

# 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 to 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 penalized 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 play" means Playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate.*
- interfering with an opponent or - *"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.*
- gaining an advantage by being in that position - *"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.*

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

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

**Infringements and Sanctions** In the event of an offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.

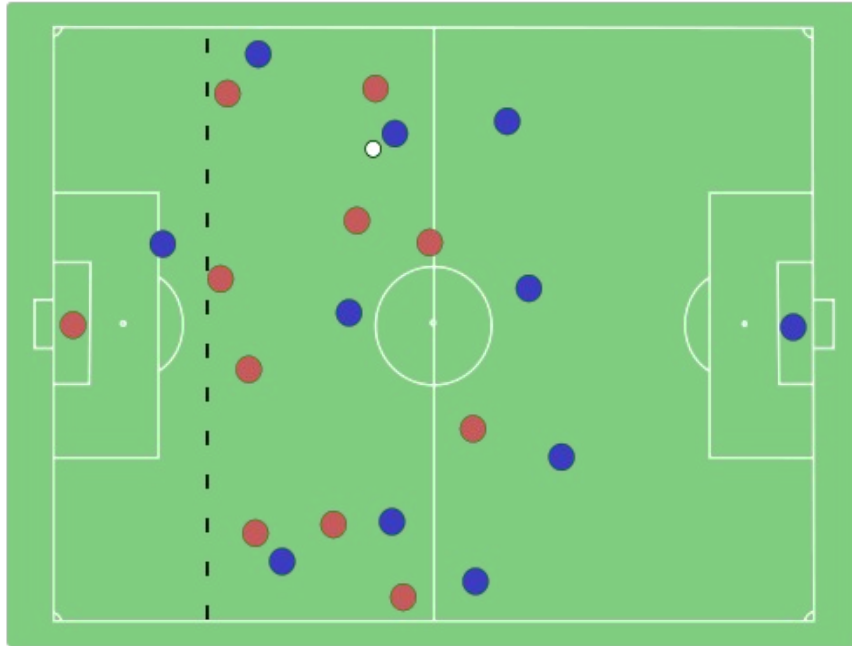
## Illustrated Resources

[http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/afdeveloping/refereeing/5.%20law%2011\\_554.pdf](http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/afdeveloping/refereeing/5.%20law%2011_554.pdf)

<http://www.corshamref.org.uk/offpics.htm>

1) The blue forward on the left of the diagram is in an *offside position* as he is both in front of the second to last defender (marked by the dotted line) and the ball. Note that this does not necessarily mean he is committing an *offside offence*.

If the ball were to be passed to the blue forward in the offside position and he touched it then the offside offence would be whistled.



2) The blue forward on the left of the diagram is in an *offside position* but not involved in active play, thus not committing an *offside offence*. If the ball is passed as shown by the arrow and then scored no offside would be whistled because the offside player was not involved in the play.

