

U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program Continuing Education - Rule Clarification October 2017



U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives Small-Sided Youth Games 7v7 Build-Out Line

The Build-Out Line promotes playing the ball out from the defensive third in a less pressured setting. When the goalkeeper has control (with his/her hands) of the ball during play, the opposing team **MUST** move behind the Build-Out Line until the ball is released (put in play) by the goalkeeper. Once the opposing team is behind the Build-Out Line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play (punts or 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.

Also, the opposing team **MUST** move behind the Build-Out Line for a goal kick restart and may only cross the Build-Out Line once the ball is in play (meaning that the ball has left the penalty area).

For more information on U.S. Soccer's Player Development Initiatives, which include important modifications of the laws, click [here](#). Information on this topic can also be found in the various modules for the U.S. Soccer Grade 9 Referee Course available in English [here](#) and *en español* [aquí](#).

Question: If a goalkeeper has the ball in his/her hands, how is the “six second rule” applied given the presence of the Build Out Line?

A goalkeeper may choose to play the ball from his or her hands before the opponent has retreated behind the Build-Out Line. In this case, the “six second rule” is not applied, as the goalkeeper has willingly decided to quickly release the ball into play. If a goalkeeper has the ball in his/her hands, and is clearly waiting for the opposing team to retreat behind the Build-Out Line, the six second period should be started **ONLY** once the opposing team has retreated behind the Build-Out Line. This allows for the goalkeeper's team to have the time and space to play out of the back without immediate pressure.