example →



1. **Indirect free kick**.... An indirect free kick is awarded if a player

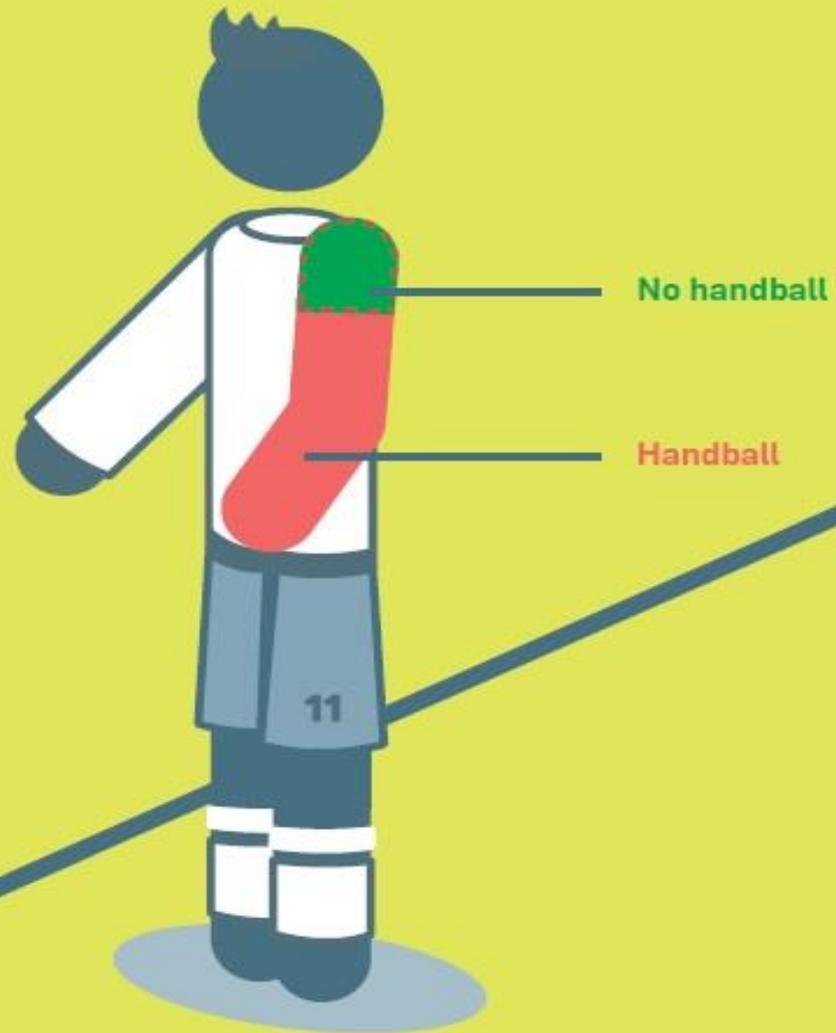
- plays in a dangerous manner
- impedes the progress of an opponent without any contact being made
- is guilty of dissent, using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or action(s) or other verbal offences
- prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands or kicks or attempts to kick the ball when the goalkeeper is in the process of releasing it
- initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands; the goalkeeper is penalised if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick
 - commits any other offence, not mentioned in the Laws, for which play is stopped to caution or send off a player

An indirect free kick is awarded if a goalkeeper, inside their penalty area, commits any of the following offences:

- controls the ball with the hand/arm for more than six seconds before releasing it
- touches the ball with the hand/arm after releasing it and before it has touched another player
- touches the ball with the hand/arm, unless the goalkeeper has clearly kicked or attempted to kick the ball to release it into play, after:
 - it has been deliberately kicked to the goalkeeper by a team-mate
 - receiving it directly from a throw-in taken by a team-mate

A goalkeeper is considered to be in control of the ball with the hand(s) when:

- the ball is between the hands or between the hand and any surface (e.g. ground, own body) or by touching it with any part of the hands or arms, except if the ball rebounds from the goalkeeper or the goalkeeper has made a save
- holding the ball in the outstretched open hand
- bouncing it on the ground or throwing it in the air



HANDLING THE BALL



- Involves a deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with the hand or arm
- Consider the following:
 - Movement of hand towards the ball
 - Distance between the opponent and the ball
 - Position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an offense
 - Touching the ball with an object held in hand IS an offense
 - Hitting the ball with a thrown object IS an offense

Handling the Ball Offenses



The following three (3) main points describe and define handling offenses:

It is an offense if a player:

1. **Deliberately** touches the ball with their hand/arm, for example moving the hand/arm towards the ball
2. Touches the ball with their hand/arm when it has made their body **unnaturally bigger**
 - IFAB has added the following into the Law: "A player is considered to have made their body unnaturally bigger when the position of their hand/arm is not a consequence of, or justifiable by, the player's body movement for that specific situation. By having their hand/arm in such a position, the player takes a risk of their hand/arm being hit by the ball and being penalized."
3. **Scores** in the opponents' goal:
 - **Directly** from their hand/arm, **even if accidental**, including by the goalkeeper
 - **Immediately** after the ball has touched their hand/arm, **even if accidental**

When is Handball NOT an Offense?

Not every time that the ball makes contact with the hand or arm is considered an offense. Remember that except for the above offense, the next points describe when 'no handball offense' occurs.

- Accidental handball by a teammate immediately before a goal or which creates a goal-scoring opportunity is no longer offenses
- When the hand or arm has NOT made the body unnaturally bigger because its position is a result of the player's movement including when the hand or arm:
 - Is close to the body
 - Is away from the body because of 'natural' movement
 - Has touched or contact the ball as a result of the player playing the ball with their body
 - Moves to or is on the ground to support the player's body

Note: In the above 'no handball offense' cases the ball generally moves towards a player's hand or arm and not the other way around. Typically, in the case for a handball offense, the player is making an action towards the ball or scores or creates a goal-scoring opportunity.

