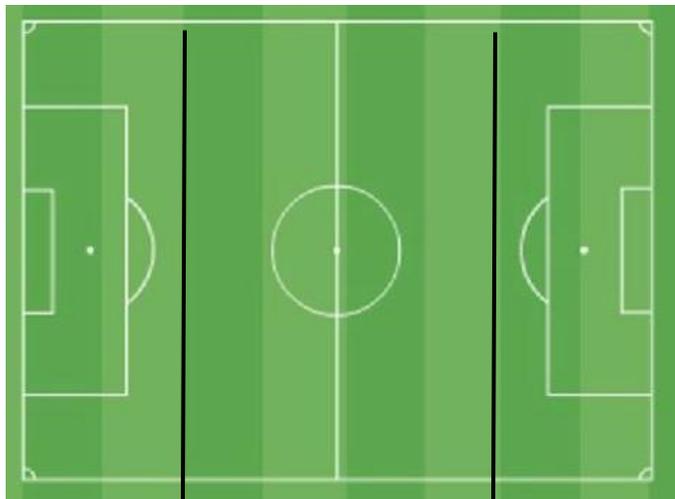


The 9U and 10U Build Out Line

(Updated August 1, 2019 to reflect changes to IFAB / USSF rules on goal kicks)



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.
- On a goal kick, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.
- Effective August 1, 2019, the ball is in play on a goal kick when it is kicked and clearly moves. To clarify, the ball no longer has to leave the penalty area to be in play, and teammates may play the ball inside of the penalty area. Players on the attacking team must remain behind the build out line until the ball is in play.
- 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.
- The concept of playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting teaches good soccer. Simply kicking the ball far up the field offers no player or skill development or coaching.

For most players, the 9/10U age group is often their first exposure to traveling soccer. Coaches should be focusing on developing the skills of their players and instilling a love for the game. There is plenty of time later on to focus on winning matches as players progress through their career.

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.