

Advanced Offside Scenarios

For each of the following scenarios, please indicate whether an offside infraction has occurred. In each case, A1 and A2 refer to attackers, D1 and D2 refer to defenders. Numbers in brackets [11.1] refer to relevant sections of the USSF *Advice to Referees*.

pay attention... don't "ball watch"... use peripheral vision... even is onside... listen for the kick... hold the flag... wait for participation... follow the ball to the goal line...

Q1. All defensive team members except the GK are in the other half of the field. A1 is about 5 yards into the defensive half of the field, tying his shoelace. His own GK gains possession of the ball and kicks it toward A1. His teammates yell "Hey A1, get the ball". A1 runs across the halfway line and 15 yards into his own half of the field to collect the ball and passes it back another 5 yards to A2.

A1. OFFSIDE. A1 was in an offside position at the moment the ball was last played by a member of his team, and participated in the subsequent play. The IFK is taken where A1 was tying his shoelace. [11.13, 11.15]

pay attention... don't "ball watch"... use peripheral vision... even is onside... listen for the kick... hold the flag... wait for participation... follow the ball to the goal line...

Q2. A1 is in an offside position about 5 yards behind the defenders. A2 plays the ball through the defenders towards A1. The defenders remain stationary and appeal for the offside flag. A1 runs away from the ball and into an onside position. As soon as the players realize the AR has not raised the flag, there is a mad rush to get to the ball, with A1 racing a defender and both players reaching the ball together.

A2. OFFSIDE. A1 is in an offside position at the moment the ball is last played by a member of his team, and then subsequently interferes with play. Although A1 returned to an onside position, he did not follow the established procedure for demonstrating that he is not involved in the play, standing at attention and making no other move at all. [11.5, 11.15]

pay attention... don't "ball watch"... use peripheral vision... even is onside... listen for the kick... hold the flag... wait for participation... follow the ball to the goal line...

Q3. A1 and A2 have broken through the defense and only the GK remains between them and the goal. A1 has the ball, and A2 runs off to the right and ahead of A1 (and the ball). As they approach the goal, A2 yells "A1, I'm open, pass me the ball". The referee is trailing the play and clearly sees the GK react to A2's comment by moving towards A2. A1 shoots at the side of the goal now left open and scores.

A3. NOT OFFSIDE. A2 actions are normal within the context of this action, and the fact the GK reacts to A2's comment is a mistake on the part of the GK. "The Laws were not written to compensate for the mistakes of players." A2 is not considered to have participated in the play. [11.4, 11.5]

pay attention... don't "ball watch"... use peripheral vision... even is onside... listen for the kick... hold the flag... wait for participation... follow the ball to the goal line...

pay attention... don't "ball watch"...use peripheral vision...even is onside...listen for the kick...hold the flag...wait for participation...follow the ball to the goal line...

Q4. A1 and A2 have broken through the defense and only the GK remains between them and the goal. A1 has the ball, and A2 runs off to the right and ahead of A1 (and the ball). As they approach the goal, A2 runs close to the GK and yells "Hey Goalkeeper – watch me score!! A1, pass me the ball!" The referee is trailing the play and clearly sees the GK react to A2's comment by moving towards A2. A1 shoots at the side of the goal now left open and scores.

A4. OFFSIDE. A2 has participated in the play by approaching the GK and making loud comments directed at the GK, clearly intending to distract the GK. [11.4, 11.5]

pay attention... don't "ball watch"...use peripheral vision...even is onside...listen for the kick...hold the flag...wait for participation...follow the ball to the goal line...

Q5. The attacking team has developed a deliberate play and used it several times. After each attack, A1 and A2 lag about 10 yards behind the defenders on the far side of the field. When their team gains possession of the ball, they play the ball to midfield where A3 makes an exaggerated display of faking a kick towards A1 & A2, causing the defense to immediately pull up and raise their hands for an offside flag. Instead the teammate then plays the ball to A4 who is running from an onside position through the standing defenders on the near side of the field.

