

### Offside Position

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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 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
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### Offence

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A player in an offside position is only penalised 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 an opponent or
  - gaining an advantage by being in that position
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### No Offence

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

- a goal kick
  - a throw-in
  - a corner kick
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### Infringements and Sanctions

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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 (see Law 13 – Position of Free Kick).

# **INTERPRETATION OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME AND GUIDELINES FOR REFEREES**

### Definitions

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In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply:

- “nearer to his opponents’ goal line” means that any part of a player’s head, body or feet is nearer to his opponents’ goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent. The arms are not included in this definition
- “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate
- “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or movements or 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” means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position

### Infringements

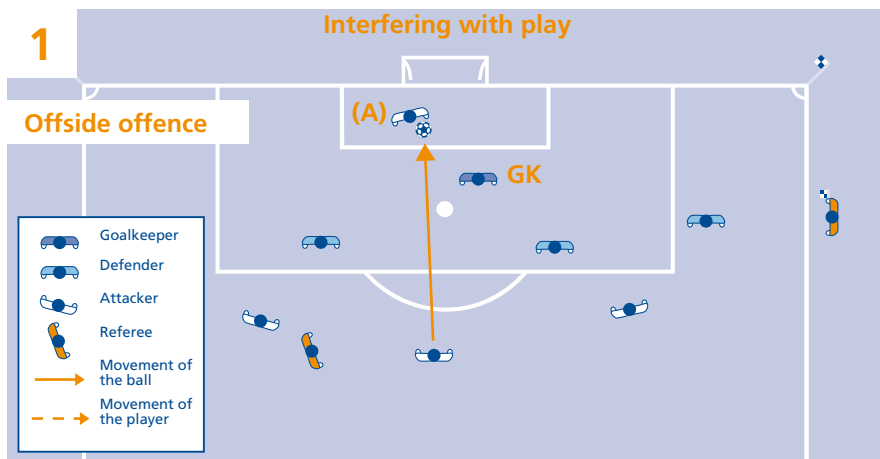
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When an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an indirect free kick to be taken from the position of the offending player when the ball was last played to him by one of his team-mates.

If a defending player steps behind his own goal line in order to place an opponent in an offside position, the referee must 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.

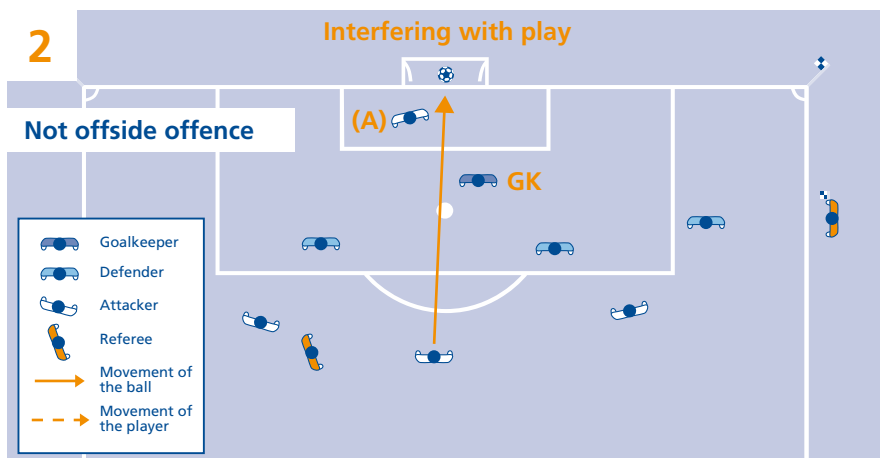
It is not an offence in itself for a player who is in an offside position to step off the field of play to show the referee that he is not involved in active play. However, if the referee considers that he has left the field of play for tactical reasons and has gained an unfair advantage by re-entering the field of play, the player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour. The player needs to ask for the referee's permission to re-enter the field of play.

If an attacking player remains stationary between the goalposts and inside the goal net as the ball enters the goal, a goal must be awarded. However, if the attacking player distracts an opponent, the goal must be disallowed, the player cautioned for unsporting behaviour and play restarted with a dropped ball from the position of the ball when play was stopped, unless play was stopped inside the goal area, in which case the referee drops the ball on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the ball was located when play was stopped.



