

OFFSIDE SIMPLIFIED - LAW 11

You are offside if, in the opinion of the referee, you gain an advantage by being ahead of the ball, except if you are ...

- In your own half of the field.
- Even with or have at least 2 opponents between you and their goal line.
- First to receive the ball from one of these 3 restarts:
 - Throw-In
 - Corner Kick
 - Goal Kick
- Not ahead of the ball when it is played (not when it is received).
"The Moment of Judgement" (4 little words)
- Not interfering with play or an opponent.
"Not Involved in Active Play" (5 little words)

From the current (2003/2004) FIFA Laws of the Game

LAW 11 - Offside

Offside Position

It is not an offense in itself to be in an offside position.

A player is in an offside position if:

- He is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent

A player is not in an offside position if:

- He is in his own half of the field of play
- or
- He is level with the second last opponent
- or
- He is level with the last two opponents

Offense

A player in an offside position is only penalized 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

No Offense

There is no offside offense if a player receives the ball directly from:

- A goal kick
- or
- A throw-in
- or
- A corner kick

Infringements/Sanctions

For any offside offense, the referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred.