



Webster Youth Soccer

Basic Definition

The basics of the rule are that an offensive player cannot be ahead of the ball and involved in the attack unless there is a defender between him/her and the goalkeeper of the opposing team. The offside rule in soccer is one of the most misunderstood rules in sport. The rule states that in order to be offside the following conditions must be met at the time the ball is passed to the player by a teammate:

- The player must be on the attacking half of the field (i.e. the opposing team's side);
- S/he must be closer to the goal than the second to last defender; **and**
- S/he must be actively involved in the play.

If any of these three conditions are not met, the player is not offside. Merely being in an "offside position" does not necessarily constitute an infraction.

A player can not be offside on a:

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

Also, a player cannot be called for offside in his/her team's end of the field.

Illustration