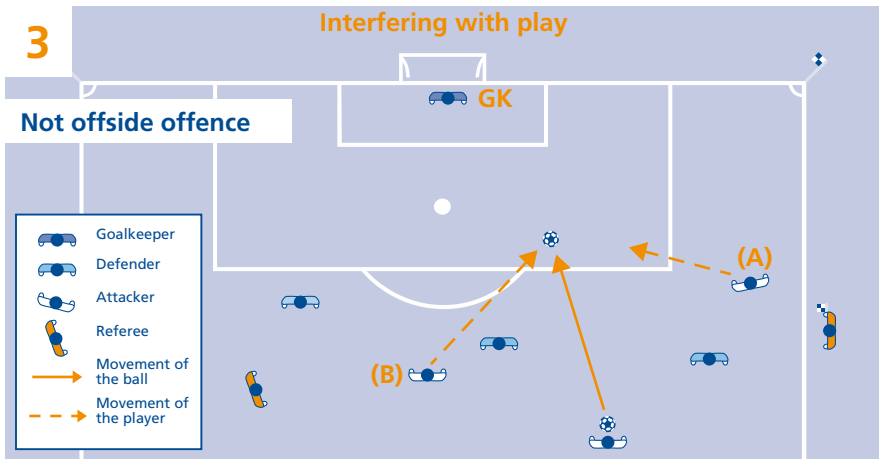
An attacker **in an offside position** (A), not interfering with an opponent, **touches the ball**.

The assistant referee must raise the flag when the player **touches the ball**.

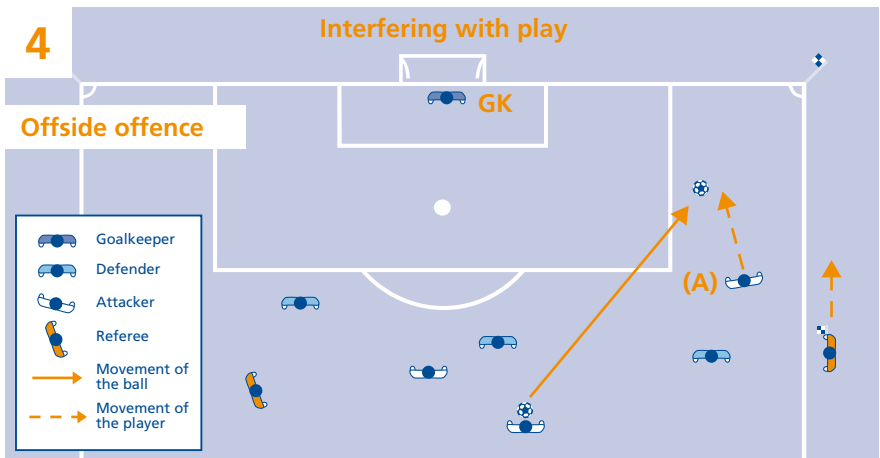


An attacker **in an offside position** (A), not interfering with an opponent, **does not touch the ball**.

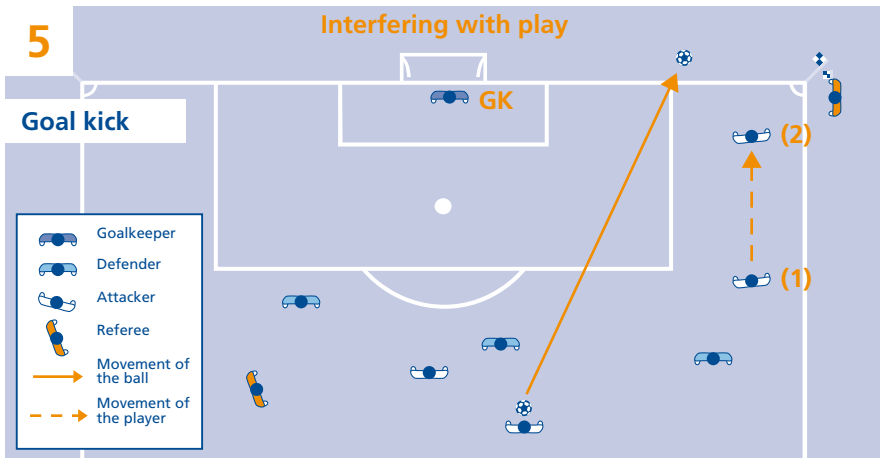
The player cannot be penalised because he did not touch the ball.



