
Law 11

Offside

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Law 11 - Offside



Helpful Hint!

Here are two of the necessary pieces of equipment to play soccer!

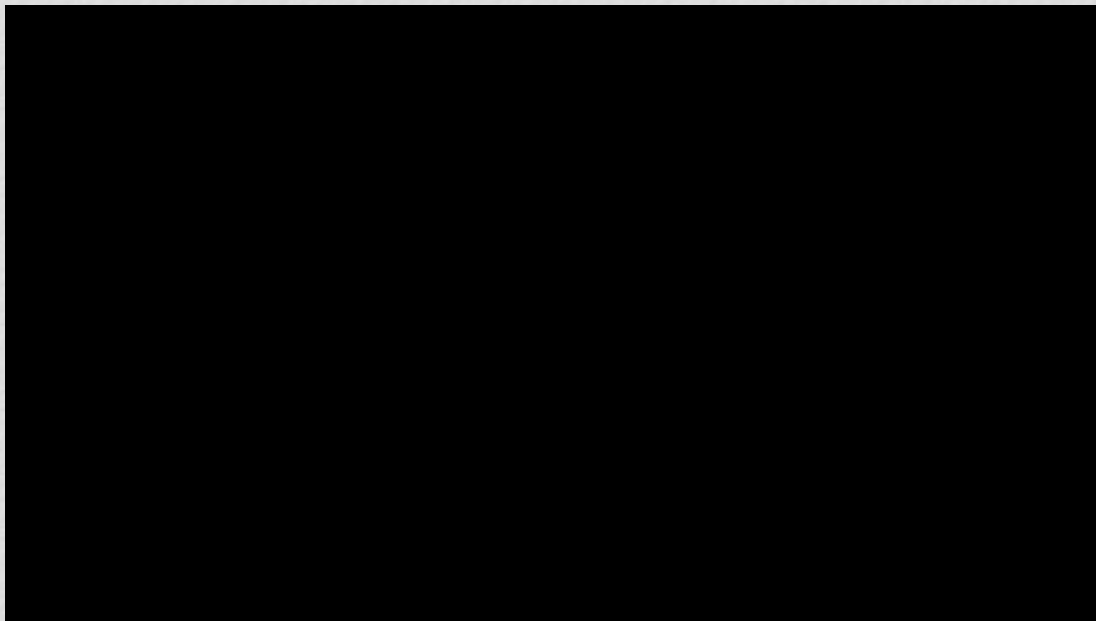
A ball (top left) and a pair of cleats (bottom right)



Law 11 is the technical term for the soccer rule known as “Offside.” Law 11 can be a very complex idea, and the goal of this book is to make it simpler for everyone to understand.

Offside Position

Helpful Hint: Practice “Juggling” a soccer ball to improve your skills to their maximum potential!



Become proficient at the basics, and one day you can impress those around you with your new soccer skills!

In soccer, they are called “Laws” instead of “rules” - hence “Law 11.” It is not an offense to be in an offside position. An offside position is when a player is closer to his opponent’s goal line than the ball, the midfield line, and the second to the last of his/her opponents. Therefore, a player is not in an “offside position” if he/she is in his/her own half of the field, is behind the ball, or is level with/behind the second to last of his/her opponents.

The goalie counts as a defender. Only certain parts of your body that can legally play the ball can be in an offside position. For example, if your arm is in an offside position, then you are not offside because your arm cannot legally touch the ball.

