

Build Out Line (BOL)

US Soccer introduced the build out line to encourage the development of possession play out of the back. Goalkeepers may no longer punt or drop-kick the ball. A build out line will be marked on the field approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ the distance from the top of the penalty area to the midfield line. The opposing team must get behind this line when the goalkeeper gains possession or on goal kicks.

- Goalkeeper possession: The opposing team may cross the build out line once the ball is in play.
 - a. As soon as the goalkeeper has possession of the ball, the opponents must retreat back behind the BOL.
 - b. Goalkeepers may throw the ball roll the ball or place the ball on the ground so it can be kicked by them or a teammate.
 - c. **The ball is in play once the goalkeeper has released the ball.** At that time the opponents can cross the build-out line.
 - d. If an opposing player crosses the build out line before the ball is in play, the referee shall **stop play and restart play** by allowing the goalkeeper to retake the distribution.
 - e. If the attacking team chooses to play the ball out by throwing, rolling, or with a foot pass while there are opponents inside the build out line, the ball is in play once released by the goalkeeper.
 - f. The ball can be distributed beyond the build out line. That can be done either by the goalkeeper or another player.
 - g. The goalkeeper may not deliberately punt or drop kick the ball.
- **Goal kicks:** The opponents must retreat back behind the BOL. Opposition may not cross the build out line once the ball is in play. The ball is in play as soon as it kicked and clearly moves. The player taking the goal kick may kick it to either side of the BOL.
- **Offside:** The attacking player is in offside position only between the build out line and the goal line. Offside infractions can ONLY be called between the build out line and the goal line. Offsides is
- **A Player may not deliberately head the ball.** An indirect kick is awarded to the at the point of the deliberate header. Whether it's deliberate is a judgement call by the referee. An indirect free kick is awarded if the infraction has accrued.