

AHJSA Club Line Assistants Notes, 2011.

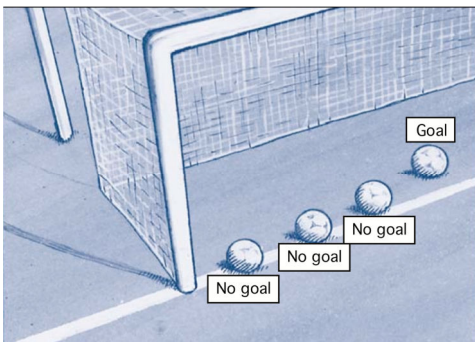
Positioning:

Referees will, in general, run a diagonal path from corner post to corner post. He/she will, in general, be left of the player with the ball keeping the ball between him or herself and you, the assistant. There are many exceptions to this approach. This does mean that you will be running the line for the defensive half of the field for your team on the right of the referee as he/she moves down the pitch. Do not go up past the half way line or you will not be in a good position to advise on off-side play.

Special positions:

- Corners - level with the goal line please near the corner flag
- Goal kicks - level with the edge of the penalty area
- All other times - level with the second last defender up to the centre line of the pitch

Ball in and out of play:



The diagram shows the situation for goals which is the same as for "ball out of play". If any part of the ball is on or over the top of the line, the ball is still in the field of play. No wonder this is often questioned by players and spectators.

The assistant, being able to look directly along the line, is in the absolute best position to judge in most situations. The length of the grass, rain, sun and poorly marked lines often make this more difficult on Hills pitches. Try to find a moment to look back at the line from on the pitch. Hard to tell isn't it?

When the ball goes out of play, please raise the flag high and held out in the direction of the goal being attacked by the team that has been awarded with the throw (i.e. opposition had the last touch before it went out).

If the ball goes out of play but you are unsure of who touched it last, simply raise your flag straight up in the air and wait for the referee to decide. It is always the referee's call anyway and most of us award 50/50 decisions to the defence in difficult circumstances (after a quick look at the body language of the players).

The referee should acknowledge your flag either by:

- Awarding the throw as flagged (we will not always blow the whistle if it is not needed)
- Signalling to you that he or she has over-ruled (possibly in a better position at the far end of the pitch or if your vision was obscured by a player)

If the referee does not notice your flag, hold your position. Players will generally help the referee out in this circumstance! If play goes into further phases and a team has not been significantly disadvantaged it is diplomatic and helpful to the referee to get on with the game if too much time goes by in this manner.

Special signals:

- Corner - point the flag down at the base of the corner flag on your side of the pitch
- Goal kick - point the flag at a downwards angle towards the edge of the goal area
- Goal - start to run back towards the centre line
- Substitution/Interchange required by the coach - hold the flag up with the corner of the flag stretched out by your other hand
- Injured player - raise your flag and try to attract the attention of the referee. Do not go onto the pitch unless asked to do so by the referee

Offside!

This is generally the most often contested decision in Hills games. There are many subtly different situations and it is worth looking at a couple of websites if you want to understand the law more fully.

The AHJSA has a good link: <http://www.dynamic-thought.com/OffsideClicketteLo.html>

The FIFA site is also worth a look:

http://www.fifa.com/mm/document/afdeveloping/refereeing/law_11_offside_en_47383.pdf

I will try to keep it simple! Firstly, when are you (as a player) **NOT offside?**

- You cannot be off side if the ball is kicked by a team mate so that you can contest and possibly win it when you are in your own defensive half of the pitch even if you run into the attacking half after it has been kicked
- You cannot be offside if you receive the ball directly from a throw, goal kick or corner kick
- You cannot be offside, regardless of where the play is on the pitch or where defenders are positioned if you are **BEHIND** the ball at the instant it is kicked by your team mate
- You are not offside if you dribble or otherwise play the ball past defenders yourself
- You are not offside, even though you may be in an offside position on the field, if you are not playing the ball or interfering with play or judged guilty of unsporting play
- You are not offside if, at the instant the ball is played by your team mate, there are two defenders at least level with you or between you and the goal you are attacking

When are you **offside?** Simple!

- If, at the instant that the ball is played to you by a team mate, you are closer to the goal than the ball, you are offside **UNLESS** there are at least two defenders either level with you or closer to the goal you are attacking. Note the diagrams. The No. 10 in the second diagram has an arm just offside but this is not a part of the body that can be used to play the ball legally! So he is not offside.
- If you do not play the ball yourself but the referee rules that you are in an offside position and actively affecting play, you are offside!



You should run your line keeping level with the second last defender (the last is generally but not always the goal keeper) to be able to flag for offside effectively. If you believe a player, actively involved in play, is offside, stop and raise your flag to signify this to the referee.

It is the referee's final decision so hold your position until he or she awards the indirect free kick or signals to you that play is continuing. This can happen for any one of a number of reasons so please do not be upset if this occurs. Once again, players will alert the referee if he/she does not see your signal so hold your position. As with throws, if play goes into further phases and a team has not been significantly disadvantaged it is diplomatic and helpful to the referee to get on with the game if too much time goes by in this manner.

If an assistant referee is in any doubt as to whether a player is in an offside position, the assistant referee must respond in favour of the attacker and refrain from signalling offside. To phrase it slightly differently: When in doubt, keep the flag down and give the benefit of that doubt to the attacker. The referee, too, must be certain that there is active involvement before deciding for offside. It is always the referee's decision.

Please **DO NOT**:

- Coach players or tell your defenders where to go in relation to offside play
- Question the decisions of the referee who has the final say under the laws of the game
- Flag for any other situations where you may feel foul play has occurred. As a club line assistant, the referee cannot act on your call as with an FFSA registered assistant.