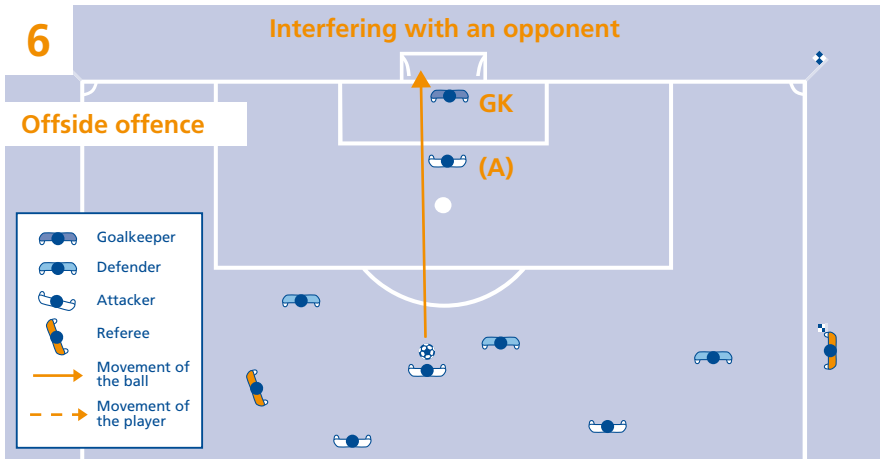
An attacker **in an offside position** (A) runs towards the ball and a team-mate **in an onside position** (B) also runs towards the ball and plays it. (A) cannot be penalised because he did not touch the ball.



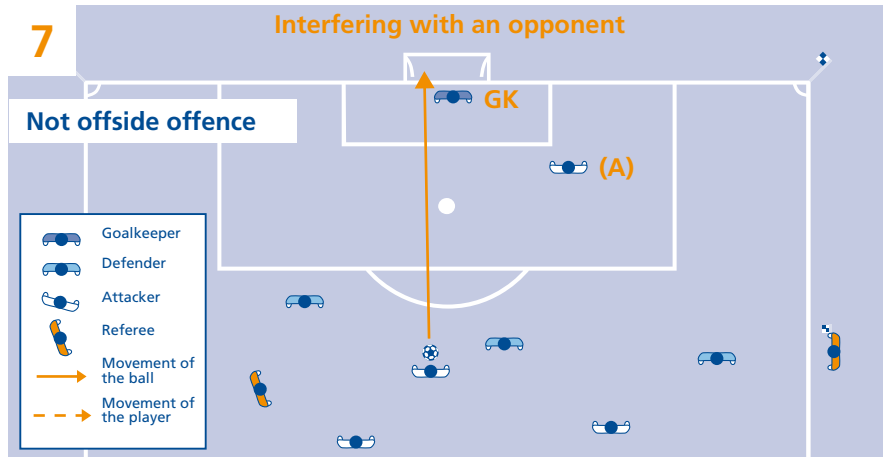
A player **in an offside position** (A) may be penalised before playing or touching the ball, if, in the opinion of the referee, no other team-mate in an onside position has the opportunity to play the ball.



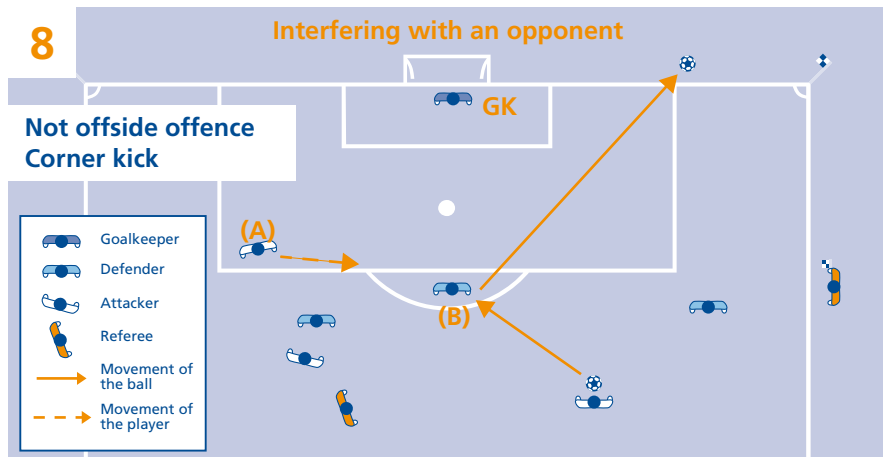
An attacker **in an offside position** (1) runs towards the ball and **does not touch the ball**.  
 The assistant referee must signal "goal kick".