CARELESS



- A player has shown a lack of attention or consideration when making a challenge or has acted without precaution
- No disciplinary action is needed for a careless offense

RECKLESS



- A player has acted with disregard to the danger to, or consequences for, an opponent when making a challenge
- The player must be cautioned
 - The referee issues a yellow card for Unsporting Behavior (committing a direct free kick offense in a reckless manner)



Cautionable Offenses

- ▶ Delaying the restart of play
- ▶ Dissent by word or action
- ▶ Entering, re-entering or leaving the field without permission
- ▶ Failure to respect the required distance for restarts
- ▶ Persistent offenses
- ▶ Unsporting behavior
- ▶ Entering referee review area
- ▶ Excessively making VAR (TV review) signal

Delaying Restarts

- ▶ Defending team intentionally kicking/throwing ball away
- ▶ Defending team intentionally holding the ball when out of play
- ▶ Intentionally taking a restart from the wrong place
- ▶ Intentionally wasting time before taking a restart

USSOCCER
Delaying the restart of play



U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM

Dissent

Is Not

- ▶ Disagreeing directly to a referee about a call or no-call
- ▶ Telling a teammate that you disagree with a call or no-call
- ▶ Asking for an explanation of a call or no-call
- ▶ Swearing out of frustration at oneself or teammate

Is

- Publicly (loudly) and provocatively disagreeing with the referee
- Disagreeing with the referee using any profanity or personal insult (subject to possible send off)



Unsporting Behavior

- ▶ Reckless fouling
- ▶ Revenge fouling
- ▶ Fouling to stop promising attacks (SPA/tactical), including DOGSO attempt to play the ball in penalty area
- ▶ Simulation of being fouled
- ▶ Shows a lack of respect for the game (catch all)



Failure to Respect Distance

- ▶ Team with a restart does not have to ask for the required distance
- ▶ Defending team is required to give the required distance and they are allowed time to give it
- ▶ Defending players that intentionally move in after play has been stopped are guilty of FRD
- ▶ Team with restart may do a quick restart, but may lose rights to distance
- ▶ Team with restart asking for referee to determine distance will always require a ceremonial restart
- ▶ Referee can actively tell defending players to move back without being asked



Persistent Offenses

- ▶ Persistent offenses by an individual player
- ▶ Persistent offenses by more than one player that target a specific opponent



Cautionable Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent-off (shown a **YELLOW** card) for committing any of the following cautionable offenses:

1. Unsporting behavior (UB)

- a. Commits a direct free kick offense in a reckless manner whether within playing distance or not
- b. Commits a foul which interferes with or impedes an opposing team's promising attack, except where the referee awards a PK for the offence that was an attempt to play the ball
- c. Handles the ball to interfere with or stops a promising attack
- d. Denies an opponent an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offense which was an attempt to play the ball and the referee awards a penalty kick
- e. Handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal (whether or not the attempt is successful) or in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent a goal
- f. Plays the ball when leaving the field of play after being given permission to leave
- g. Commits an act that in the opinion of the referee shows a lack of respect for the game
- h. Attempts to deceive the referee e.g. by faking an injury or by pretending to have been fouled (simulation)
- i. Verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart
- j. Unfairly distracts or impedes an opponent performing a throw-in (including moving closer than 2 yards to where the throw-in is to be taken)
- k. Changes places (jerseys) with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (caution both players at the next stoppage)
- l. Engages in **trickery** to circumvent the goalkeeper's limitation on handling the ball played from a teammate's foot (the defender who initiates the "trickery" is cautioned, the decision does not require that the goalkeeper actually handles the ball, and the misconduct can occur during dynamic play or at a restart)
- m. Makes unauthorized marks on the field

Cautionable Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent-off (shown a **YELLOW** card) for committing any of the following cautionable offenses:

1. Unsporting behavior (UB)

- n.** Refuses to leave the field due to injury after the referee authorized the doctors or stretcher bearers to enter the field of play, or due to illegal equipment, bleeding, or blood on the uniform
- o.** Throws an object (or the ball) in a reckless manner
- p.** Celebrates a goal by:
 - ii. gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory, or inflammatory way
 - iii. covering the head or face with a mask or similar device
 - iv. removing the shirt or covering the head with the shirt
- q.** Commits an offense described in Law 14 - The Penalty Kick (during the match, extra time, or kicks from the penalty mark) for which the referee must caution a player(s):
 - i. the kicker feints to kick the ball once the run-up to the ball has been completed
 - ii. the goalkeeper offends and the ball does not enter the goal
 - iii. both the kicker and goalkeeper commit an offense at the same time and the kick is missed or saved (kick is retaken)
 - iv. the kicker when both the kicker and goalkeeper commit an offense at the same time and the kick is scored (goal is disallowed)

Cautionable Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent-off (shown a **YELLOW** card) for committing any of the following cautionable offenses:

2. Dissent by word or action (DT)

- a. Verbally or through action disputes or shows contempt for an official's decision
- b. If playing as a goalie, leaves the penalty area (not beckoned by the referee) to engage an official in debate regarding a decision

3. Persistent offenses (PO)

- a. Repeatedly commits fouls (Law 12) against one or more opponents (the offside offense in Law 11 is not considered)
 - i. No specific number or pattern of fouls constitutes "repeatedly"
 - ii. "Repeatedly" does not require the offenses to be the same type of foul

4. Delaying the restart of play (DR)

- a. Appears to take a throw-in but after excessive time leaves it to a team-mate to take
- b. Delays leaving the field of play when being substituted
- c. Excessively delays a restart
- d. Kicks or carries the ball away, refuses to release possession of the ball, or provokes a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play for a restart by the opposing team
- e. Takes a free kick from the wrong position to force a retake
- f. Deliberately prevents a free kick being taken quickly

Cautionable Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent-off (shown a **YELLOW** card) for committing any of the following cautionable offenses:

5. Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick, or throw-in (FRD)

- a. Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's free kick
- b. Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's corner kick
- c. Does not retire at least two yards away from an opponent's throw-in

6. Entering, re-entering, or deliberately leaving the field without the referee's permission (ERL)

- a. Re-entering after having previously been
 - i. instructed to leave the field to correct equipment
 - ii. given permission by the referee to leave the field due to an injury
 - iii. instructed to leave the field due to bleeding or blood on the uniform
- b. Re-entering and gaining an advantage after having previously left the field to avoid being involved in active play (to avoid committing an offside offense)
- c. Leaving the field while a defender to place an opponent in an apparent offside position

[NOTE: Except for the above actions, leaving or re-entering the field is not an offense if, in the opinion of the referee, it was done in the normal course of play]



Sending Off Offenses

- ▶ DOGSO - Hand ball
- ▶ DOGSO - Outside the penalty area or no attempt to play the ball inside the penalty area
- ▶ Serious foul play
- ▶ Biting or spitting at someone
- ▶ Violent conduct
- ▶ Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- ▶ Receiving a second caution
- ▶ Entering video operation room

Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language

- ▶ Is the language or gesture directed at the referee, an opponent, a teammate or a spectator
- ▶ Does the language or gesture have a personal nature or insult
- ▶ Is the language or gesture abusive
- ▶ Does the language involve excessive profanity
- ▶ This type of offense does not have to be public (loud)



DOGSO

Denying Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity

- ▶ DOGSO by hand ball anywhere is a sending off offense
- ▶ Consider the four D's, **D**istance to goal, **D**irection of play, **D**istance to ball, and **D**efenders
- ▶ DOGSO outside the penalty area is a sending off offense
- ▶ DOGSO inside the penalty area is a caution if a penalty kick is awarded and an attempt was made to play the ball
- ▶ DOGSO inside the penalty area is a sending off offense if no attempt was made to play the ball (Push, Hold, etc)
- ▶ Goalkeeper taking a restart and making a second touch, can be cautioned for SPA or sent off for DOGSO as appropriate
- ▶ Allowing a quick restart will downgrade a sending off to a caution, and will downgrade a caution to no caution



