



# THE BUILD OUT LINE

## BACKGROUND AND PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the build out line is to teach players how to advance the ball out of the back by keeping the ball in possession and becoming an attacking player. This will facilitate player development by allowing the attacking team the opportunity to receive and play the ball in a controlled method rather than the chaotic more common method of punting the ball up the field and the ensuing scramble for possession (which is usually lost to the opposing team 80% of the time).

In addition, players learn to control the ball, have less opportunity to head the ball, and reduce the dangerous play of high kicking because the ball remains on the ground.

The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting. When the goalkeeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line. At any time, the goalkeeper may pass, throw, or roll the ball to a teammate, but the goalkeeper does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes. Punts or drop-kicks are not allowed as this would defeat the purpose of the build out line and reduces the opportunity to play out of the defending third in an unpressured setting. After the ball is put into play, the opposing team can then cross the the build out line and play resumes as normal.

## APPLICATION, GAME PLAY, AND INSTRUCTIONS TO REFEREES WITH REGARDS TO THE BUILD OUT LINE

- A build out line will be marked on the field approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  the distance from the top of the penalty area to the midfield line and will have two purposes:

1. Be used for the attacking team (in their own  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the field) to bring the ball into play from the Goalkeeper or a goal kick for the purpose of learning to develop play from the back and include more players in the attack.
2. Define the offside position for an attacking team in their opponents  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the field.

## BUILD OUT LINE FIELD DIAGRAM



## **BUILD OUT LINES RULES**

- The Build Out Line applies when a team is in their own  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the field and developing play out of the back:
  1. Whenever a goal kick is awarded.
  2. Whenever the defending goalkeeper controls the ball with their hands.**[Note: On goal kicks and goalkeeper distributions, it is not an offense if the ball is distributed directly beyond the build-out line.]**
- The Buildout Line is also used to define the opponents part of the field (there to the goal line) where the offside position of a player is to be determined when the attacking team is advancing into the opponents  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the field.
- Ball is in play once it completely crosses the line defining the penalty area.

## **BALL IN PLAY**

**Opponents are expected to retreat to the Build Out Line to allow the attacking team to initiate play out of the back for all restarts occurring inside the Penalty Area.**

**Exceptions to this requirement are:**

- When the attacking team chooses to put the ball in play before the opponents have crossed the Build Out Line.
- Throw-ins.
- Ball is in play:
- On restarts or release by the goalkeeper, once it completely crosses the line defining the penalty area.
- During play, is touched again after release by the goalkeeper, by either the same player or another player from the attacking team, within the penalty area.

## **DELAYING THE GAME**

**The Build Out Line SHALL NOT be used as a tactical method to delay the game and waste time to the advantage of the offending team.**

Delay of game relative to the Build Out Line occurs when:

- The goalkeeper takes excessive time to release the ball (greater than six seconds after all the opposing team players have retreated behind the Build Out Line as determined by the referee).
- Excessive time to execute a goal kick.
- Failing to retreat back to the Build Out Line in a reasonable time.

**(Note: Any instructions to players from the touchline to delay play intentionally shall constitute Unsportsmanlike Behavior and be sanctioned appropriately. If the offender is a parent the Head Coach shall receive the Caution.)**

### **FOULS AND MISCONDUCT**

**FIFA Laws shall be followed at all times except as noted pertaining to the Build Out Line.**

- Offenses relative to the Build Out Line:
  - **Opposing player(s) infringe on the Build Out Line prior to ball being in play.**
    - Indirect free kick awarded from point of infraction on the Build Out Line
  - **Intentional delay of game by not retreating to the Build Out Line to allow the attacking team to start play.**
    - Indirect free kick from point of infraction to the offended team.
  - **Any other attempts to circumvent the intent of the Build Out Line as determined by the referee are to be treated as Unsportsmanlike Behavior.**
    - Sanction may include a Caution to the offending team Coach.

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