



U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program Continuing Education - Rule Clarification October 2017

U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives Small-Sided Youth Games 7v7 Build-Out Line

The Build-Out Line promotes playing the ball out from the defensive third in a less pressured setting. When the goalkeeper has control (with his/her hands) of the ball during play, the opposing team **MUST** move behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is released (put in play) by the goalkeeper. Once the opposing team is behind the Build-Out Line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play (punts or drop kicks are **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.

Also, the opposing team **MUST** move behind the Build-Out Line for a goal kick restart and may only cross the Build-Out Line once the ball is in play (meaning that the ball has left the penalty area).

For more information on U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives, which include important modifications of the laws, [click here](#). Information on this topic can also be found in the various modules for the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 Referee Course available in English [here](#) and *en español* [aquí](#).



7v7 Standards of Play

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 in his or her hands during play from the opponent, 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 (punts and drop kicks are 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.
- The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play.
- If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- If the punt or drop kick 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.
- The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called.
- Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line.
- Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line.