**DOGSO or SPA
INSIDE the Penalty Area**

DOGSO

SPA

No attempt

Attempt

No attempt

Attempt

Send-off

Caution

Caution

No Card

**DOGSO or SPA
OUTSIDE the Penalty Area**

DOGSO

SPA

Send-off

Caution

Serious Foul Play



- ▶ Obvious attempts to injure an opponent
- ▶ Excessive force
- ▶ Excessive force in revenge fouls

Receiving Second Caution



Treat every possible caution the same, if it is warranted, give it



Consistency is key



If a player has been verbally warned before receiving a first caution, do not give any more verbal warnings (second chances), caution only

Timing of Cautions or Sending Offs

- ▶ Cautions can be before the game starts, during the game or after the game until the referee leaves the field.
- ▶ Send offs can also be before the game starts (team does not play down a man), during the game or after the game until the referee leaves the field.
- ▶ Cautionable and sending off offenses can often occur in the parking lot
- ▶ Cautions given during a game are nullified if a game goes to kicks from the mark to determine a winner

Sending-off Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent-off (shown a **Red** card) for committing any of the following offenses:

1. Serious foul play (SFP)

- a. Commits a tackle or challenge that endangers the safety of an opponent or uses excessive force or brutality
- b. Lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side, or from behind using excessive force or endangers the safety of the opponent

2. Violent conduct (VC)

- a. Uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against an opponent when not challenging for the ball, or against a teammate, match official, spectator, or any other person, regardless of whether contact is made
- b. When not challenging for the ball deliberately strikes an opponent or any other person on the head or face with the hand or arm, unless the force used was negligible
- c. Throws an object (or the ball) using excessive force

3. Spitting at or biting an opponent or any other person (SB)

4. Denying the opposing team, a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity (DOGSO) by **deliberately handling** the ball (this does not apply to the goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area) (DGH) - DOGSO by deliberate handling offense wherever the offense occurs (outside or inside the penalty area)

Sending-off Offenses

A player, substitute, or substituted player is sent-off (shown a **Red** card) for committing any of the following offenses:

5. Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offense punishable by a free kick (DGF) - DOGSO by an offense within the offender's penalty area, for which the referee awards a penalty kick, and the offense was NOT an attempt to play the ball (e.g. holding, pulling, pushing, no possibility to play the ball, etc.)

- **The following must be considered (4 “D’s”) :**
- **Distance** between the offense and the goal & **Distance** to ball
- general **Direction** of play (if player moves diagonally to pass the last defender or goalkeeper, this can still be a DOGSO) - likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- location and **number of Defenders**

6. Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures (AL)

7. Receiving a second caution in the same match (2CT)



Page
113

LAW 13 - FREE KICKS

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM

Grassroots Referee Course

DK and IDK Restarts

- The Ball:
 - must be stationary and the kicker must not touch the ball again until it has touched another player
 - is in play when it is kicked and clearly moves
- Where three or more defending team players form a 'wall', all attacking team players must remain at least 1 m (1 yd) from the 'wall' until the ball is in play.
- Indirect free kick signal The referee indicates an indirect free kick by raising the arm above the head; this signal is maintained until the kick has been taken and the ball touches another player, goes out of play or it is clear that a goal cannot be scored directly. An indirect free kick must be retaken if the referee fails to signal that the kick is indirect and the ball is kicked directly into the goal.
- If an indirect free kick is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded

