



LAW 11 - OFFSIDE

Amendment to Interpretation / Guidelines Laws of the Game 2013-2014

IFAB's decision on 2 March, 2013: Interfering with an opponent...

Present text	New text
<p data-bbox="85 319 954 410">In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul data-bbox="85 421 954 760" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="85 421 193 454">• ...<li data-bbox="85 465 954 705">• “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent<li data-bbox="85 716 193 760">• ...	<p data-bbox="985 319 1843 410">In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul data-bbox="985 421 1843 705" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="985 421 1093 454">• ...<li data-bbox="985 465 1843 661">• “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball.<li data-bbox="985 672 1093 705">• ...

Gaining advantage...

Present text (amended AGM 2012)	Proposed text
<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ...• ...• “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position	<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ...• ...• “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. that rebounds or is deflected to him off the goalpost, crossbar or an opponent having been in an offside positionii. that rebounds, deflected or is played to him from a deliberate save by an opponent having been in an offside position <p>A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.</p>

Key points



2. Law 11 – Offside Interpretation of the Laws of the Game

(i) Discussion on “interfering with an opponent/gaining an advantage” (submitted by FIFA)

Present text (amended AGM 2012)	Proposed text
<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate• “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or movements or making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent• “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball that rebounds to him off a goalpost or the crossbar having been in an offside position or playing a ball that rebounds to him off an opponent having been in an offside position	<p>In the context of Law 11 – Offside, the following definitions apply: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “interfering with play” means playing or touching the ball passed or touched by a team-mate• “interfering with an opponent” means preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent’s line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball.• “gaining an advantage by being in that position” means playing a ball<ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) that rebounds or is deflected to him off the goalpost, crossbar or an opponent having been in an offside position(ii) that rebounds, deflected or is played to him from a deliberate save by an opponent having been in an offside position <p>A player in an offside position receiving the ball from an opponent, who deliberately plays the ball (except from a deliberate save), is not considered to have gained an advantage.</p>

Reason

The current wording creates many discussions as it gives too much room for interpretation and is not precise enough. The new text is more in line with actual game situations and will eliminate the confusion regarding what is meant by rebound, deflection and when the ball has been deliberately saved.

- Challenging an opponent for the ball
- Rebounds off and deflected
- Deliberately playing the ball
- Deliberate save

Challenging an opponent for the ball

Challenging an opponent for the ball means something more than *“making a gesture or movement which, in the opinion of the referee, deceives or distracts an opponent”*.

Challenging an opponent for the ball now requires:

- physical interference
- Being within playing distance (1 metre / 1.5 metres)

Rebounds off

The ball rebounds off when:

- ✓ the player is stationery
 - ✓ The ball returns to the direction it came from
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Deflected

The ball is deflected when it changes direction and the player:

- ✓ Doesn't move towards the ball
 - ✓ Finds the ball coming against him and attempts to play it
 - ✓ Creates an obstacle (Free kick or shot)
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Deliberately playing the ball

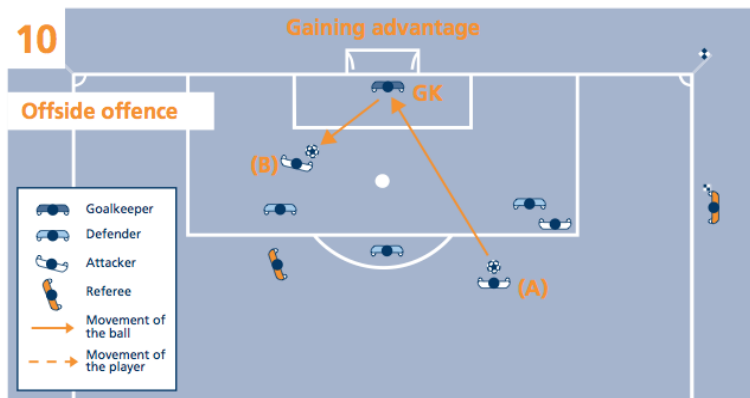
It means a deliberate act made by the player.

To identify when a ball is deliberately played:

- A clear movement of the player towards the ball
 - It doesn't matter the "quality" of the play
-

Deliberate save

Law 11, Interpretation and Guidelines



The shot by a team-mate (A) rebounds from the goalkeeper to (B) who is penalised for **playing the ball** having previously been **in an offside position**.

If a goalkeeper goes towards the ball, could it be considered as a rebound or a deflection?

Is it the same for a player?

Deliberate save:

- made by any player
- save means "to save a goal from being scored"

Clips - Challenging

Clip 1 - Challenging

This incident occurred during the Confederation Cup 2009 and was deemed at that time to be offside. However now the attacker is **not** penalised for his offside position as he is not considered as challenging his opponent for the ball as the ball is too far from him (not within playing distance). It doesn't matter if the ball is clearly directed towards the attacker and the defender tries to prevent him from gaining possession.

Clip 2 - Challenging

The attacker who was in an offside position clearly challenges the defender for the ball as there is clear physical contact when he jumps.

Clip 3 - Challenging

The attacker challenges the goalkeeper for the ball as he is within playing distance when the goalkeeper plays the ball.

Clips - Ball deflected

Ball Deflected

When the ball is played by the attacker, the defender cannot see it and he suddenly finds the ball coming against him. He tries to play it instinctively and this cannot be considered as a deliberate act. Therefore the ball is deflected only and the attacker who receives the ball (being initially in an offside position) must be penalised.

Clips - Deliberately playing

Clip 1 - Deliberately playing

The defender clearly makes a deliberate act by going towards the ball. This is an example of deliberate playing the ball and it doesn't matter if the outcome of the play is good or not.

Clip 2 - Deliberately playing

The defender moves backward towards the ball and he heads it back (clear movement of his neck/head). He makes a deliberate act to play the ball and it doesn't matter if the outcome is good or not as the ball goes to an opponent.

Clip 3 - Deliberately playing

A situation similar to the previous clip. The defender jumps at the ball and even he makes only one step backwards, he is considered as deliberately playing the ball. Jumping as he does, cannot be considered as an instinctive reaction.

Clips - Deliberate save

Clip 1 - Deliberate save

The goalkeeper parries the ball thus making a deliberate save.

The attacker, who was initially in an offside position, challenges the opponent for the ball and is correctly penalised for being in an offside position.

Clip 2 - Deliberate save

The defender commits a deliberate act by going towards the ball and playing it as he wants to make a save (ball directed to the goal), therefore the attacker who receives the ball shall be penalised for initially being in an offside position.



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