

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 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 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***

No Offence

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

- *a goal kick*
or
- *a throw-in*
or
- *a corner kick*

Infringements/Sanctions

For any offside offence, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred. * (see page 3)

***Webmaster's Commentary:**

The opinion of the referee is usually not the same as the opinion of an uninformed participating player, spectator or emotionally unstable parent or coach.

Adults voicing their opinions to referees under the age of 18 should either grow up, shut up, or become referees to put up with the verbal abuse of people like themselves!