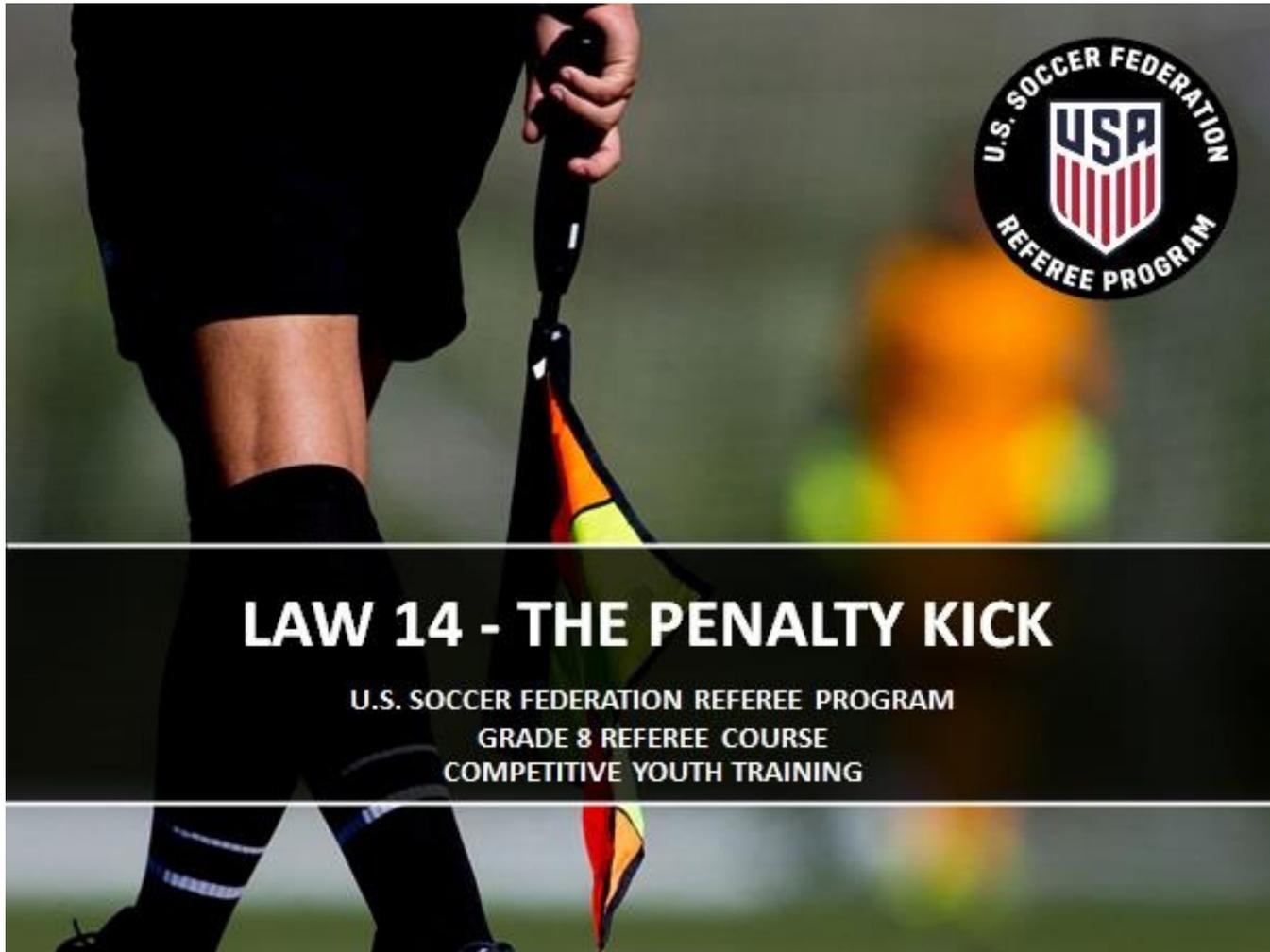
Ceremonial vs Quick restarts

- **Ceremonial restart procedures**

- If / when player requests 10 yard distance
- Hold Whistle up at head level with two hands... displaying to all while clearly stating “2nd whistle”
- Mark off the 10 yds... move defenders (wall) to that point
- Move to proper position, facing AR, Ball between Ref and AR
- Sound the 2nd whistle (you do NOT have to wait for defending team to be “ready”)

- **Quick restarts**

- If defending team interferes with Quick restart, card them for Delaying Restart
- Be careful to allow team to restart quickly before getting involved

A photograph of a referee in black attire holding a black flag with orange and yellow accents. The background is blurred, showing a soccer field.

The logo is circular with a black border. Inside, it features a shield with the letters 'USA' in white, set against a background of red and white vertical stripes. The text 'U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION' is written in white along the top inner edge, and 'REFEREE PROGRAM' is written along the bottom inner edge.

LAW 14 - THE PENALTY KICK

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM
GRADE 8 REFEREE COURSE
COMPETITIVE YOUTH TRAINING



Page
117

PENALTY KICK

Violation Summary Table

	Outcome of the penalty kick	
	Goal	No Goal
Encroachment by attacking player	Penalty is retaken	Indirect free kick
Encroachment by defending player	Goal	Penalty is retaken
Encroachment by defending and attacking player	Penalty is retaken	Penalty is retaken
Offence by goalkeeper	Goal	Not saved: penalty is not retaken (unless kicker is clearly impacted) Saved: penalty is retaken and warning for goalkeeper; caution for any further offence(s)
Goalkeeper and kicker offend at the same time	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Ball kicked backwards	Indirect free kick	Indirect free kick
'Illegal' feinting	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for kicker
Wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker	Indirect free kick and caution for wrong kicker



LAW 15 - THE THROW-IN

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM

Grassroots Referee Course

Page
123

PROCEDURE



- A throw-in is awarded to opponents of the player that last touch the ball
- From a throw-in, if ball enters opponent's goal – GK
- From a throw-in, if ball enters thrower's goal – CK
- A throw-in is delivered: while facing the field, with part of each foot on touchline or outside, and using both hands from behind & over the head from the point where the ball left the field of play

- All opponents stand at least 2 yards from throw-in
Warn opponents closer than 2 yds prior to throw-in
Caution player for Failing to Respect the Distance
- The ball is in play when it enter the field
If the ball hits the ground prior, retake throw-in
If throw-in not taken correctly, retake by opponent
- The thrower must not touch the ball again before another player



PERMITTED



- Provided all requirements of Law 15 – The Throw-In are met, the following throw-ins are permitted
 - Non-traditional deliveries
 - Player who lacks the use of one or both hands may perform a legal throw-in
 - Throw ball at any player to play ball again if not careless, reckless, or with excessive force

Offenses and Sanctions



- Indirect free kick to the opposing team if the thrower touches ball again before it touches another player
- If thrower deliberately handles the ball, a direct free kick or penalty kick is awarded to the opponents
- Caution player for unfairly distracting or impeding the thrower for Unsporting Behavior OR
- Caution a player that does not move a minimum of 2 yards for Failing to Respect the Requires Distance
- Throw-in retaken if ball is not put into play
- Throw-in taken by the opposing team for any other offense



LAW 16 - THE GOAL KICK

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(Page 127)



LAW 17 - THE CORNER KICK

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(Page 131)



Law 18 – Common Sense

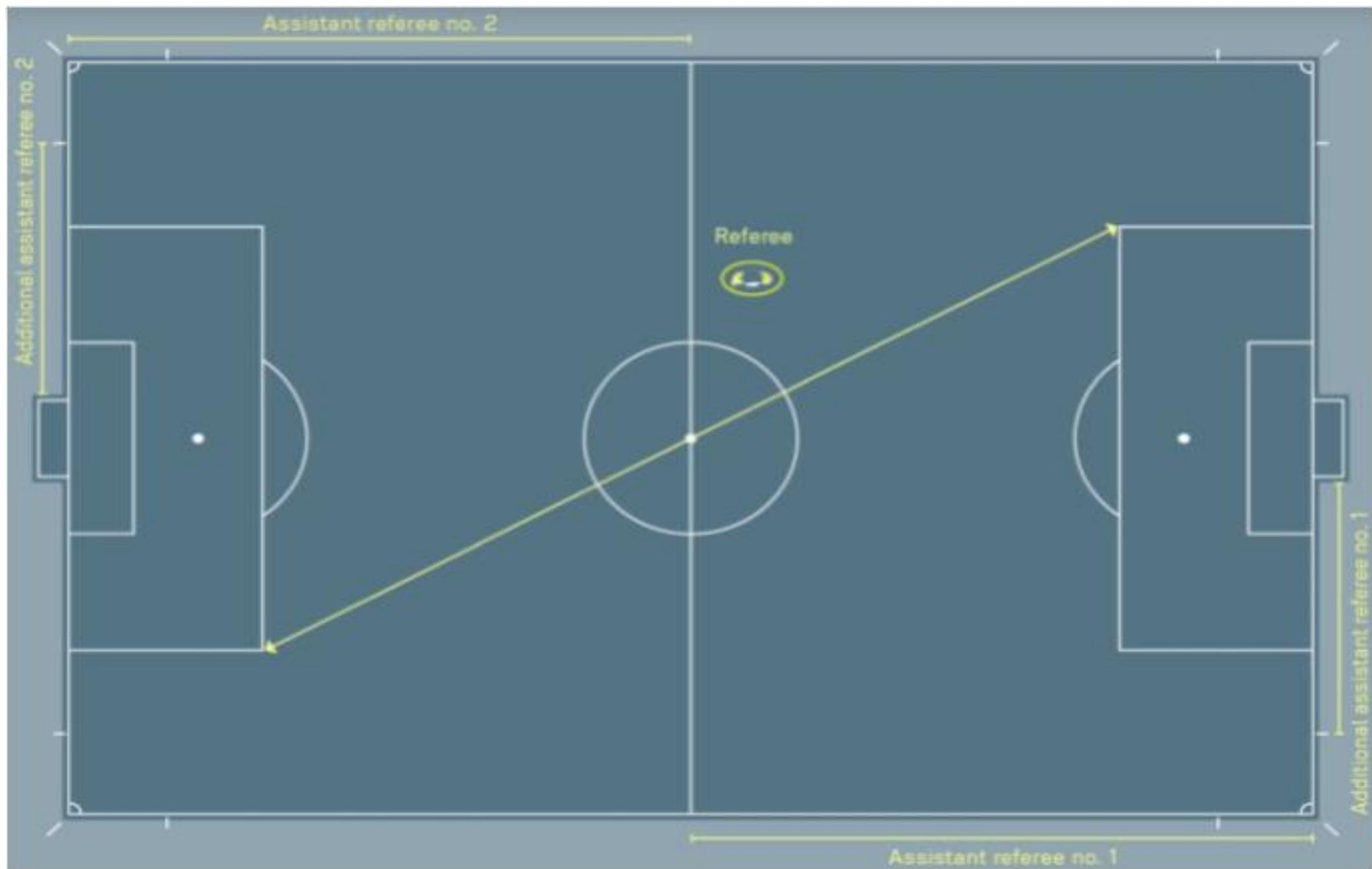
U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION REFEREE PROGRAM

