

7 v 7 PDIs FAQs

PDIs are designed to shift the focus of youth soccer from results based to individual player development. Tasked with advancing the sport at all levels, these initiatives are being implemented to create uniform standards with the primary consideration extended to the individual player at each age level based on their developmental needs

Where is the Build-Out Line placed?

The Build-Out Line is marked midway between the penalty area line and the halfway line. The home team has the option not to mark a physical line across the field, and instead place cones or flags on both touchlines large enough to be seen by the players and the officials.

What are the restrictions of the Build-Out line for attackers?

All opponents must move behind the Build-Out line until the ball is in play:

- When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from an opponent
- During the taking of a goal kick

Is the goalkeeper allowed to put the ball in play even if opponents have not yet past the Build-Out line?

Yes. Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the Build-Out Line. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball in play before all opponents are behind the Build-Out line but he/she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents who can challenge for the ball and play continues.

Does Law 12, 6-seconds limitation for the goalkeeper to control the ball with the hands apply?

Yes. Referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents NOT retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the Build-Out Line prior to the ball being in play. Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate but should be flexible when enforcing the 6-Second restriction and counting the time and possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the Build-Out Line.

When is the ball in play in a 7v7 game?

- As soon as the goalkeeper releases the ball by either playing it with the feet or distributing it with the hands, the ball is in play and opponents can cross the Build-Out line and challenge for the ball.
- The goalkeeper may release the ball from the hands by throwing or rolling it or putting it on the ground. By releasing the ball to the ground, the goalkeeper can dribble and kick the ball. But if the goalkeeper chooses to kick the ball, the ball must be kicked from the ground.

What are the restriction for the goalkeeper?

Goalkeeper can NOT:

- Punt (kick the ball while throwing it in the air) and/or
- Drop-kick (kicking the ball after rebounding it from the ground) the ball

If a goalkeeper punts or drop-kicks the ball, an IFK is awarded to the opposing team from the penalty area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the offense occurred.

Has Law 11 Offside been changed for the 7v7 small-side game?

No, the application of Law 11 has not changed for the 7v7 small-sided game.

- There has been only a change to Law 1 – The field of play by adding an additional marking: The Build-Out line.
- The Build-Out line should be considered as the “half-way” line beyond which an attacker can be in OFFSIDE POSITION.
- An attacker is NOT in an OFFSIDE POSITION between the halfway line and the build out line.
- Referees should not confuse where an attacker can be in an OFFSIDE POSITION with the location where the OFFSIDE OFFENSE OCCURRED.
- The IFK is taken from where the offside offense occurred. As stated in Law 11, “If an offside offense occurs, the referee awards an IFK where the offense occurred, including if it is in the player’s own half of the field of play”. In the 7v7 small-sided game, this includes the area of the field of play between the halfway line and the build out line.