



Probably the most misunderstood of all calls by parents, coaches and even referees are "Handball" and "Offside". Here is an in depth explanation of what makes up those calls.

Handball

Deliberately handling the ball, except by the goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area. Handling the ball is a foul when a player touches the ball with any part of the hand or arm while intending to control the ball. The referee should not call the "hand ball" foul if a player:

* Is not trying to control the ball, or

* Is instinctively protecting himself or herself from injury.

The penalty results in a direct free kick for the opposing team.

Offside Position

It is not an offence 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 no nearer to the opponent's goal line than two or more opponents or if he is no nearer to the opponent's goal line than the ball.

Offence

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.

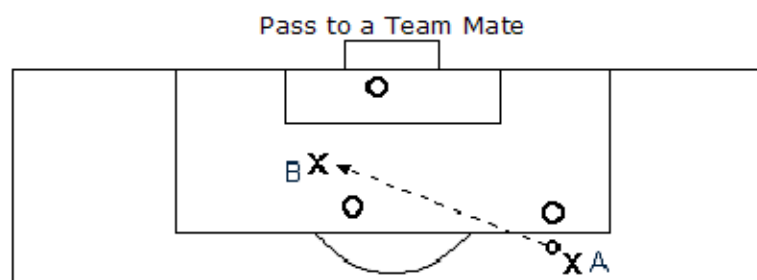
No Offence

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

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

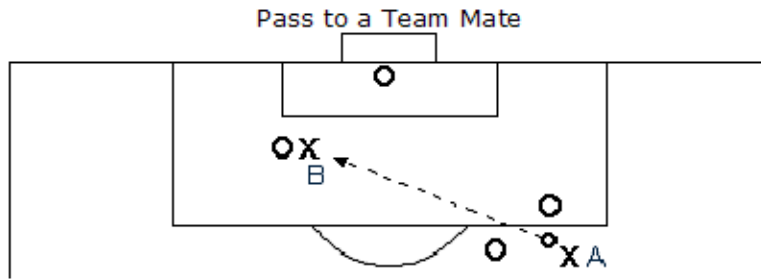
Infringements/Sanctions

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



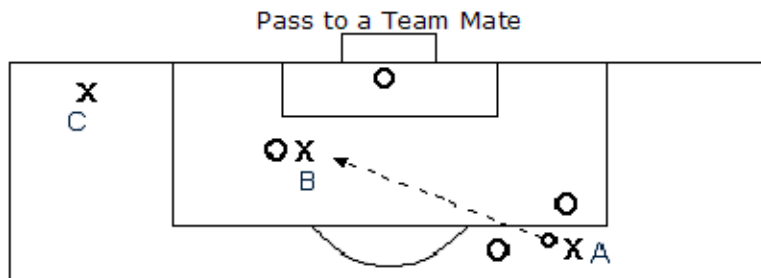
A Passes the ball to B.

B is off-side because he is in front of A and is nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two opponents when the ball was passed by A.



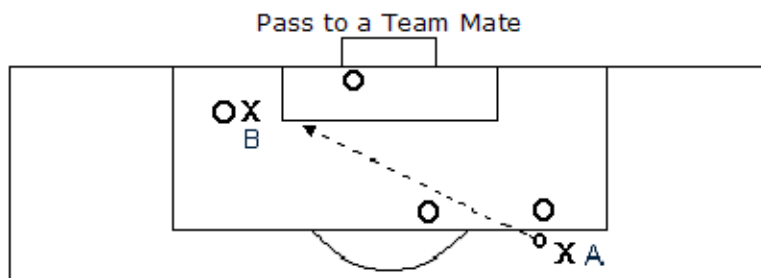
A plays the ball forward to **B** who is **level** with the second last defender.

B is not off-side since, **at the moment the ball was played by A**, he was not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two opponents.



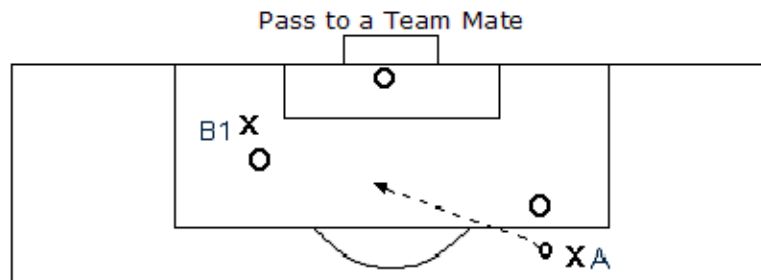
A plays the ball forward to **B** who is **level** with the second last defender.

