

THE CENTER CIRCLE

MARCH 1, 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE BALL ROLLS ON	1
THE BUILD OUT LINE	2
KEEPER, ARE YOU READY?	3
DEALING WITH SIDELINE ABUSE	4
THE CORNER KICK	5
DEFENSIVE OFFSIDE	5
UPCOMING EVENTS	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **USSF Player Development Initiative adds Build Out Line to U9-U10 7v7 field.**
- **Sideline abuse and how to handle it is discussed.**
- **RBSRA is offering an Entry-Level Referee Course in April. (see www.rbsra.com for details)**

THE BALL ROLLS ON - a word from the President

I recently met with a couple of referees who coordinate a mentoring program for new referees. At one point, the discussion turned to the reason such a high percentage of new referees drop out in their first year. They told me that they felt there were two equally contributing factors for the dropout rate. The first was inadequate training in the Laws of the Game and the personal preparation needed to apply them. The second was sideline abuse.

In today's world, all referees are dealing with sideline abuse. No referee likes it, but most try to put up with it. They shouldn't. Sideline abuse is particularly corrosive to the confidence of newer referees, who tend to be young teens. Their enthusiasm for their new "career" quickly wilts and soon they stop accepting the games that are offered to them. Many of those who carry on refuse to be the center referee, electing only to work as an assistant referee.

Abuse comes from both the fan's and the coach's side of the field. An acquaintance recently lamented that the sideline cheers had turned to jeers. A local club has used the words, "diminishing, mocking,

or disrespecting the efforts of opponents or officials" to describe observed sideline behaviors that they will no longer tolerate. Peer pressure and civility used to dampen these beyond the pale behaviors. No more. Many leagues have started to implement "silent weekends", where the sideline spectators are not allowed to jeer or cheer; just watch. Interestingly, many players report that they find the respite that these weekends bring to be a welcome relief.

RBSRA has kicked off an effort to address sideline abuse. We want to raise awareness of the impact it has on our referees, particularly the young, new referee. RBSRA will provide us with information that will give us insight into trending referee issues that most trouble their teams. We will use this knowledge as focal points for discussions at RBSRA events, articles in the newsletter, and highlighted areas on the website, in an effort to improve the performance of our referee base. Finally, we will begin to better emphasize tools that the referee can use to respond to sideline abuse.

Carry On! - Bob Geyer



Unruly and out of control fans are a key component of sideline abuse



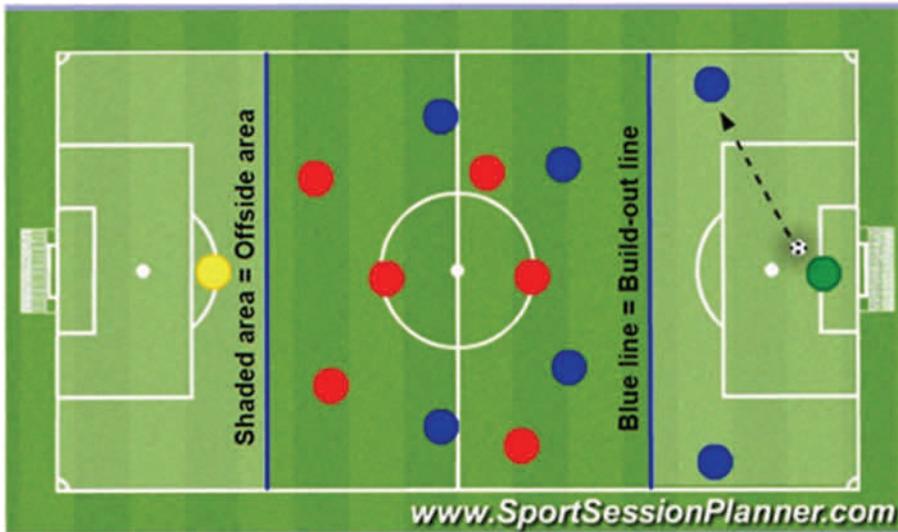
Sideline abuse tactics by coaches are devastating to young referees trying to find their way.

THE BUILD OUT LINE by Kevin Creamer

The infamous (and new) U9-U10 BUILD OUT LINE was discussed by the instructor at EPSARC's 2017 January Intermediate Clinic and many believe that the explanation

was clear as mud. If I may, here is an attempt to clarify the concept and allow all of us to standardize the way we handle the new US Soccer mandate, to offer some ad-

vice on positioning, and to give all players a fair chance of taking advantage of the build out line's full potential.



As a referee, the number one BUILD OUT LINE item to understand is when the ball is "IN PLAY" and playable. The Build Out Line rule is invoked when the goalkeeper gains possession of the ball, either from normal play or from a goal kick. Note that the ball is still in play, but not playable by the opponents, when the goal keeper gains possession during normal play. The ball is out of play when possession is gained via a goal kick. In both situations, all opposing team players MUST then retreat behind the build out line. Applying the basic rule, the goalkeeper retains possession until the opposing team has retreated behind the build out line.