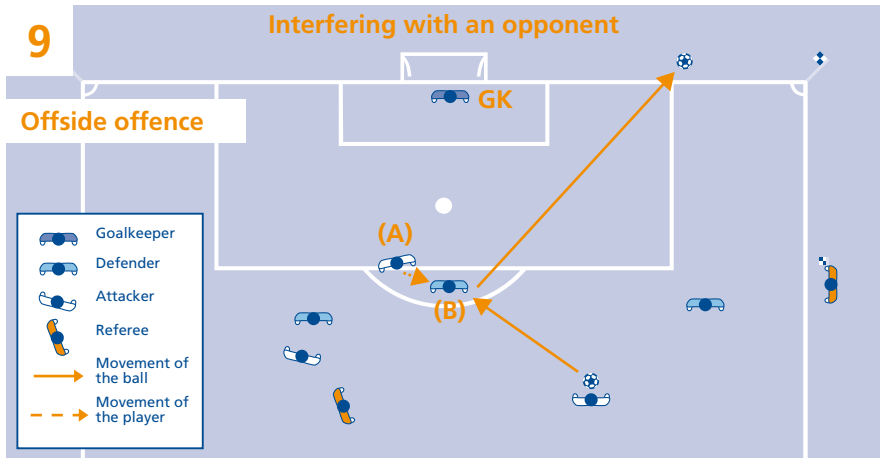
An attacker **in an offside position** (A) is obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision. He must be penalised because he prevents an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball.



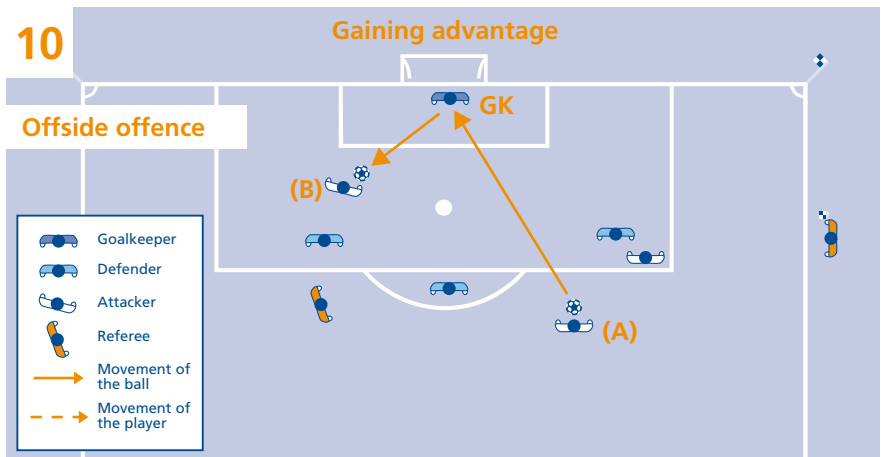
An attacker **in an offside position** (A) is **not** obstructing the goalkeeper’s line of vision or making a gesture or movement which deceives or distracts him.