B is not off-side since, **at the moment the ball was played by A**, he was not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents.

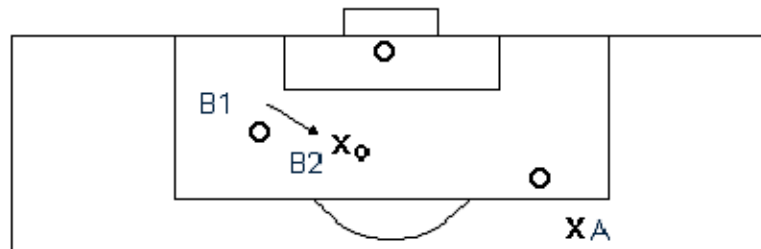


A plays the ball forward to **B** who is **level** with the second last defender.

B is not off-side since, **at the moment the ball was played by A**, he was not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents.

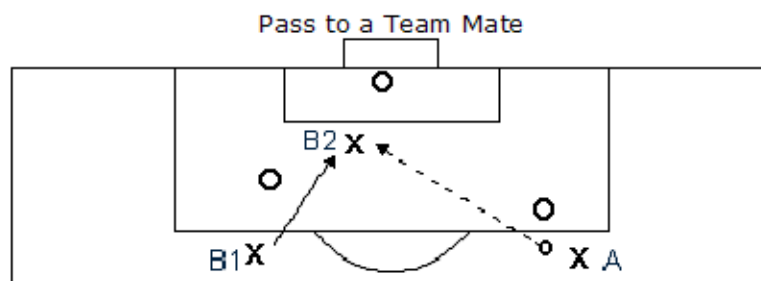


A crosses the ball forward from outside the penalty area.



B runs from Position 1 and collects the ball as it lands at Position 2.

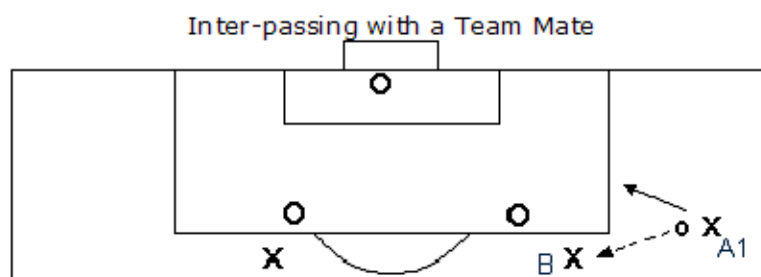
B is off-side since, **at the moment the ball was played by A**, he was nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents and **gained an advantage** by being **in active play**.



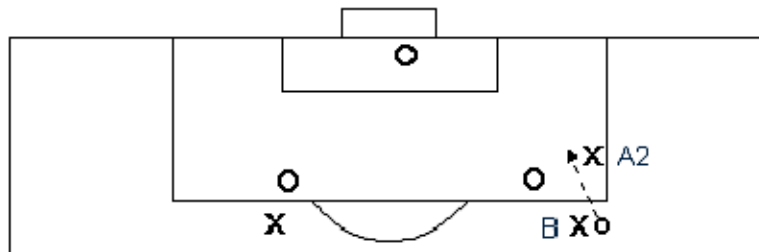
A passes the ball to **B** who runs from Position 1 to Position 2 to play it.

B runs from Position 1 and collects the ball as it lands at Position 2.

B is not off-side because **at the moment the ball was played by A**, he was **not in an off-side position** since he was not in front of the ball and was not nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents.

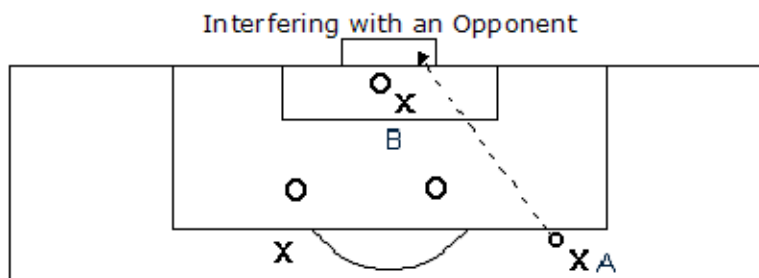


A plays the ball to **B** from Position 1 and runs forward to receive the return pass.



