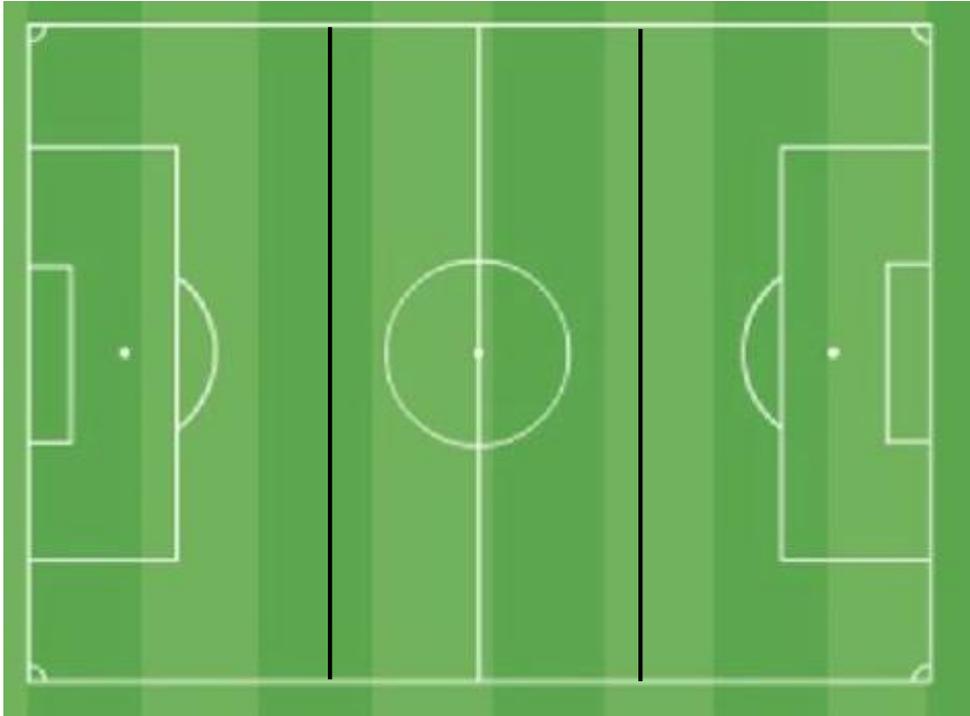


The 9U and 10U Build Out Line



The build out line for the 9U and 10U age groups (among many other [Player Development Initiatives](#)) was mandated by the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and went into effect in August of 2017. ASSA's hope is that this document helps coaches better understand the intent, purpose and implementation of the initiative in order to further player development.

A. Purpose of the Build Out Line

- Providing attacking roles and responsibilities to all players on the field.
- Teaching players the value of building an attack out of the back by retaining possession of the ball from Goal Kicks and Goalkeeper saves.
- Eliminating punting by Goalkeepers that frequently travel from one end of the field to the other.
- Attempting to eliminate the heading that results from punts.
- Teaching Goalkeepers the proper techniques in throwing and rolling the ball to teammates.

B. Build Out Line Rules

- When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.
- Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed).
- After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.
- The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play. Remember that on a goal kick, the ball is not in play until it leaves the penalty area.
- If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense.
- The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called.
 - Players cannot be called offside between the half line and the build out line.
 - Players can be called offside between the build out line and goal line.

C. Build Out Line Practical Applications

- Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play until all opponents are beyond the build out line.
- However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner, but they do so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.
- To support the intent of this developmental rule, coaches should be mindful of any delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play. Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players.

Suggested ASSA Modification

The concept of playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting teaches good soccer, but the execution as outlined by the current rules do not facilitate this in some cases.

ASSA is asking coaches to voluntarily allow 9U and 10U players two (2) touches to play out of the back without immediate pressure. On a goal kick, the attacking players retreat behind the build out line, the goal kick is taken (1st touch), and AFTER a teammate has received the ball (2nd touch) outside the penalty area, the attacking players can cross the build out line.

The same procedure occurs after the Goalkeeper makes a save. Opposing players retreat, keeper passes, throws or rolls the ball (first touch), defender receives ball (second touch), then players can cross the build out line. Of course, if the keeper opts to play quickly before the attackers have withdrawn, that's permissible and play continues.

Players should not be coached to use the second touch as an unpressured way to simply kick the ball further up the field. This scenario offers no development, teaching or coaching.

Some coaches, in the spirit of player development, have agreed to allow three (3) touches before crossing the build out line. This gives the defender time to collect the ball, turn, and make an offensive move with the ball without immediate pressure. If coaches agree in advance of a match on whatever terms they want to play, that is perfectly acceptable.

It is important to discuss and agree on the number of touches teams will utilize in a game. Please remember that 9/10U is many times the first exposure to traveling soccer for young players. Coaches should be focusing on developing those players and instilling a love for the game.

Please note that some coaches may refuse to play by anything other than the official USSF (1 touch) rule. If you encounter a situation like that, ASSA recommends that you do what you think is best for your team.

Referees

- Referees should remind players when they need to move behind the build out line.
- Referees should be extremely flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule, and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line.
- Referees must officiate the game under current USSF rules, as outlined in section B. While coaches can agree to play under the voluntary guidelines above, if a player or team fails to do so, the referee cannot whistle the play dead.