



## When Should a Foul Not be Paid for Offside?

When a player is in a clear offside position there is sometimes an immediate response to that effect from the spectators. Is this correct? *Often, it will be incorrect;* the player (and their team) shouldn't be penalised.

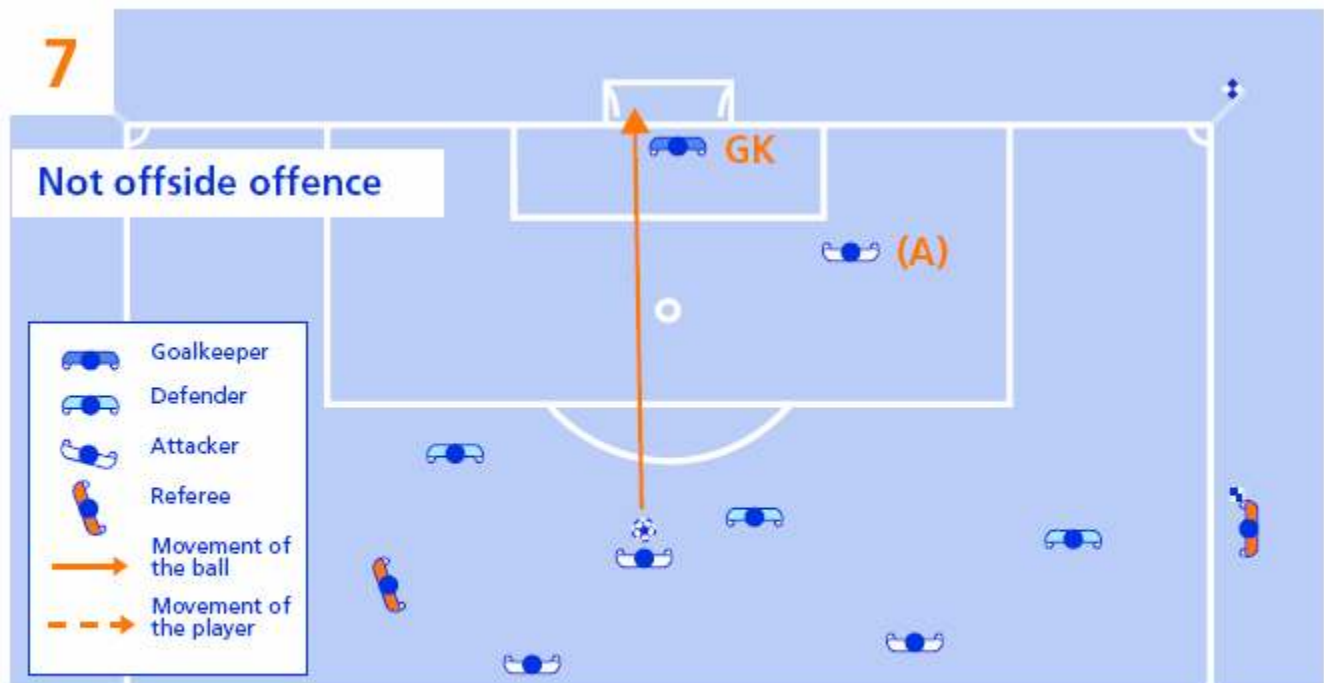
Law 11, Offside, states:

"A player in an offside position is only penalised if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the Referee, involved in active play by:

- interfering with play or
- interfering with an opponent or
- gaining an advantage by being in that position"

So, if a player is in an offside position but isn't interfering with play or an opponent nor gaining an advantage, then he shouldn't be penalised: the assistant referee shouldn't raise the flag and the Referee shouldn't stop play (and, for that matter, educated spectators shouldn't call "offside!"). This situation is sometimes referred to as "passive offside".

The following diagram, taken from the FIFA Laws of the Game, makes this clear:



An attacker **in an offside position (A)** is **not** obstructing the goalkeeper's line of vision or making a gesture or movement which deceives or distracts him.

Similarly, players should not be penalised for being in offside positions if they receive the ball directly from a goal kick, a throw-in, or a corner kick.

For more information about the rules for offside, including additional diagrams showing when offside should and shouldn't be penalised, refer to the FIFA Laws of the Game (a link to this FIFA page can be found on the NSJSA website, in the Development area).