



NEBRASKA REFEREE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
INSTRUCTION ▪ COACHING ▪ MENTORSHIP ▪ OFFICIATING

Rules for U9/U10 Games

The following rules apply only to games for U9/U10 age groups.

A. General

1. The goalkeeper cannot punt or dropkick the ball but can only pass or throw/roll the ball to a teammate. The first time the goalkeeper improperly punts or dropkicks the ball, the referee should remind the goalkeeper of the correct procedure and let them try again. After the first time, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the point where the goalkeeper punted/dropkicked the ball. If the punt or dropkick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken outside goal area at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred.
2. No heading of the ball is allowed. Again, the first time the referee should remind the players that heading of the ball is not permitted. After the first time, the referee shall award an indirect free kick to the opposing team at the point where the player headed the ball.
3. Often players at these ages have trouble throwing the ball in correctly. For U9 ages, you can provide instruction and allow a team to retake a throw if it is not done correctly and don't be too picky. At U10, you can be stricter in requiring that throw-ins be done correctly.

B. The "Build Out" Line

1. A Build Out Line is a line across the width of the field of play midway between the top of the penalty area and the half-way line in each half. They should be equidistant between the penalty area line and the halfway line.
2. When the goalkeeper has the ball in his or her hands during play from the opponent, the opposing team must move behind the build out line until the ball is put into play.
3. Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw, or roll the ball into play.
4. After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal.
5. The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play.
6. The build out line will also count as the line to determine where offside offenses can be called.
7. Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line. They can only be penalized for an offside offense that occurs between the build out line and goal line.
8. Ideally, the goalkeeper will wait to put the ball into play once all opponents are past the build out line. However, the goalkeeper can put the ball into play sooner, but he/she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes.