Then, if possession was gained through normal play, the goalkeeper can distribute the ball using ONLY a pass, roll, or throw. The ball is considered fair game, playable, as soon as the goalkeeper releases the ball. For instance, if the goalkeeper places the ball on the ground to kick it, it is playable when he drops it. Opposing players can move forward of the build out line when the ball becomes playable, NOT BEFORE. For a goal kick, the opposing players MUST remain behind the build out line until the ball is in play. This occurs when the ball leaves the penalty area. The big curve ball here is an exception to the basic rule.

That is, the team in possession, whether from goalie possession or goal kick, DOES NOT NEED to wait for the opposition to complete their retreat behind the build out line before they continue with play. This is similar to a "quick kick" on a free kick restart.

Consider using the following techniques when refereeing a U9 or U10 match: 1) Give a small briefing to the players before the game, explaining how you like to teach and enforce the build out line rule. Remember, this is a NEW concept to all U9's.

Continued on page 3.



The keeper is not allowed to punt in 7v7 games

"As a referee, the number one BUILD OUT LINE item to understand is when the ball is "IN PLAY" and playable.



The goalkeeper is allowed to roll the ball to a team mate in 7v7 games.

THE BUILD OUT LINE, *continued*

2) Consider placing yourself in retreat for the first 10 minutes of the game, along with the opposing team. Move them back, both verbally and by holding your arms out sideways.

For positioning on a goal kick and goalie possession, I find that a spot 10 feet behind the opposing team and a small offset towards the touchline to the left, as you look at the goal, provides a nice view of everything and everyone. This includes a good view of the penalty box, which is extremely important for determining when the ball is in play on a goal kick. Occupying this spot also lets the opposing team know that you are watching. Because this

age group mostly uses a one-man system, you need to be prepared to have to run to the right, in case the ball is moving towards the right side of the penalty box. Be vigilant, as players can be jumpy or sneaky. If an opponent behind the build out line crosses it prior to the ball being playable or in play, blow the whistle and have the goalkeeper redo his play.

The new threshold for U9 /U10 being in an offside position is the build out line, rather than the halfway line. This concept, by US Soccer, helps the attackers set up their players and formations closer to the goal. The pitch is small, but this new aspect of using the build out line

means you have to run further downfield to be able to enforce an offside infringement that is beyond the BUILD OUT LINE.

Hopefully this article has helped alleviate some confusion, mixed ideas, and concepts, while bringing us closer to the way we all need to call the U9 and U10 games. We need to offer advice and set examples to all of the new officials, as their Entry Level Classes do not spend any time on this subject. Let's bond together and standardize the way we handle play with the Build Out line, for the good of the game!



When the keeper gains possession of the ball, the opposing team retreats behind the build out line.

KEEPER, ARE YOU READY?, *by Hank Arbo*

"Keeper, are you ready?" Have you ever heard a referee holler that when starting the game? Have you yelled that? If so, please stop. Many games are now played using a three-referee system. Before each half, the referee team should enter the field together. Flags should be furled and carried pointing downward along each AR's outside leg. After shaking hands in the center circle, each AR should trot to the goal at the end of the

field they are to cover. They should check the goal to be certain it's properly placed and fastened to the ground, and that the net is fixed to the posts without any gaps. If the goalkeeper is there, ask if he's ready to play. If he is, the AR should trot to the touchline and move to be even with the second to last defender. The AR should count the players, to be certain the correct number is present, make eye contact with the referee, then unfurl

the flag. Unfurling the flag is the AR's signal to the referee that the team is ready to play. No yelling down the field is necessary.

If the game is a one-referee system, there's still no need to yell. Instead, make eye contact with each keeper. Raise your eyebrows or point toward him. He'll know that you're asking if he's ready. When the keeper responds with a nod or wave, blow your whistle to start the game.

"Unfurling the flag is the AR's signal to the referee that the team is ready to play."



AR stands with flag unfurled, ready to go.

DEALING WITH SIDELINE ABUSE by Bob Geyer

Sideline abuse occurs all too often at today's soccer games. What should you do, if you are refereeing a game and the sideline commentary crosses the line from supportive cheers and encouragement to harassment and bullying? First of all, you need to recognize that it has happened. Has the "Hey Ref" taunt changed from a general questioning tone to a pointed challenge? Have reasonably good natured comments taken on an angry tone? If so, you are experiencing sideline abuse. It can occur on both the coach and the parent/spectator side of the field. Addressing it is not a pleasant experience but it must be done, to keep control of the game and for the safety of the players and yourself. Don't wait too long to address it.