B plays the ball to A who is now in Position 2.

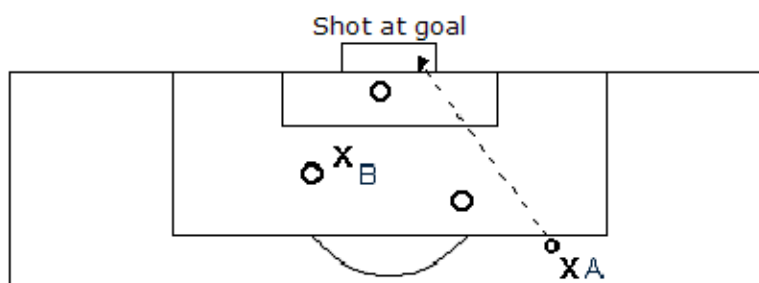
A is off-side since **at the moment the ball was played forward to him by B**, he was nearer his opponents' goal line than at least two of his opponents and **gained an advantage** by being in **active play**.



A shoots for goal and the ball enters the net.

B is standing in front of the goalkeeper.

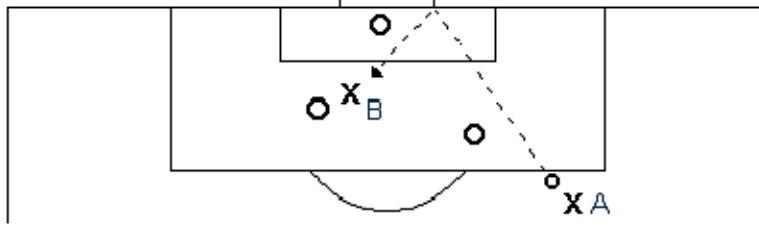
The goal would not be allowed since B who is in an **off-side** position, is **involved in active play** and is **interfering with an opponent**.



A shoots for goal and scores.

Although B is in an off-side position, he is **not** involved in **active play** and the goal **would be allowed**.

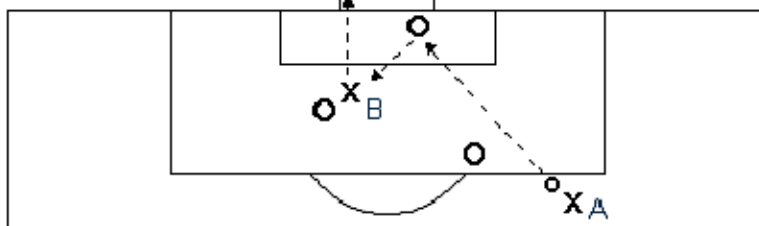
Ball Rebounding from Goal Posts or Crossbar



A shoots for goal and the ball rebounds from the post to **B** who kicks the ball into goal.

The goal would be disallowed since **B**, who was in an **off-side** position when the ball was last played by **A**, was in **active play** and **gained an advantage** by being in that position.

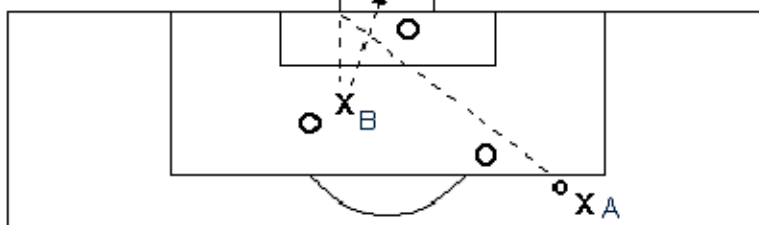
Shot Rebounds from Goalkeeper



A shoots the ball at goal and the ball rebounds from the Goalkeeper to player **B**.

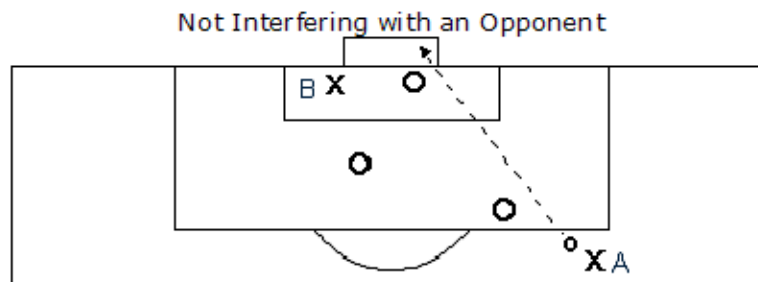
The goal is disallowed since **B**, who was in an **off-side** position when the ball was last played by **A**, was in **active play** and **gained an advantage** by being in that position.

Ball Rebounding from Goal Posts or Crossbar



A shoots for goal and the ball rebounds from the post to **B** who kicks the ball into goal.

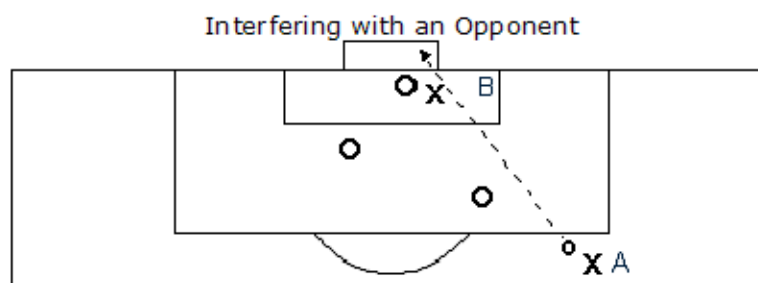
The goal is disallowed since **B**, who was in an **off-side** position when the ball was last played by **A**, was in **active play** and **gained an advantage** by being in that position.



A shoots for goal and scores.

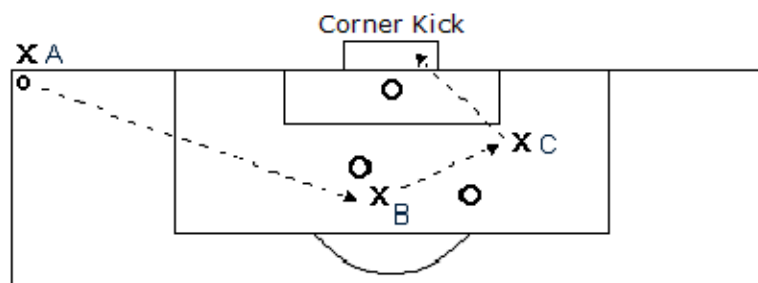
Although **B** is lying injured in an **off-side** position, he is **not involved in active play**.

The goal would be allowed



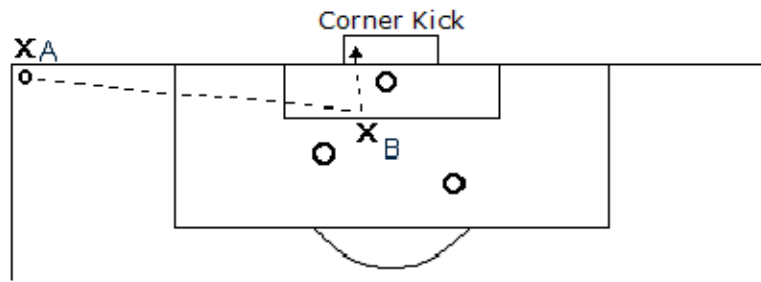
A shoots for goal and the ball enters the net.

B, who is lying injured in the goal area and in the path of the ball, would be **penalized for off-side**. By his presence, however accidental, he is **involved in active play** and **is interfering with an opponent**.



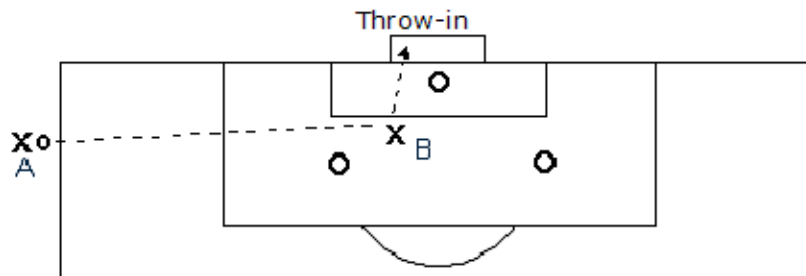
A takes a corner kick and the ball goes to **B**.

B shoots for goal and the ball is touched by **C** and enters the goal. The goal is not permitted since **C** was in front of the ball and there were not at least two opponents between him and the goal-line when it was last played by **B**.



