



Retreat Line (U09-U10) – Referee Guide

Introduction

The Retreat Line will be used in U09-U10 to aid in the players' technical and tactical development. The objective is to allow players more time to build up play using short passes from their goal kicks.

Here is the passage in the Youth League (A-AA) rules:

“The retreat line is set at the halfway line of the field. During a goal kick, the player taking the kick has the choice to wait for the opposing team to move behind the retreat line, or play the ball immediately. If the distance is requested, the game resumes at the referee's whistle when the opposing team's players are all in their half of the field.” (C16.c)

Procedure

1. Referee awards a goal kick.
2. Kicker decides to play quickly or ask for the Retreat Line to be applied.
3. If the kicker plays quickly, play restarts once the ball leaves the penalty area regardless of the defending team's position.
4. If the kick taker asks for the Retreat Line to be applied:
 - a. Referee blows whistle to gather the players' attention and motions to defending team to retreat into their half of the field.
 - b. Referee blows whistle to restart play.
 - c. The defensive team may cross the retreat line once the ball is played by the team in possession.
 - d. Play is restarted once the ball leaves the penalty area.





Frequently Asked Questions

When can the defending team cross the Retreat Line to press the team in possession?

The defending team can cross the Retreat Line once the ball is played by the team in possession.

When is the ball in play?

The ball is in play once it leaves the penalty area.

Once the kick taker asks to apply the Retreat Line, can they decide to play the ball before all of the defending team's players have retreated completely?

No. Once the kick taker asks to apply the Retreat Line, play may only be restarted after the referee's whistle.

What if the kick taker plays a long aerial ball over the Retreat Line instead of passing to a teammate?

The kick taker is permitted to play a long ball over the Retreat Line.

Can the goalkeeper ask to apply the Retreat Line when in possession of the ball during play?

No. The Retreat Line can only be applied on goal kicks.