Referees are encouraged to use the "Ask-Tell-Dismiss" approach when experiencing sideline abuse from the coach. This three step approach lets you try to tamp things down in a gradually escalating manner. First, 'ask' the coach to please stop the behavior. Don't holler it from across the field. Stop the game, go to the coach, and ask him to stop his poor behavior or dissent. Be specific about what you want him to stop doing, and then step away. Allow him to vent a little, but do not entertain a discussion with

him. If he wants you to explain something, say, "I'm not here to discuss a call, but I am here to ASK you to stop your dissent". It takes some courage to start down this path, but it lets the coach know you are serious and sets the stage for the remaining two steps. Second, if the behavior continues, 'tell' the coach his/her behavior is no longer going to be tolerated. Stop the game, approach the coach and say, "Coach, your behavior is not acceptable. I'm TELLING you to stop your dissent." The final step is an ejection. Stop the game, approach the coach and say, "Coach, your behavior leaves me no choice. You need to leave. The game will restart after you have left the field." Then wait for him to leave the field. If the coach refuses to leave, terminate the game. If the coach tells you that, when he leaves there will be no coach, you need to know how the league rules handle this situation. Most require a coach with a valid league ID card to be present. If there aren't any, say, "Then we will have to terminate the game." And, do it. Don't try to reason with him. Disengage, terminate the game, collect your things, and leave the field. Yes, you have the authority to terminate the game. Reaching this step should not be taken lightly, but neither should sideline abuse. Use all three, if you have to. Keep

the coach's pass and write up your actions in your game report.

Parent and spectator sideline abuse is a bit harder to deal with, because technically you can't dismiss them. The approach, in this case, is to ask the coach to handle the issue. Never direct your comments to the parent/spectator. Stop the game, go to the coach and say, "Coach, you have responsibility for the conduct of your parents. We're at the point where I feel they are hurting my ability to referee this game and they are affecting the players on the field. If no one deals with it, we will have to terminate the game." Tell the coach, "I'll give you a couple minutes to go over and tell the parents to stop the poor behavior." Wait while the coach deals with the parents. The coach is forced to take action because he knows that if he doesn't deal with his team's parents, the game can be terminated. While the game is stopped for the coach to walk across the field, the focus is off the referee and on the coach and parents. If the coach refuses to address the parents or if the coach talks with the parents, but the abuse continues, you have the authority to terminate the game.

Never engage in answering questions or providing your name or information at the field.



Approach the coach and ask for him to stop his bad behavior.

"Referees are encouraged to use the "Ask-Tell-Remove" approach when experiencing sideline abuse."

Abuse is defined but not limited to:

- Constant complaining
- Questioning every decision (dissent)
- Sarcastic remarks
- Personal attacks
- Gyrating actions
- Kicking or throwing objects
- Unpleasant comments by the spectators or parents
- Personal attacks officiating crew
- Threats

Signs of Sideline Abuse

THE CORNER KICK *by John Perini*

The requirements for awarding a corner kick to the attacking team are simple. The ball must completely cross the goal line, not be between the uprights or under the crossbar, and be last touched by a defender. Restart play in the corner closest to where it went out. Place the ball inside or touching the corner arc line. Kick and move the ball to put it in play. There is no off side and you can score directly. Easy.

However, for the referee team, this is when concentration on the play must begin. Since a goal can be scored directly, the corner kick is a type of “set play”. Most of

the attacking and defending players are in the penalty area in close proximity to each other, so the physical contact of the players increases. Since players have a right to their space, the referee and assistant referee must concentrate on two areas: 1) the jostling for space that occurs between attackers and defenders and 2) a defender screening the keeper. The referee must decide when the actions of jostling for space and screening the keeper cross the line and become a foul, with the restart performed in accordance with Law 12. These actions will increase in

games with a tie or one goal lead, especially near the end of the game. What I find works for me is to set the limits to what I will tolerate, as early as possible, so the players know what to expect from me. This must be done before the ball is in play, so first use your voice to give the players direction. If necessary, follow that with an administrative whistle (double tap), to hold up play. The next step is to get into the group, talk to them, and separate them, before allowing the kick to be taken. If the players continue to ignore you, stop play, and restart according to Law 12.



“The player places the ball inside or touching the corner arc line.”

DEFENSIVE OFFSIDE* *by Gerry Catagnus*

There have been several questions raised about the latest revision of the Laws Of The Game regarding the Offside Law. This Law has certainly evolved over the years and although there are no real changes this year, some of the language used in the update has caused referees to rethink one particular aspect of the Law.

Law 11.4 Infringements and Sanctions: *If an offside offence occurs, the referee awards an Indirect Free Kick (IDFK) where the offence occurred, including if it is in the player's own half of the field of play.*

Most referees know that it is impossible for a player to

be in an offside position in his/her own half of the field, yet the wording above seems to indicate otherwise to some referees. The point of clarification involves where the player is located at the time of the kick, versus where that player actually receives and plays the ball.