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IFAB®

POSITIONING,
MOVEMENT AND
TEAMWORK

(Page 182)



Recommendations for REFEREE:

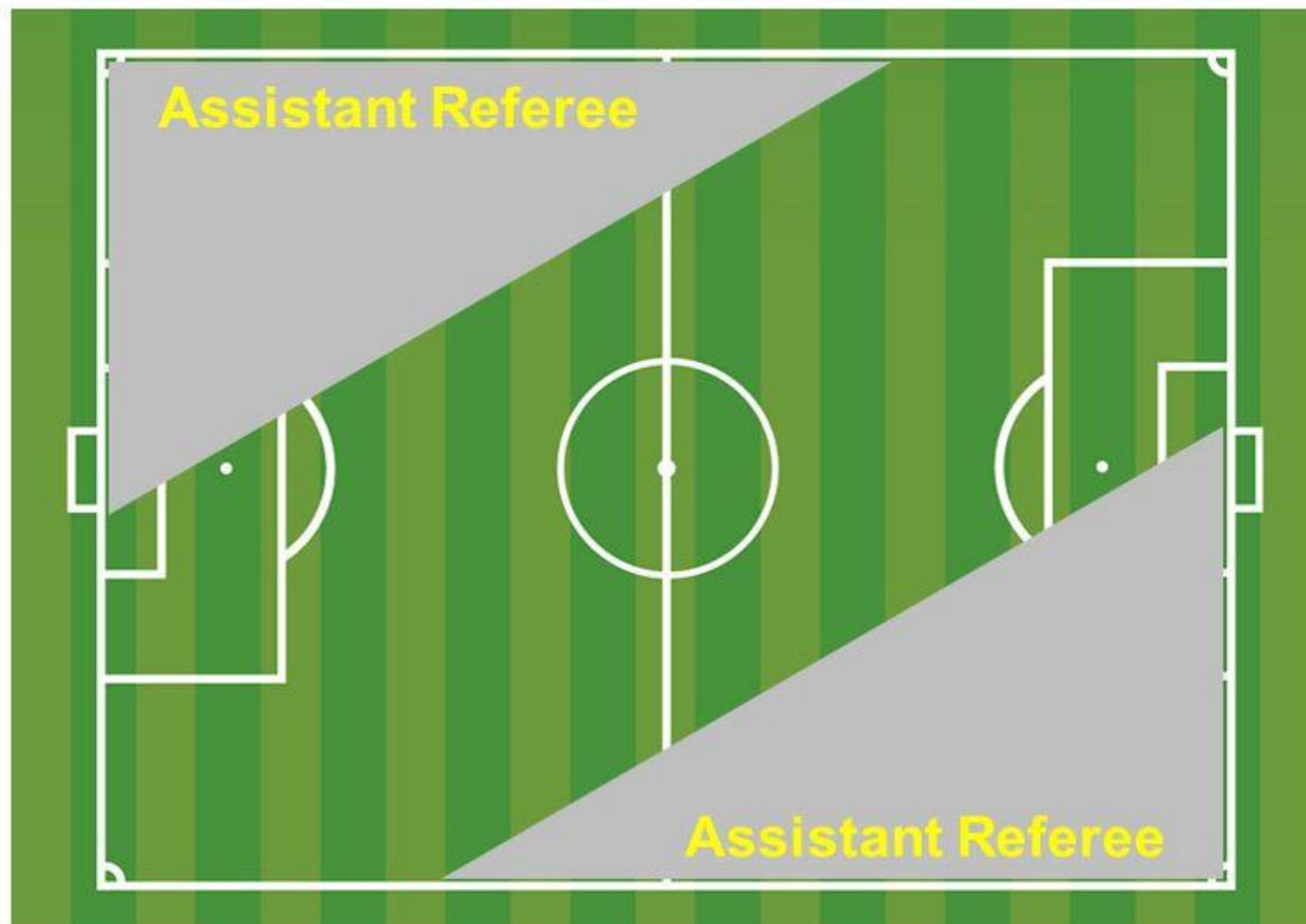
- The play should be between the referee and the lead AR
- The lead AR should be in the referee's field of vision so the referee should usually use a wide diagonal system
- Staying towards the outside of the play makes it easier to keep play and the lead AR in the referee's field of vision
- The referee should be close enough to see play without interfering with play
- "What needs to be seen" is not always in the vicinity of the ball. The referee should also pay attention to:
 - player confrontations off the ball
 - possible offences in the area towards which play is moving
 - offences occurring after the ball is played away

Positioning of assistant referees

- ❖ The AR must be in line with the second-last defender or the ball if it is nearer to the goal line than the second-last defender.
- ❖ The AR must always face the field of play, even when running. Side-to-side movement should be used for short distances. This is especially important when judging offside as it gives the AR a better line of vision.



