



## **Build Out Line Rule (aka “No Poaching Rule”)**

**(modified March, 2017)**

The build out line is used to promote playing the ball out of the back in an unpressured setting. When the goal keeper has the ball, either during play or from a goal kick, the opposing team should move behind the build out line. The rule is designed to increase player development through more meaningful player touches in matches, and is also intended to reduce goals from these scenarios.

The build out line applies to the following three (3) scenarios:

- 1. Goal kicks: The opposition can enter the build out area as soon as the ball leaves the penalty area.**  
Example: A shot from the attacking team goes over the end line resulting in a goal kick. The defensive team must retreat behind the build out line, and may enter the build out area only after the ball is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 2. Restarts from within the penalty area: The opposition can enter the build out area as soon as the ball leaves the penalty area.**  
Example: The referee calls a foul in the penalty area against an attacking player for charging the goalkeeper. Since the restart occurs from within the penalty area, the defensive team must retreat behind the build out line, and may enter the build out area only after the ball is kicked and leaves the penalty area.
- 3. GK in possession with their hands: The opposition can enter the build out area as soon as the goalkeeper puts the ball into play.**  
Example: If the goalkeeper makes a save and is in possession of the ball with their hands, the opposition should retreat behind the build out line. Once the goalkeeper places the ball on the ground the ball is in play. Should the goalkeeper choose to throw the ball and it hits the ground PRIOR to the defending team reaching the build out line, the defending team may play the ball and the attacking team has lost its protection.

If a violation of the rule occurs, the correct restart is either a re-kick (for scenarios #1 & #2), or a re-throw (for scenario #3) from the original kick/throw location.

***The build out area is the area between the build out line and the top of the penalty area. If a separate build out line is not present, the halfway line will serve as the build out line.***

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