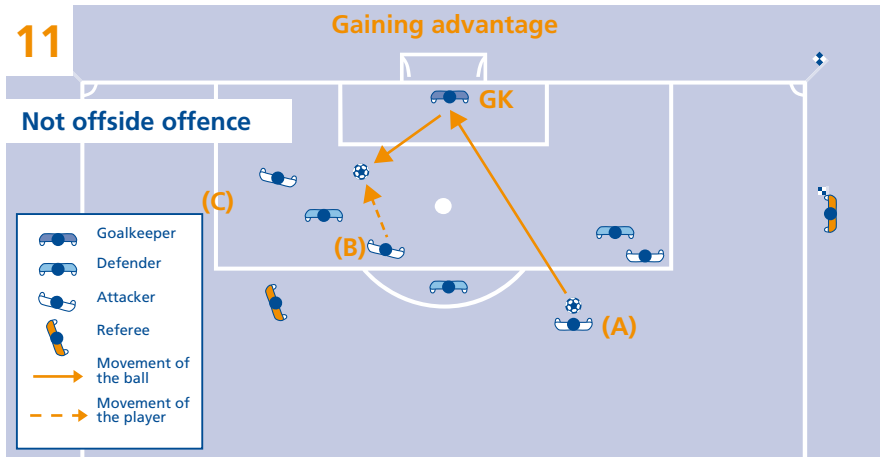
An attacker **in an offside position** (A) runs towards the ball but he does not prevent the opponent from playing or being able to play the ball. (A) is **not** making any gesture or movement which deceives or distracts (B).



An attacker **in an offside position** (A) runs towards the ball preventing the opponent (B) from playing or being able to play the ball.  
 (A) is making a gesture or movement which deceives or distracts (B).

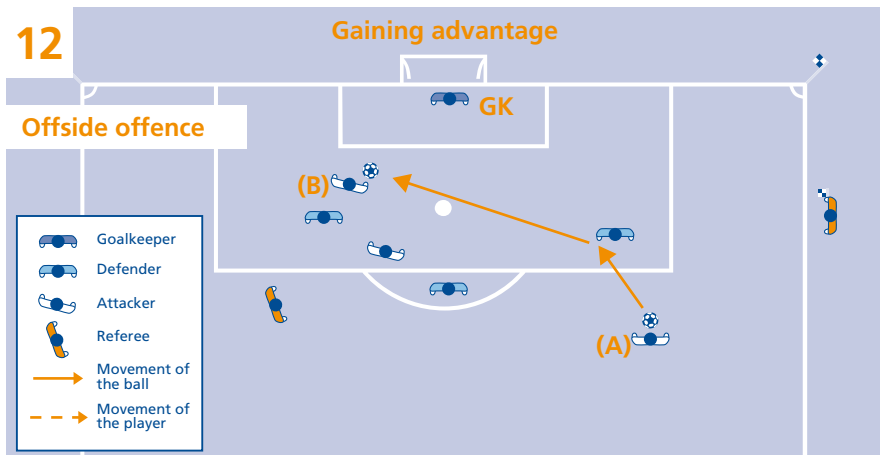


The shot by a team-mate (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper to (B) who is penalised for **playing the ball** having previously been **in an offside position**.



The shot by a team-mate (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper. (B) is in an offside position and plays the ball.

(C) **in an offside position** is not penalised because he did not gain an advantage from being in that position because he did not touch the ball.

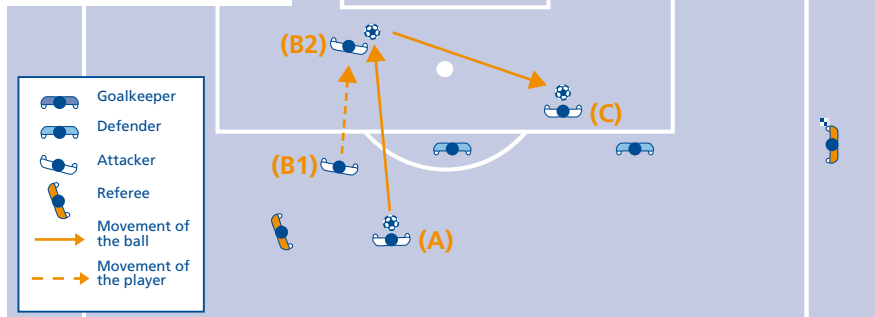


The shot by a team-mate (A) rebounds off an opponent to attacker (B) who is penalised for **playing the ball** having previously been **in an offside position**.

# 13

## Gaining advantage

### Not offside offence



An attacker (C) is **in an offside position**, not interfering with an opponent, when a team-mate (A) passes the ball to player (B1) in an onside position who runs towards the opponents' goal and passes the ball (B2) to team-mate (C). Attacker (C) cannot be penalised because when the ball was passed to him, he was **in an onside position**.