A corner kick is taken by **A** and the ball goes to **B** who scores.

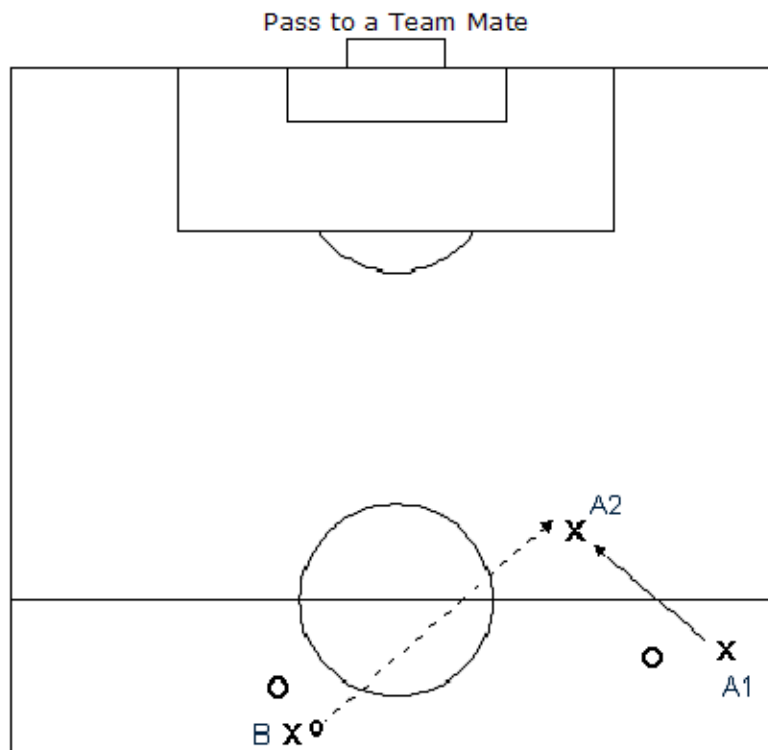
Although **B** has only one opponent between him and the goal-line, **the goal is allowed** since a player cannot be off-side if he receives the ball direct from a corner kick.



A throws the ball to **B** who scores.

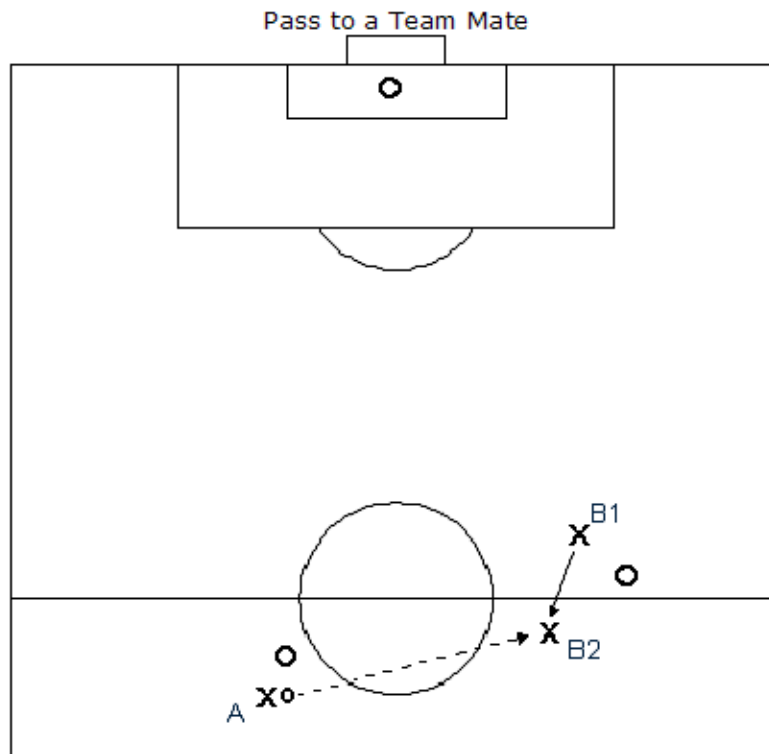
The goal is allowed.

Although **B** is in front of the ball and there is only one opponent between him and the goal-line, he is **not off-side** because a player cannot be offside if he receives the ball direct from a throw-in.



