



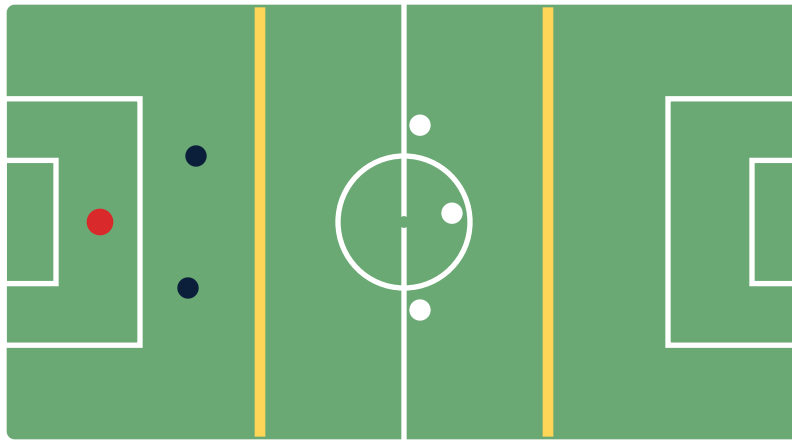
THE BUILD-OUT LINE

What it is • How it works • Why youth soccer uses it

A PLAYER-DEVELOPMENT RULE FOR SMALL-SIDED SOCCER

THE SIMPLE DEFINITION

The build-out line creates a protected space for a young team to restart play from its goalkeeper or a goal kick before the opposing team may press.



BUILD-OUT LINE

BUILD-OUT LINE

HOW IT WORKS

- ✓ On a goal kick or goalkeeper possession, opponents retreat behind the line.
- ✓ The goalkeeper may play quickly; once the ball is in play, opponents may cross and pressure.

WHAT IT TEACHES

- ✓ Goalkeeper distribution and decision-making
- ✓ Defenders creating angles and passing options
- ✓ Composure, possession and playing from the back

WHY USE IT?

Young players need time and space to learn.

Without the line, opponents can crowd the goal area and turn every restart into a scramble or a long clearance. The build-out line rewards passing, movement and control - the skills players will need as the field and the game grow.



WHY GOALKEEPERS CANNOT PUNT

The no-punting rule and how widely these standards are used

A PLAYER-DEVELOPMENT RULE FOR SMALL-SIDED SOCCER

THE RULE

In divisions using the build-out line, goalkeepers may roll, throw or play the ball from the ground. Punts and drop-kicks are not permitted.

WHY NO PUNTING?

- ✓ Keeps the restart connected to the build-out line
- ✓ Encourages accurate, intentional distribution
- ✓ Gives teammates repeated passing opportunities

It is not a punishment for the goalkeeper - it is a development tool for every player on the field.

COACH THE RESTART

- 1 Spread defenders wide.
- 2 Create a short central option.
- 3 Scan, communicate and choose.

Success is a good decision - not just keeping the ball.

IS FORT WORTH UNITED THE ONLY LEAGUE USING THESE RULES?

No. These are established small-sided player-development standards used across the country.

There is no reliable master count of every local league, but the rule is used by major national, state and local organizations.

NATIONAL

U.S. Soccer player-development guidance; AYSO 10U programs

NORTH TEXAS

North Texas Soccer Tournament of Champions 7v7 rules

LOCAL EXAMPLES

Frisco Soccer Association and Denton Soccer Association

BEYOND TEXAS

Youth leagues and AYSO regions throughout multiple states

COACHING MINDSET

Do not coach players to avoid the rule. Coach them to use the space, solve the pressure and build confidence.