Positioning





Goalkeeper



Defender



Attacker



Assistant
Referee



Referee



Additional Assistant
Referee

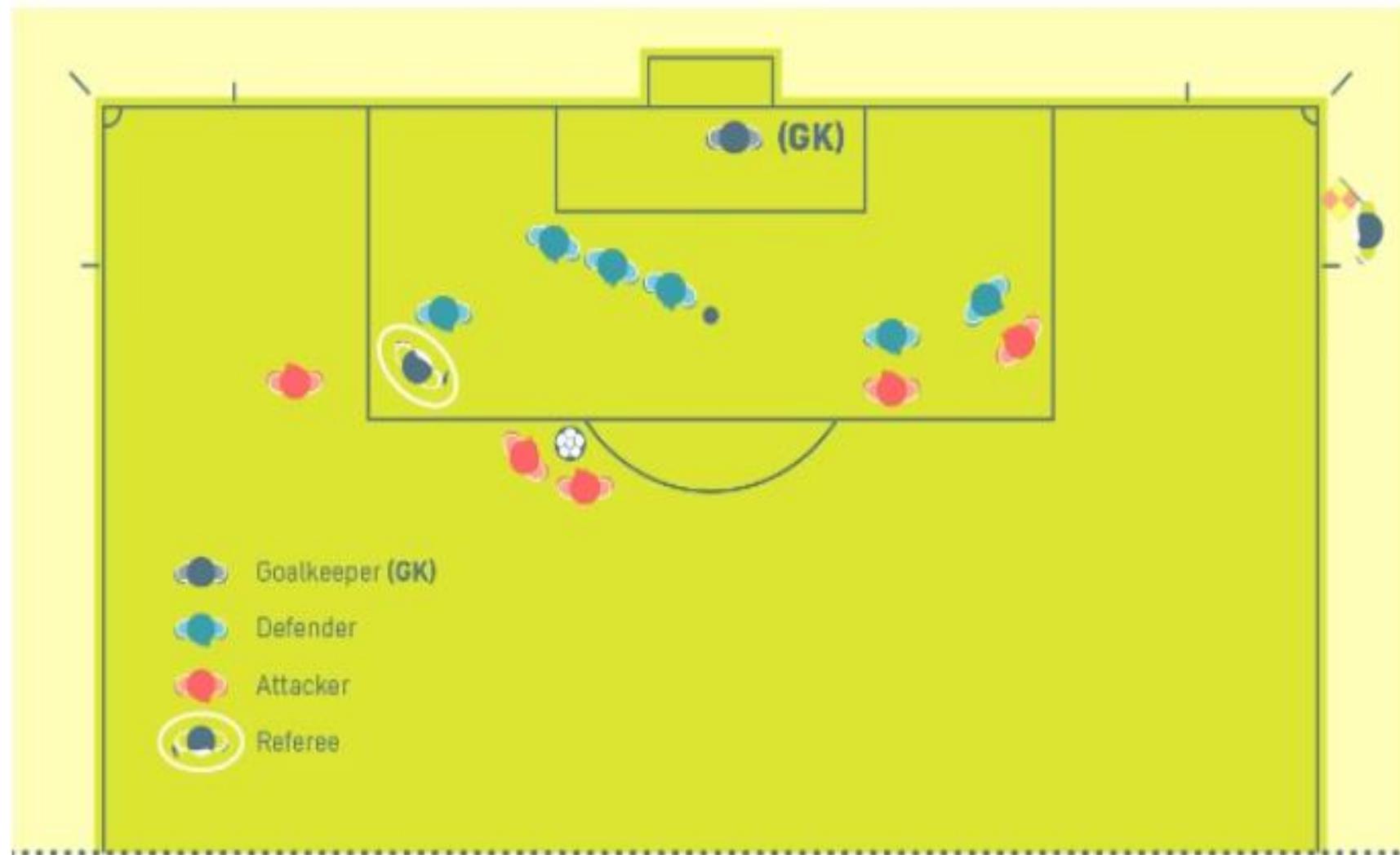
Corner kick

- The AR's position for a corner kick is behind the corner flag in line with the goal line but the AR must not interfere with the player taking the corner kick and must check that the ball is properly placed in the corner area.
- Referee facing AR



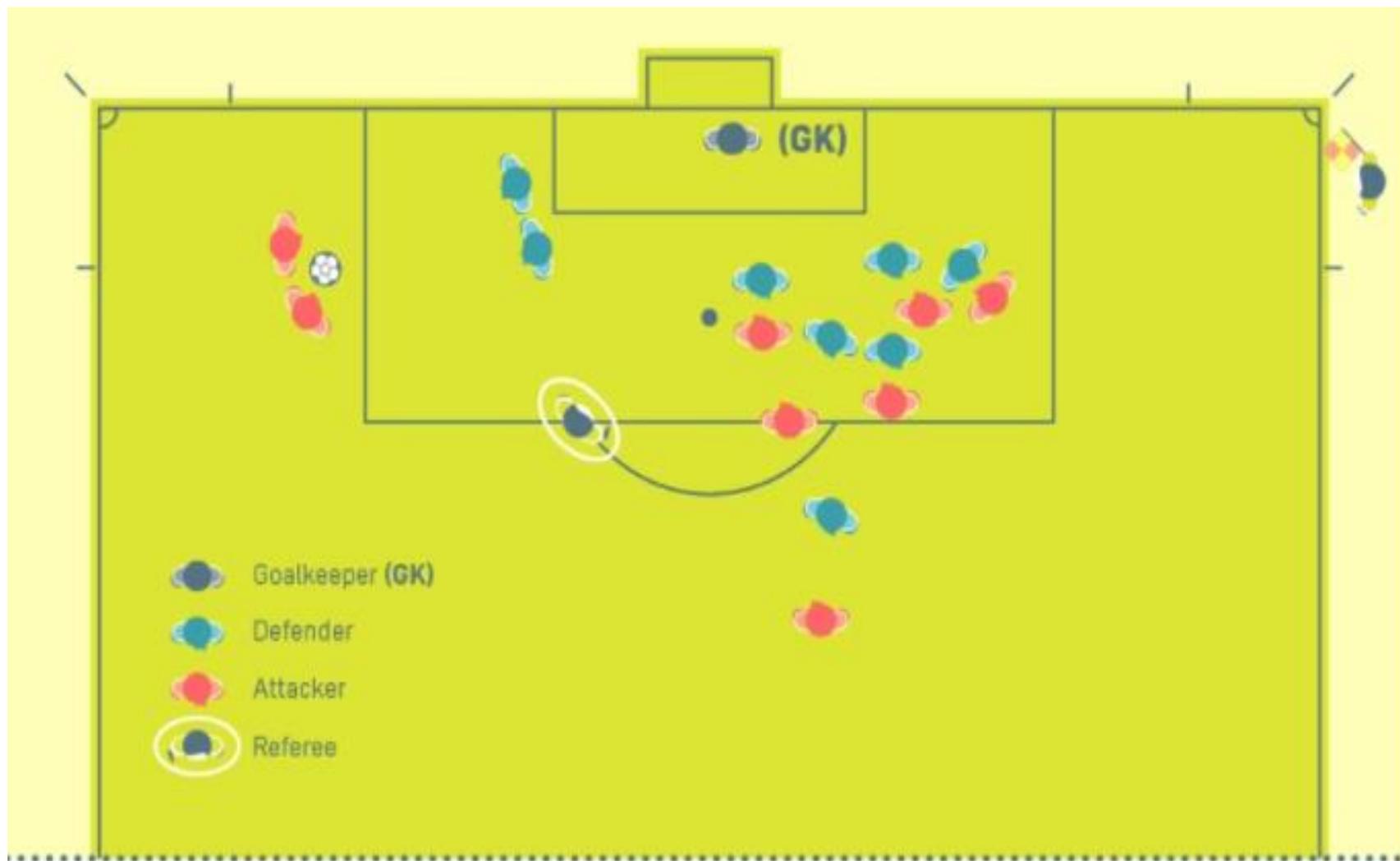
Free kicks

- The AR's position for a free kick must be in line with the second-last defender to check the offside line. However, the AR must be ready to follow the ball by moving down the touchline towards the corner flag if there is a direct shot on goal.
- Referee facing AR