B plays the ball ahead of **A** who is in his own half.

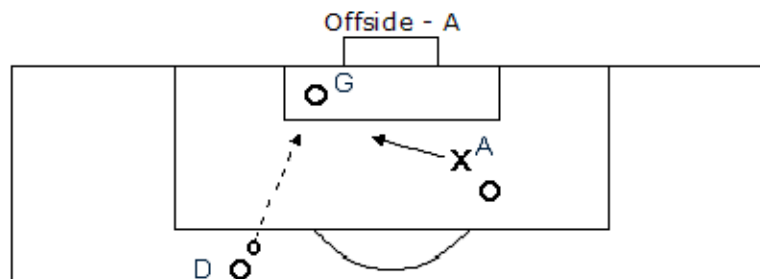
Although there are not at least two opponents nearer their own goal-line at the moment when **B** played the ball, **A** is **not off-side** since a player cannot be off-side in his own half of the field of play.



A passes the ball forward.

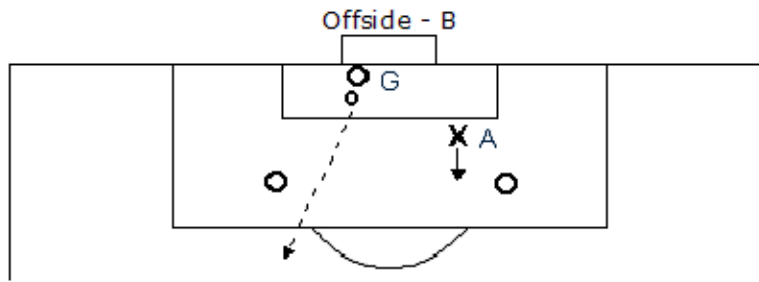
B runs from Position 1 and collects the ball at Position 2.

B is off-side since, **at the moment the ball was played by A**, he was nearer to his opponents' goal-line than at least two of his opponents and **gained an advantage** by being **in active play**.

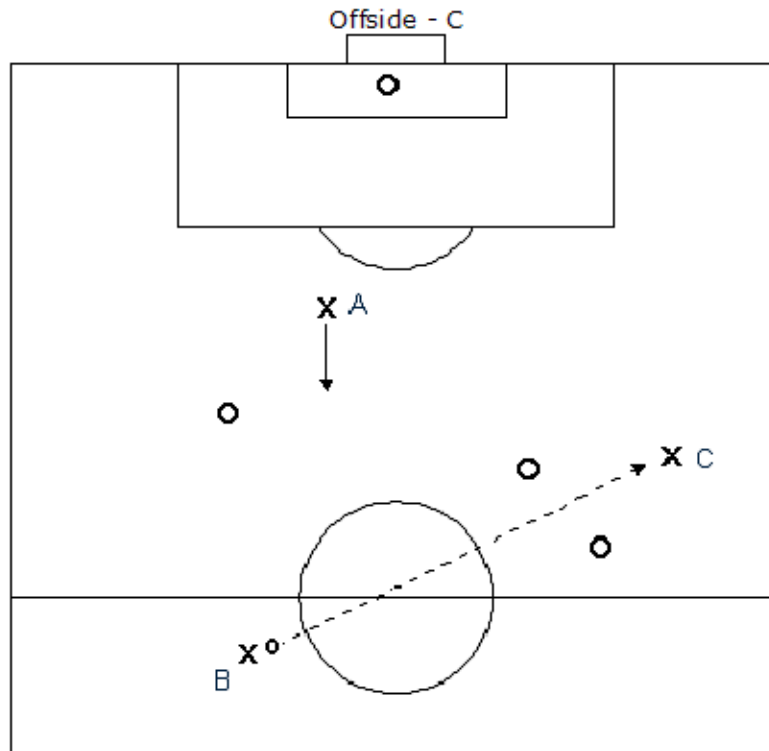


The ball is kicked to the goalkeeper by defender **D**.

An attacking player **A** runs towards the goalkeeper to challenge him.



The goalkeeper kicks the ball up-field and the attacking player **A** turns to take up an onside position.



The ball is intercepted by player **B**, a team-mate of the attacking player. It is transferred to another team-mate, player **C**, on the wing.

Although the attacking player **A** is in an **off-side** position, he **would not be penalized** since he is not involved in **active play**.