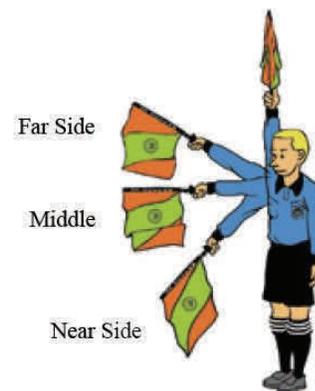
In particular, wherever the offside player gets involved is where the offense occurs and where the restart is taken. Consider a player located in his attacking half of the field, who is in an offside position at the moment the ball is played/touched by a teammate. If he runs to his defensive half of the field and gets involved in active

play, he commits the offside offense. In this case, the restart is taken in the offending player's defending half of the field.

It is widely known that the Offside Law is probably the most misunderstood of the Laws Of The Game. Although this variation of an offside violation is seen much less than others, it is an important aspect of the Law to know, recognize, and be prepared to call. Doing so can add a great deal of credibility to a referees' reputation with our most important constituents, the coaches and players of the game.

* ProRefere.com Blog Referee Instructor, 07/28/16

“...wherever the offside player gets involved is where the offense occurs and where the restart is taken.”



AR signal for offside

We're on the web, mobile devices, and Facebook!

<http://www.rbsra.com/>

<https://facebook.com/RBSRA>



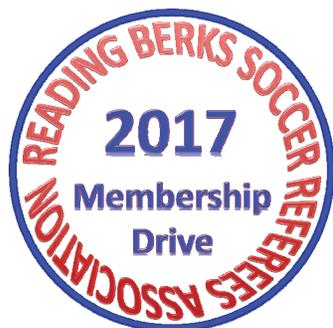
BE INVISIBLE...
UNTIL YOU'RE NEEDED

READING BERKS SOCCER REFEREE ASSOCIATION

President:	Bob Geyer	484-941-1107	capnbg@aol.com
Vice President:	Shane Anton	610-909-3606	santon2@msn.com
Secretary:	Andy Halsey	484-651-4458	andyha@ptd.net
Treasurer:	Al Cross	610-926-9689	across55@gmail.com
Trustee:	Jerry Catagnus	610-587-1574	jercat2000@yahoo.com
Trustee:	Denny Dornes	610-926-4714	dornden@aol.com
Trustee:	Kevin Creamer	484-431-8555	kevin.creamer@PenskeCorp.com
Youth Trustee:	Mike DiGiacomo		maxdoutmike1127@aol.com

END OF PERIOD RESPONSIBILITIES *by Hank Arbo*

Do you just walk off the field when time runs out in a half or overtime period? If you do, you are neglecting your end of period responsibilities. When a game period ends, the AR closest to the ball gets it and brings it to the center circle. The rest of the referee crew quickly come together and meet him there. Together, they watch the behavior of the teams and the bench area, as the players leave the field. They compare notes and confirm the information they have on carded players and incidents that have occurred during the period. If there are any differences in what they have recorded, they are resolved at this time. They then leave the center circle, as a team.



The RBSRA Membership Drive is underway. Help the Chapter grow! We can't do it without your support.

Find membership details on the RBSRA website homepage.

www.rbsra.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **March 18:** RBJSL spring league begins
- ◆ **April 18:, 20, 25, 27** RBSRA Entry-Level Referee Course Cost: \$100. See www.rbsra.com for details.
- ◆ **April 30:** RBJSL spring season ends
- ◆ **May 6-7 :** Quarry Classic, Flash, and Red Rose Tournaments
- ◆ **May 13-14:** PA Classics Challenger Tournament
- ◆ **May 20:** RBSRA CrossTalk for new(er) referees
- ◆ **June 3:** Muhlenberg Grenko Tournament

The RBSRA mission is to increase the knowledge and performance level of all Association members through training, mentoring, and assessing. We seek to promote, foster, and perpetuate the game of soccer and its officiating. As we interact with members, coaches, players, and fans, we strive to instill a spirit of good sportsmanship, honesty, respect for authority, and fair play. We actively develop, teach, promote, and regulate soccer for individuals of all ages. Our members generally come from Berks County, but are not limited to living in that area.

The RBSRA is affiliated with the Reading-Berks Junior Soccer League (RBJSL), the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA), the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association Referee Committee (EPSARC), and the United States Soccer Federation.

PA CHILD ABUSE CHECK

PA STATE CHECK

FBI BACKGROUND CHECK

Three background clearances must be obtained and **mailed** to EPSARC before you can register.

Remember, you can email any chapter officer if you have any questions about the Laws Of The Game, registration, game reports, or any other situation you need assistance with.