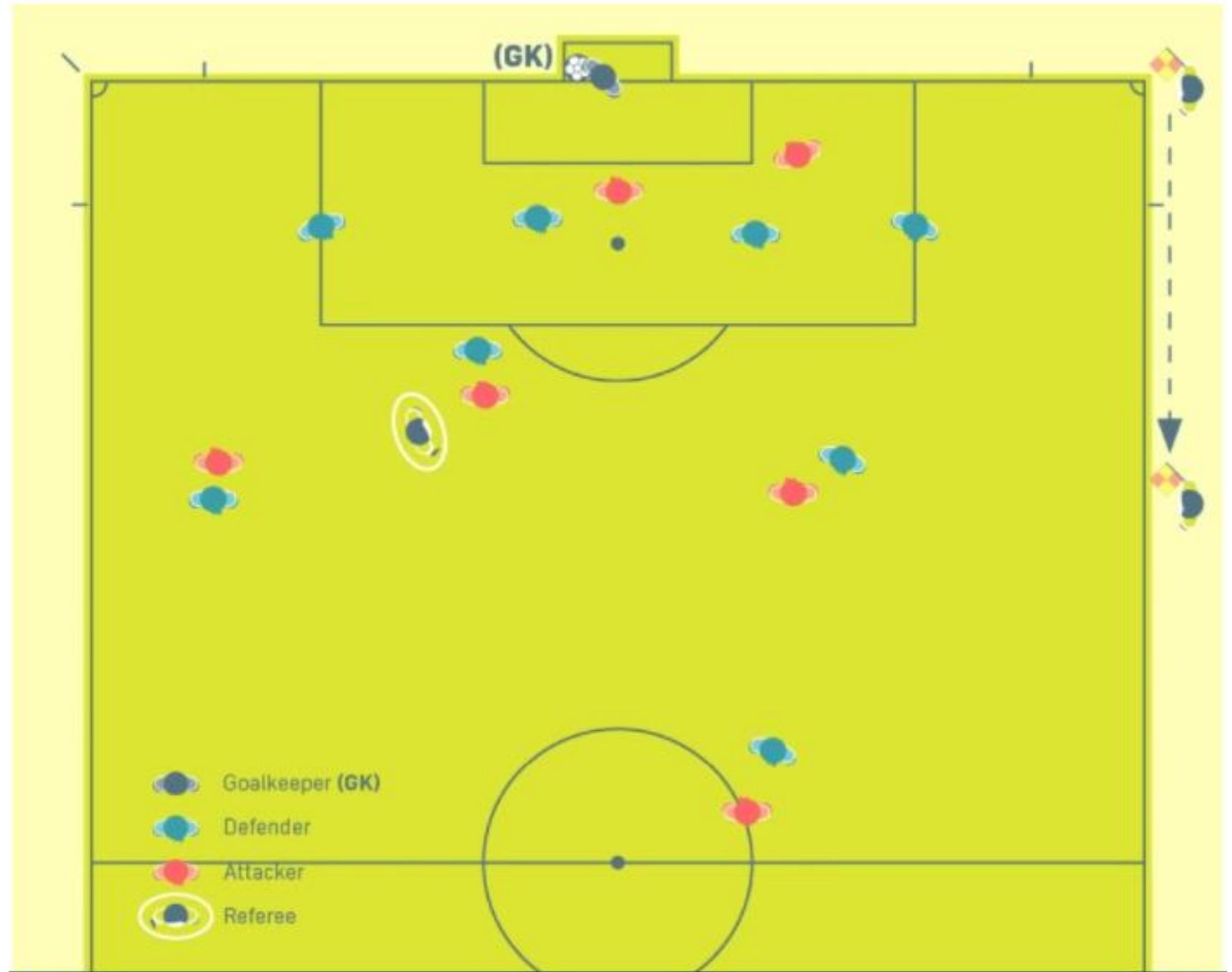
Free kicks

- The AR's position for a free kick must be in line with the second-last defender to check the offside line. However, the AR must be ready to follow the ball by moving down the touchline towards the corner flag if there is a direct shot on goal.
- Referee facing AR



Goal/no goal

- When a goal has been scored and there is no doubt about the decision, the referee and assistant referee must make eye contact and the assistant referee must then move quickly 10–15 yards along the touchline towards the halfway line without raising the flag.
- Referee facing AR

