

Offside

What is it:

When the attacking team tries to gain an advantage by having a player/s closer to their attacking goal than the second to the last opponent.

Offside position:

1. Nearer to the opponents goal line than the ball and the second to the last opponent.
2. Ahead of the defender as compared by the positioning of their torsos.

Understanding Offside:

1. You cannot be in an offside position on your half of the field or if you start running from your half of the field when the ball is played.
2. Offside is looked at when the ball is played by your teammate, not where you get it or where the ball lands.

To be called for offside you must be in the offside position before the ball is kicked and you must commit one of the infractions listed below:

1. What constitutes an infraction for being offside?
 - Interfering with the play.
 - Interfering with an opponent.
 - Gaining an advantage by being offside.

Can you be in an offside position and not be called for it?

1. YES, as long as you have not committed one of the infractions above.
2. If an opponent plays the ball directly to you (this does not include a deflection).
3. If you directly receiving the ball from a goal kick, a throw-in or a corner kick.

There is no offside in U8 and below.

In U8 and below if a coach or player tries trying to take advantage of this rule (telling kids to stay up, cheery picking); it will be deemed unsporting behavior and the opposing team will be awarded an indirect free kick.

This external website has everything you would want to know about the laws of soccer including examples: www.corshamref.org.uk/laws.htm