Offense

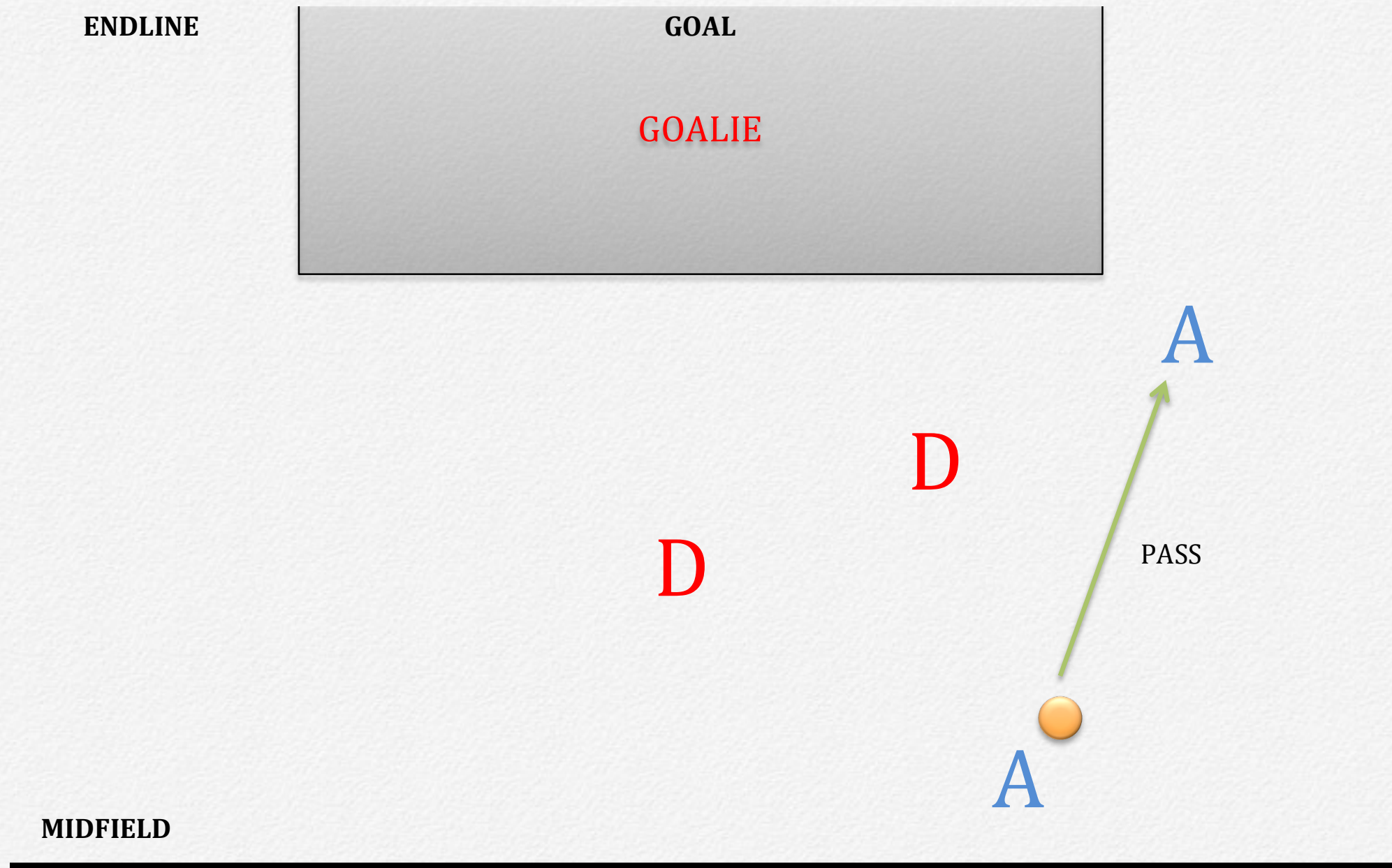
A player in an offside position is penalized if, when the ball is touched by a teammate and the player is involved in active play.

You are in the play and involved in active play if you are touching the ball. You are in the play if you are shielding on opponent from the ball or holding them back. You are also involved if you receive a lucky deflection off of the goal or from a goal keeper.

Next, we are going to do an interactive activity. There will be a picture diagram showing a possible scenario in a game. It will be your job to decide whether the person is offside or not. The answer will be on the page following the picture.

For a better check at proficiency, if you believe that the player has committed an offside offense, see if you can reference which part of the rule he is breaking (D = Defender and A = Attacker).

Is this an Offense?



Yes it is an offense! Is this?

