



# Understanding the Build-Out Line in U9-U10 Soccer

## What is the Build-Out Line?

The Build-Out Line is a line placed across the field, halfway between the penalty area and the halfway line. It is used in 7v7 small-sided games for U9 and U10 players to promote skill development and reduce pressure during play.

## Why Do We Use It?

- Encourages playing out from the back instead of long punts.
- Creates a less pressured environment for goalkeepers and defenders.
- Supports player development by allowing controlled possession and build-up play.

## How Does It Affect Offside?

- The Build-Out Line becomes the offside line in the attacking half.
- Players are not offside between the halfway line and the Build-Out Line.
- Offside applies only beyond the Build-Out Line toward the goal.

## When Is the Build-Out Line in Effect?

### 1. Goal Kick

- Opponents must retreat behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is kicked and clearly moves.
- The kicking team may have players inside the penalty area to receive the ball.

### 2. Goalkeeper Possession (with hands)

- Opponents retreat behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is released.
- Goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball (punts and drop kicks are not allowed).
- The 6-second count starts after opponents retreat behind the Build-Out Line.

## Coach & Player Responsibilities

- Coaches should remind players to retreat promptly.
- Delaying retreat may result in a warning, and repeated offenses can lead to a coach caution (yellow card).

## OFFSIDE OFFENSE REVIEW

A player in an offside position at the moment the ball is played or touched by a team-mate is only penalized on becoming involved in active play by:

- interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team-mate
- OR
- interfering with an opponent
- OR
- gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an opponent



### Quick Q\&A

**Q: Can the goalkeeper punt or drop kick the ball?**

**A:** No. Only throws, rolls, or passes are allowed.

**Q: When can opponents cross the Build-Out Line?**

**A:** After the ball is kicked on a goal kick or released by the goalkeeper.

**Q: Does offside apply between the halfway line and the Build-Out Line?**

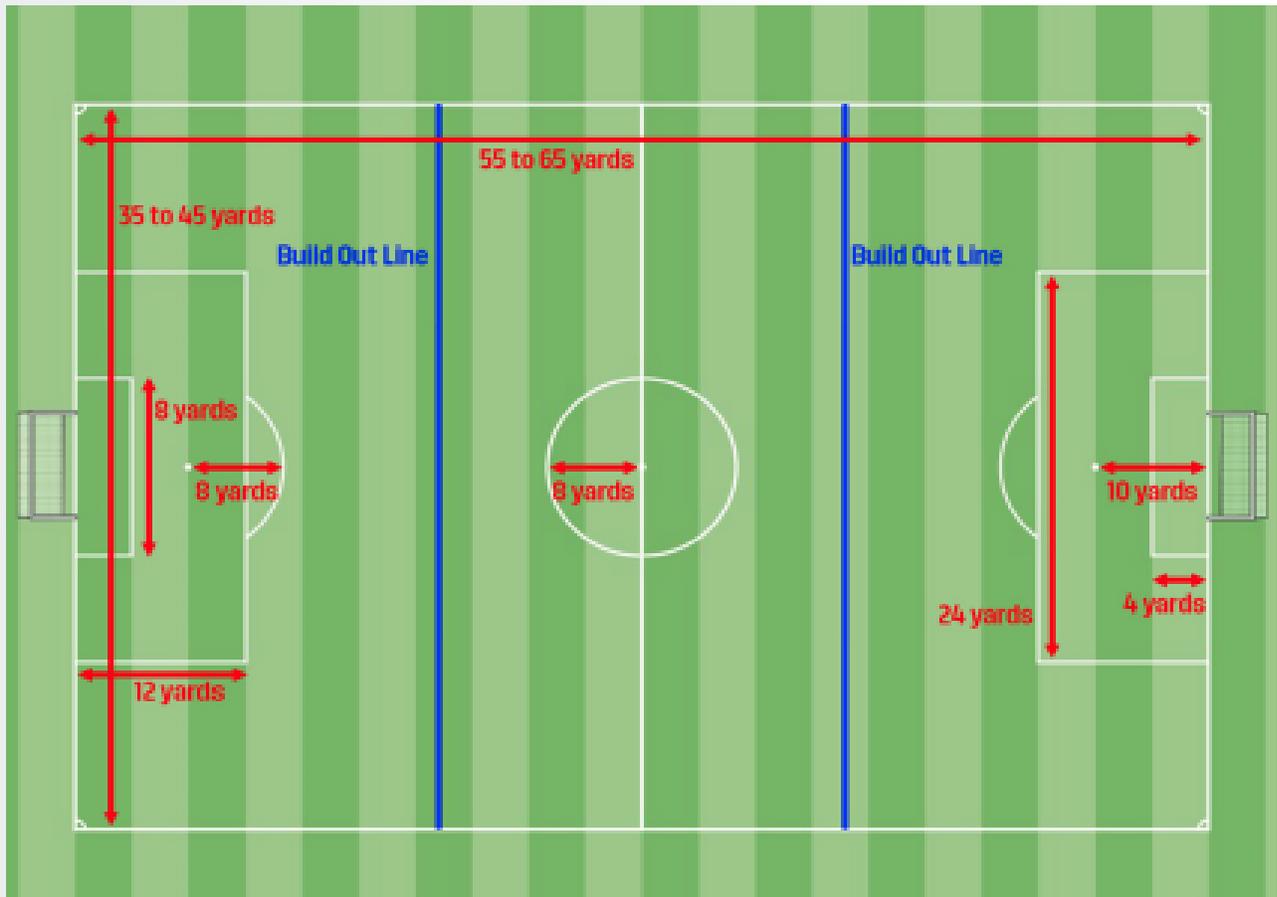
**A:** No. Offside only applies beyond the Build-Out Line toward the goal.

**Q: What happens if players don't retreat behind the Build-Out Line?**

**A:** The referee will remind them first; repeated offenses can result in a coach caution.

**Q: Does the goalkeepers 8-seconds period to release the ball start immediately after she/he gains possession (with their hands) in the 7v7, small-sided youth game.**

**A:** No. The time starts once all players on the attacking team are behind the build-out line.



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