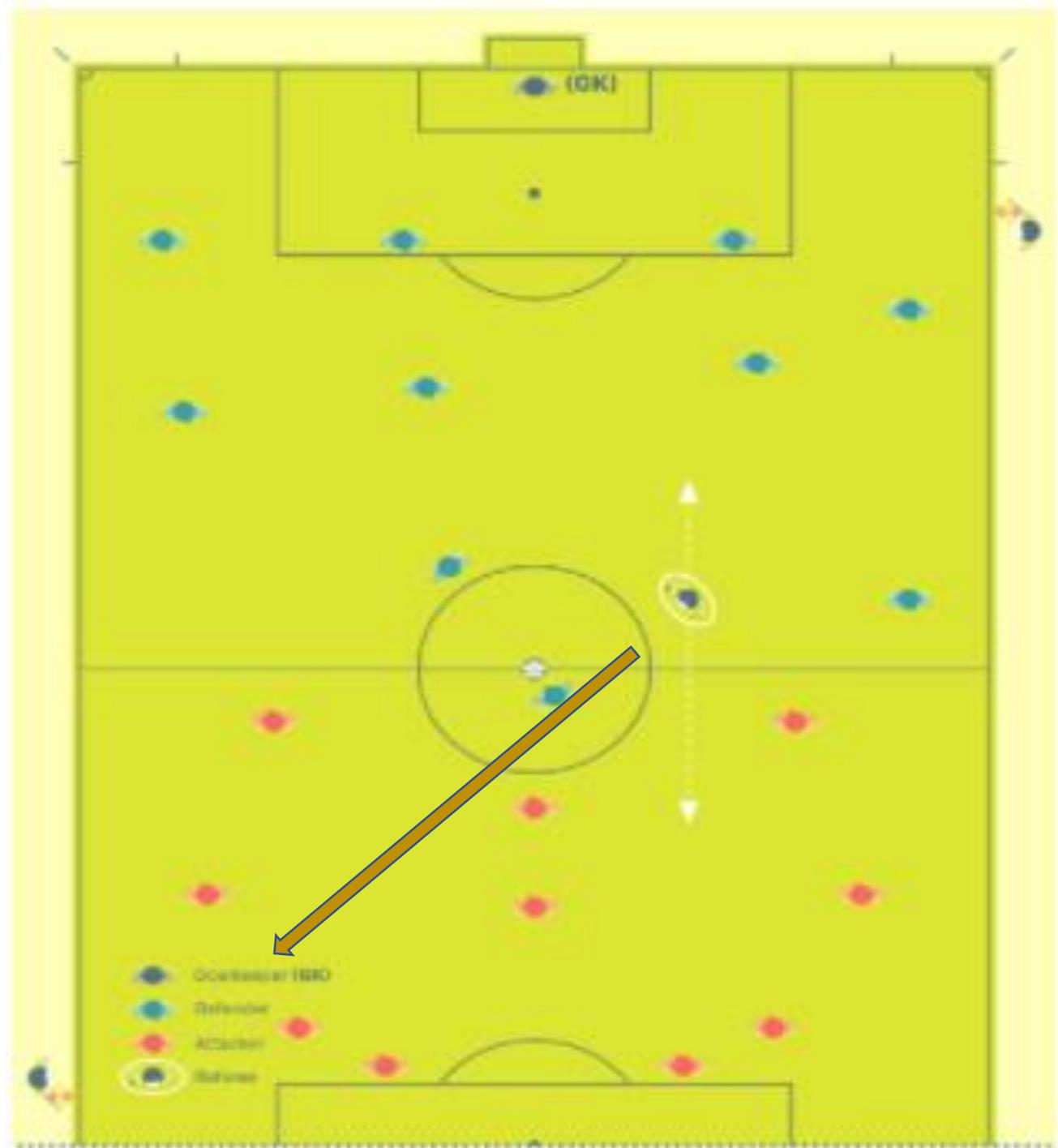


Kick-off

- The ARs must be in line with the second-last defender.

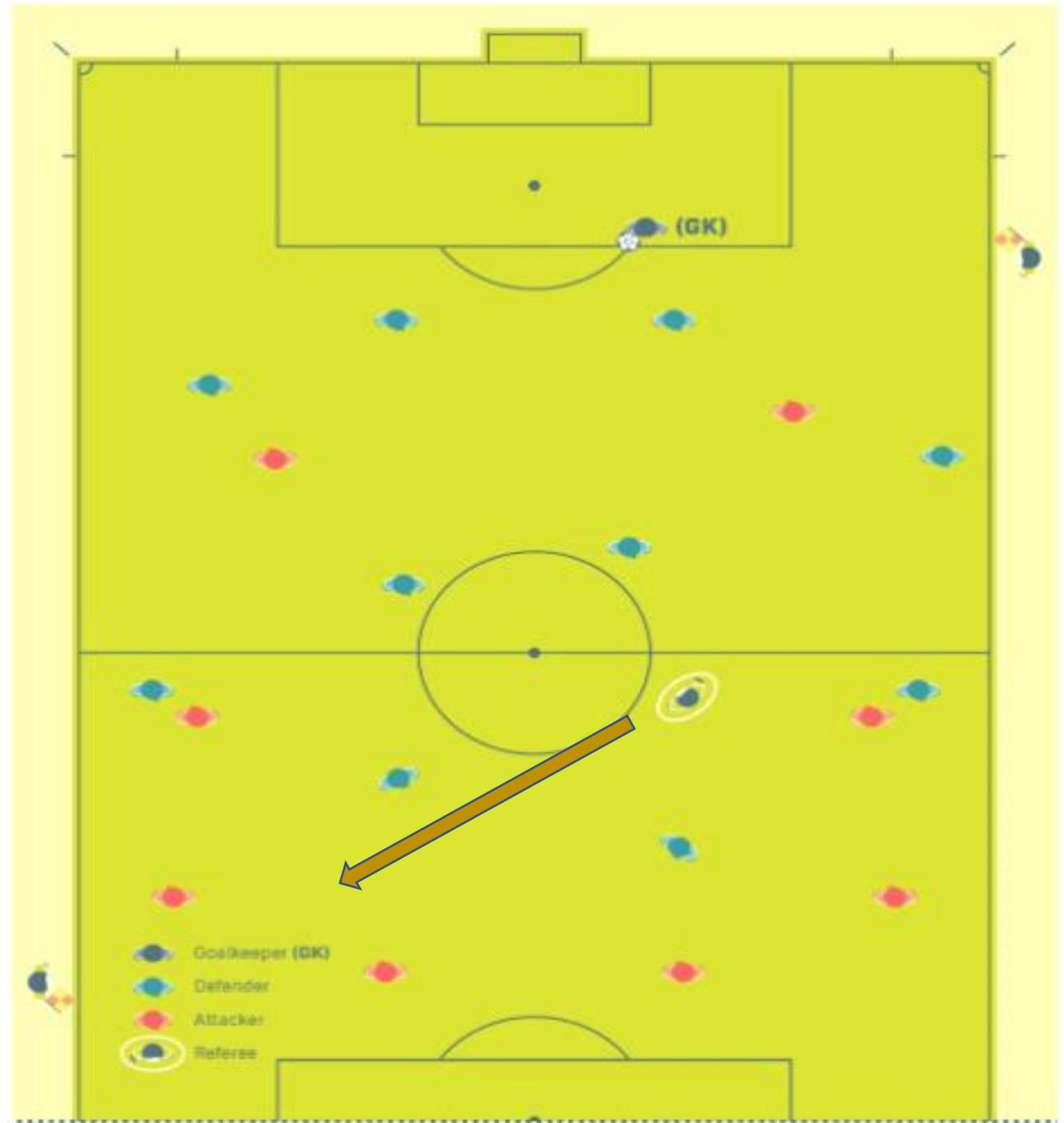
- Referee facing lead AR...

In expected
landing Zone



Goalkeeper releasing the ball

- The AR must take a position in line with the edge of the penalty area and check that the goalkeeper does not handle the ball outside the penalty area. Once the goalkeeper has released the ball, the AR must take a position to check the offside line.
- Referee facing lead AR...
In expected landing Zone



Penalty kick

- The AR must be positioned at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area.

- Referee facing lead AR...

Ref has kicker and any encroaching players on 18

AR has Goal line and GK violations



Vermont Soccer Association
2022 Referee Certification Clinics



Thanks!
Questions?

