

Build Out Line Rules



Applies to 2nd, 3rd & 4th grade play Adapted from US Soccer's Player Development Initiatives (August 2017) **Fall 2021**

7v7 Standards of Play (applies to DC Soccer Club's 5v5 play as well)

The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.

- When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play
- When the goalkeeper receives the ball from his/her own team, the build out line does not apply

DC SOCCER CLUB NOTE: For DC Soccer Club Rec program play, the halfway line is used as the Build Out Line.

- Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and 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
- The opposing team must move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play
- If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick can be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense. Typically, the referee will give the ball back to the GK and provide instructions for proper distribution.
- If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred

Build Out Line Practical Applications

- 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 into play sooner but he or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes
- To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and 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 put into play
- Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players. Referees can manage the situation as appropriate.
- Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line