

Learning The Laws

Greetings Refs/Coaches,

I want to give you some periodic tips, techniques, and training in order to provide a better AYSO environment.

This week's "Learning The Laws" info is about Law 11....The Offside Law....no, that's not a typo...there is no "s" in The Offside Law.

It's the shortest law in the book, but the least understood. I'll attempt to make it easy to understand. Especially to the unruly spectators!

First, here is a wikipedia description:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offside_\(association_football\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Offside_(association_football))

It even gives you a little history about it as well! Don't worry, it's not that boring!

Next, may I present a neat video explaining the law.

<http://www.dynamic-thought.com/OffsideClicketteLo.html>

Now this one is really good since it's a COACH explaining it! I love this....finally a COACH that understands Law 11! Just kidding around here.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFCdMz7eph8>

So after looking at that, here are my techniques to help you remember it. Yes, Buttercup, there are "certain instances" my explanation won't be EXACTLY PERFECT COVERING ALL INSTANCES....but, let's get the basics down first, then we will dive headfirst into the minutia!!!

Before we go bonkers with Law 11, the offside penalty cannot occur if the player receives the ball directly from.... **"Call The Guards Halfway"**....

Corner kicks....**T**hrow ins.....**G**oal kicks and...if the player is in their own **H**alf of the field, they CANNOT be offside. No matter what you say. None of those situations can make them offside. I know, there's a lot more. Just cool your jets, man!

So this is what we got so far...**"Call The Guards Halfway"**....cannot be offside if you **"Call The Guards Halfway"**....

Once the ball has been played after each situation, the offside exemption no longer applies.

Still with me? "Are we there yet?" No, not even close yet. Now all you experts that really know this law, don't jump ahead.....you'll spoil it for the rest of us!!!!

There are TWO COMPONENTS to Law 11. **Position** and **Offense....and one surprise!**

Component 1

First component is the player **Position:**

The player has to be closer to the opponent's goal than the ball and the second to last opponent (goalie included). This means you are in the offside position.....WAIT....don't blow your whistle yet.....put it back in your pocket! (Position)...see below

It's not an offense to just BE in the offside position. ***But the players/parents are yelling OFFSIDES!!!!!!!!!!***
Paaahhhleeezzze....No "S"and it's not offside yet!
Silence You Savages!

Component 2

Second component is the **Offense:**

This is where it all comes together....this is the magical moment....in the twinkling of an eye....ready....take a deep breath....

The **moment** the ball is touched/played **by their teammate, with the player** in an offside position, this is the offside offense. (Timing)...see below

That's it! Simple! Easy! Clear as a bell!

Right?.....Right?.....NOPE! There's more....just one last thing.

Here's your surprise:

In the opinion of the referee the player has to be **involved in active play**. (OMG, refs have to give an opinion???)

This is where the referee finally gets to make a decision. Up to this point, all you have done is simply observed the situation developing and this is where you need that cool-calm-steely-eyed composure with your trusty whistle in the ready position!

The referee now has to decide at that moment the ball is touched/played if the offside player is: **"POP" ... "The player is interfering with POP"**

1. interfering with **P**lay
2. interfering with an **O**pponent
3. gaining an advantage by being in the offside **P**osition

This means the offside player has to be **involved in active play by interfering with Play/Opponent/gaining a Positional advantage**.

This is how Law 11 is not just about position and the offense. It's about a particular situation on the pitch; active play. (Active)...see below

If you just go back and re-read what I just wrote, you will be able to call offside about 99% of all the offside situations encountered in AYSO on the pitch. That's good enough, right??? NO! You got to master this Law 11. You must become the "offside-master" and "become one with offside rule Grass Hopper"!!!

The last 1% comes from "***What happens if...***" situations not frequently encountered on the pitch. Let's assume we have a player in the offside position when the ball is played. And this is not from corner kick, throw-in, goal kick, the player is not in his/her own half of the field (Call The Guards Halfway), and this player is, in the opinion of the referee, interfering with Play, Opponent, or gaining an advantage in the offside Position (**POP**):

1. The ball is kicked by an attacking teammate, and it bounces (not a controlled pass) off a defender/goalie to the offside attacker. This is offside.

2. The ball is shot at the goal by an attacking teammate, and it bounces off the crossbar/posts to the offside attacker. This is offside.

3. The ball is shot at the goal by an attacking teammate, and the offside player obstructs/influences the last defender or goalie. This is offside.

4. The ball is passed by an attacking teammate, and it bounces off the referee to the offside attacker. This is offside.

In conclusion....finally....Law 11, The Offside Rule, is very straight forward. Just remember the acronyms (Call The Guards Halfway, and POP). My simple mind even breaks it down to only one that I use. The acronym: PTA....Position, Timing, Active play. Those 3

letters, PTA, condense everything I mention above. Position, Timing, Active play. Those are mentioned above.

Thank you for all you do for our children, and thank you for making AYSO, Fun, Fair, and Safe. Contact me for any questions.

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