ENDLINE

GOAL

GOALIE

A



PASS

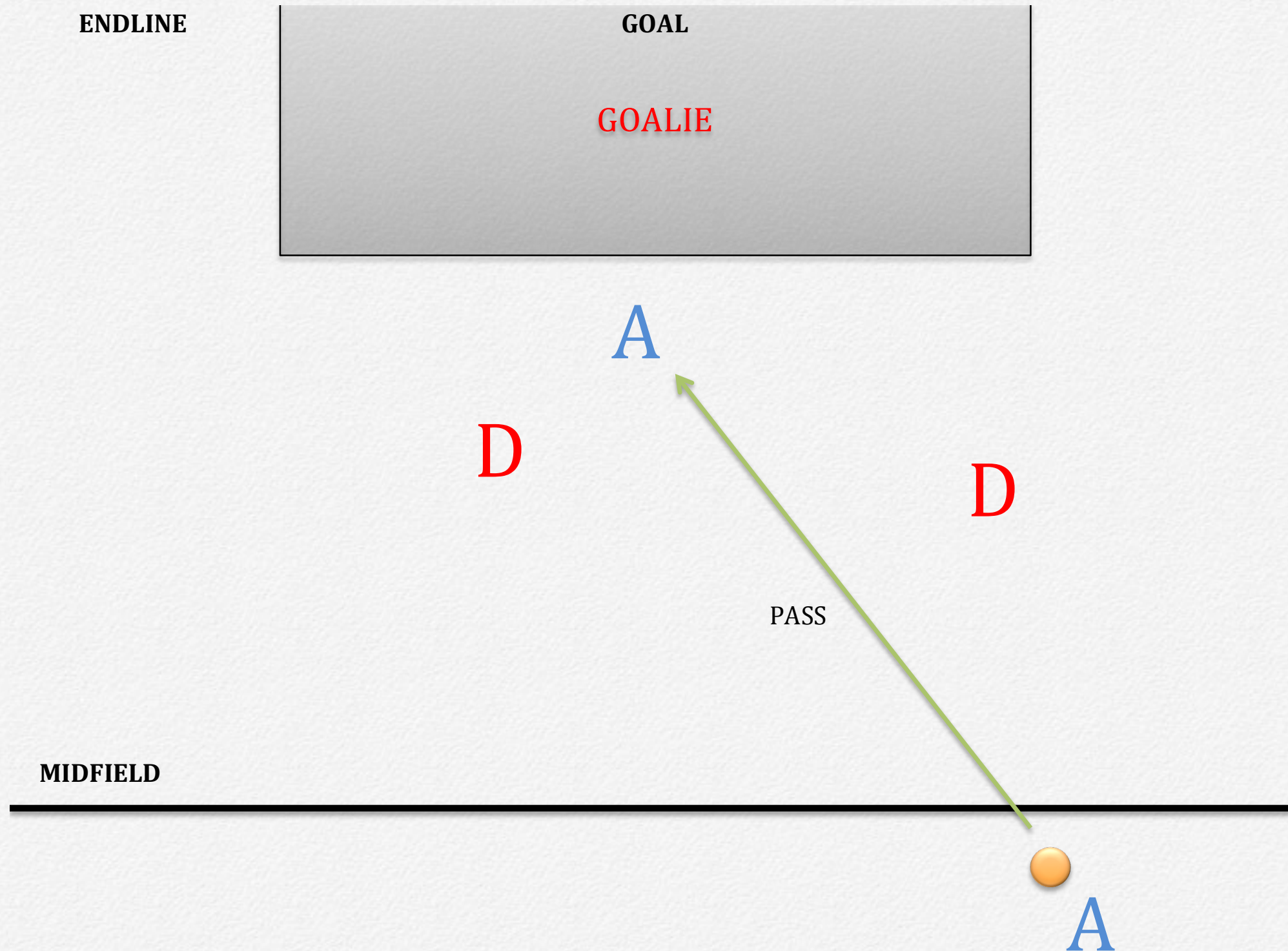
A

D

D

MIDFIELD

It was not an offense! Is this?



It was an offense! Is this final scenario an offense?

ENDLINE

GOAL

GOALIE

A

D

D



A

MIDFIELD

Scenario four was not an offside offense! Were you able to tell which scenarios were an offense and which ones were not? If so, were you able to tell what was done wrong by the players to make them penalized for an offside offense?

Here is the help page for this! Scenario one was an offense. The attacker was closer to the opponent's end line than the second to last defender, closer to the opponent's end line than the ball, and closer to the opponent's end line than the midfield line is. This means the player was on his team's attacking half of the field. All of this put him in an offside position, and he would be penalized because the player became an active part of play by receiving the ball while also being in an offside position.

Scenario number two is not an offside offense because he is not in an offside position. He is still considered "onside" because the ball is closer to the opponent's end line than he is. You must be in an offside position according to all three criteria in order to be in an offside position. Even though two out of the three would say he is offside, he is still not offside according to all three, therefore he is not committing a rule violation.

Scenario three is an offside offense. The player is offside according to all three criteria and will be penalized. He is an active part of play by receiving the pass while in an offside position. Even though the person who passed him the ball was in his defensive half of the field, he still received the ball in the attacking half, which is still not legal.

Scenario four was not an offside offense! Most people would be stumped on this one because it is a trick question. The attacker is in an offside position, but the player is not penalized. The player never became an active part of play. The player never received the ball and never interfered with the defenders.

You are allowed to be in an offside position as long as you do not become an active part of play. The player did not do anything illegal and cannot be penalized.

Thank you for reading. Hopefully, you have a better understanding of Law 11 - Offside. Feel free to go through this book as many times as necessary to obtain a complete grasp of the offside concept.



About the Author:

Austin Snow grew up in a soccer oriented family. He has been playing soccer since he was three years old at the YMCA. Once he turned five he played for the Gladiators soccer club. At the age of seven Gladiators became a select club, where you have to try out to make a team. Austin made the team and played there until he blew out his knee at ten years old.

He took a year off to recover from the knee injury. During that year, Gladiators merged with another club to become the Omaha Football Club. Austin played with OFC for the next four years.

As a freshman at Omaha North, Austin started on the varsity team. As a sophomore, Austin was elected to be the team's captain.

Austin is also certified by US Soccer, as a referee. He received his certification two years ago and took a recertification class months ago.