Law 11
Offside
Topics

• Elements of the Law
• Offside Position
• Involvement in Active Play
  – Interfering with an opponent
  – Interfering with play
  – Gaining an advantage
• Infringements
• Recommendations
Elements of the Law

**Offside position if:**
- *Nearer* to his opponents’ goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent.

**Not offside position if:**
- In his own half of the field of play.
- Level with the second last opponent
- Level with last two opponents

**No offence if ball direct from:**
- A goal kick
- A throw-in
- A corner kick

**When?**
- At the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his teammates

**Active play:**
- Interfering with play
- Interfering with an opponent
- Gaining advantage
Elements of the Law

1. Position
2. Involved in active play
3. Offence
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

IFAB Decision 1:
- consideration should be given to any part of the head, body or feet of the attacker in relation to the second last defender, the ball or the halfway line
- for the purposes of this decision, the arms are not considered to be part of the body
Offside Position

"With regards to the ball"

Onside Position

Offside Position
Offside Position

“With regards to the second last opponent”

Onside Position  Offside Position
Offside Position

“With regards to the halfway line”

Onside Position  Offside Position
A player is not committing an offence simply by being in an offside position.

Active involvement plus offside position is the offence.

Being actively involved in the area of play is not the same as being in the area of active play.

While in an offside position, there are three things a player cannot do:

- interfere with play
- interfere with an opponent
- gain an advantage by being in the offside position
"Interfering with play" means:

- playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate
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 team-mate in an onside position (B) also runs 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 onside position has the opportunity to play the ball.
An attacker in an offside position (A) runs towards the ball but does not touch it. The assistant referee should signal for a goal kick.
“Interfering with an opponent” means:

- preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball. For example, by clearly obstructing the goalkeeper’s line of vision or movement
- making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent
  - the opponent must be reasonably close to the play so that the blocking, deceiving or distracting makes a difference
An attacker in an offside position (A) is obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision. He should be penalised because he is preventing 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 that deceives or distracts him.
Interfering with an opponent

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

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).
“Gaining an advantage by being in that position” means:

- playing a ball that rebounds to him off a post or crossbar, having previously been in an offside position
- playing a ball, that rebounds to him off an opponent, having previously been in an offside position
A shot from team-mate (A) rebounds off the goalkeeper to player (B) who is penalised for playing the ball having been previously in an offside position.
A shot from team-mate (A) rebounds off the goalkeeper. Player (B) who is on an onside position, plays the ball.

Player (C) who is in an offside position, is not penalised because he did not gain an advantage by being in that position as he did not touch the ball.
Gaining an advantage

**Offside offence**

A shot from team-mate (A) rebounds off an opponent to attacker (B) who is penalised for playing the ball having previously in an offside position.
Attacker (C) is in an offside position and not interfering with an opponent when team-mate (A) passes the ball to player (B1) who is in an onside position, player (B1) runs towards the opponent's goal and passes the ball (B2) to team-mate (C). (C) cannot be penalised because when the ball was passed to him, he was in an onside position.
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 for tactical reasons and has gained an unfair advantage by re-entering the field of play, the player shall be cautioned for unsporting behaviour.
- the player needs to ask for the referee’s permission to re-enter the field of play.
Infringements

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.*
Concentration and focus are key.
Good positioning leads to correct decisions.
Good positioning leads to correct decisions.
A bad position can produce a wrong decision. The line of vision change from a bad position.
Recommendations

Appropriate running technique:

- side to side movement. Better line of vision
Recommendations

Wait and see technique:

- freeze in your mind the position of the attacker and afterward judge his involvement in active play
- to judge his involvement in active play, take into account the movement of the ball:
  - direction
  - speed
  - distance
  - any deflection, etc
- it is better to be slightly late and correct, than to be too quick and wrong
The practical training on the field of play to improve the offside decisions.
The practical training on the field of play to improve the offside decisions.