A5. NOT OFFSIDE. This play is legal even if done deliberately. "Mere presence anywhere on the field should not be considered a distraction to defenders" [11.5]

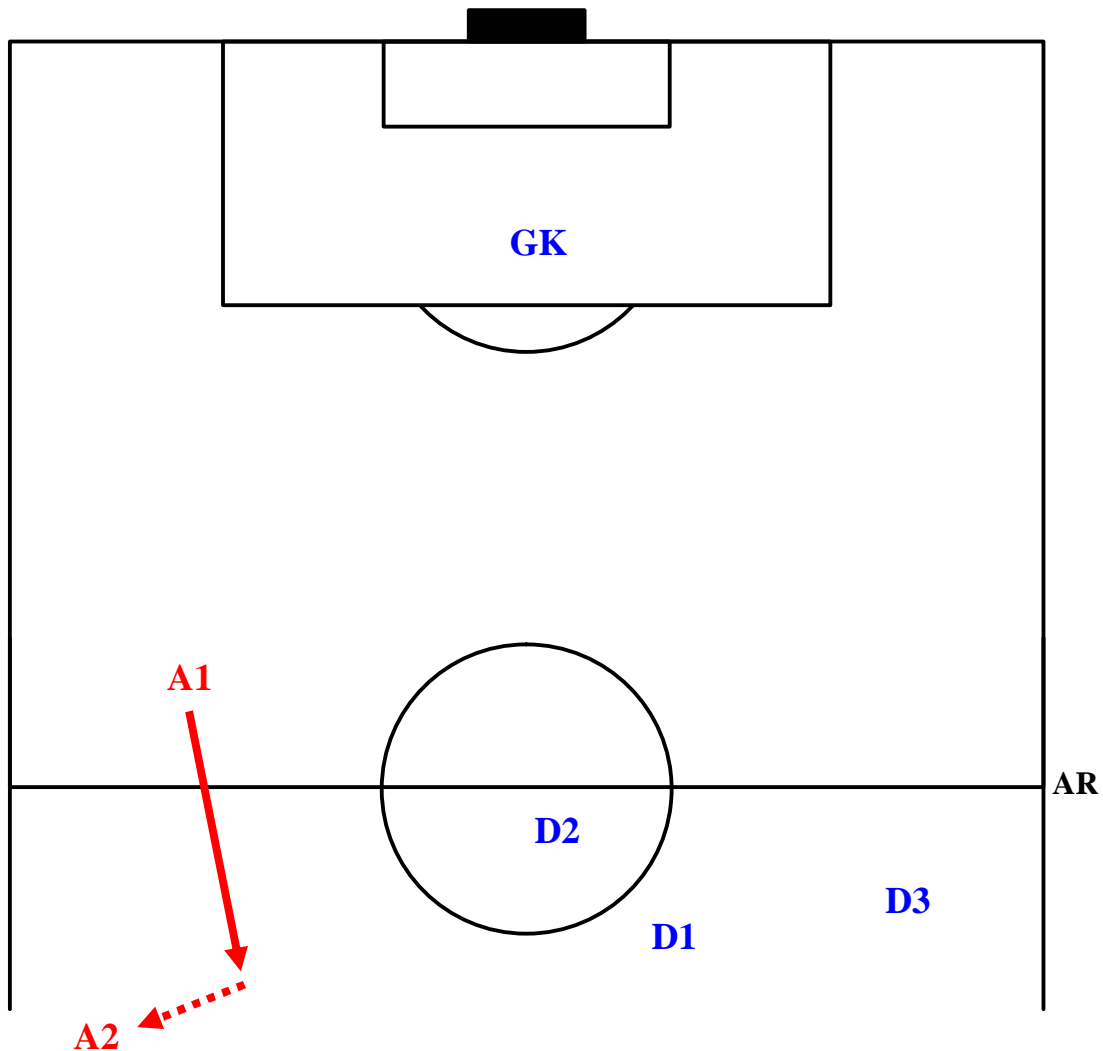
pay attention... don't "ball watch"...use peripheral vision...even is onside...listen for the kick...hold the flag...wait for participation...follow the ball to the goal line...

*AYSO Advanced Offside Workshop
Section 2 Annual General Meeting
March 9, 2002*

All answers given have been reviewed by Jim Allen of USSF.

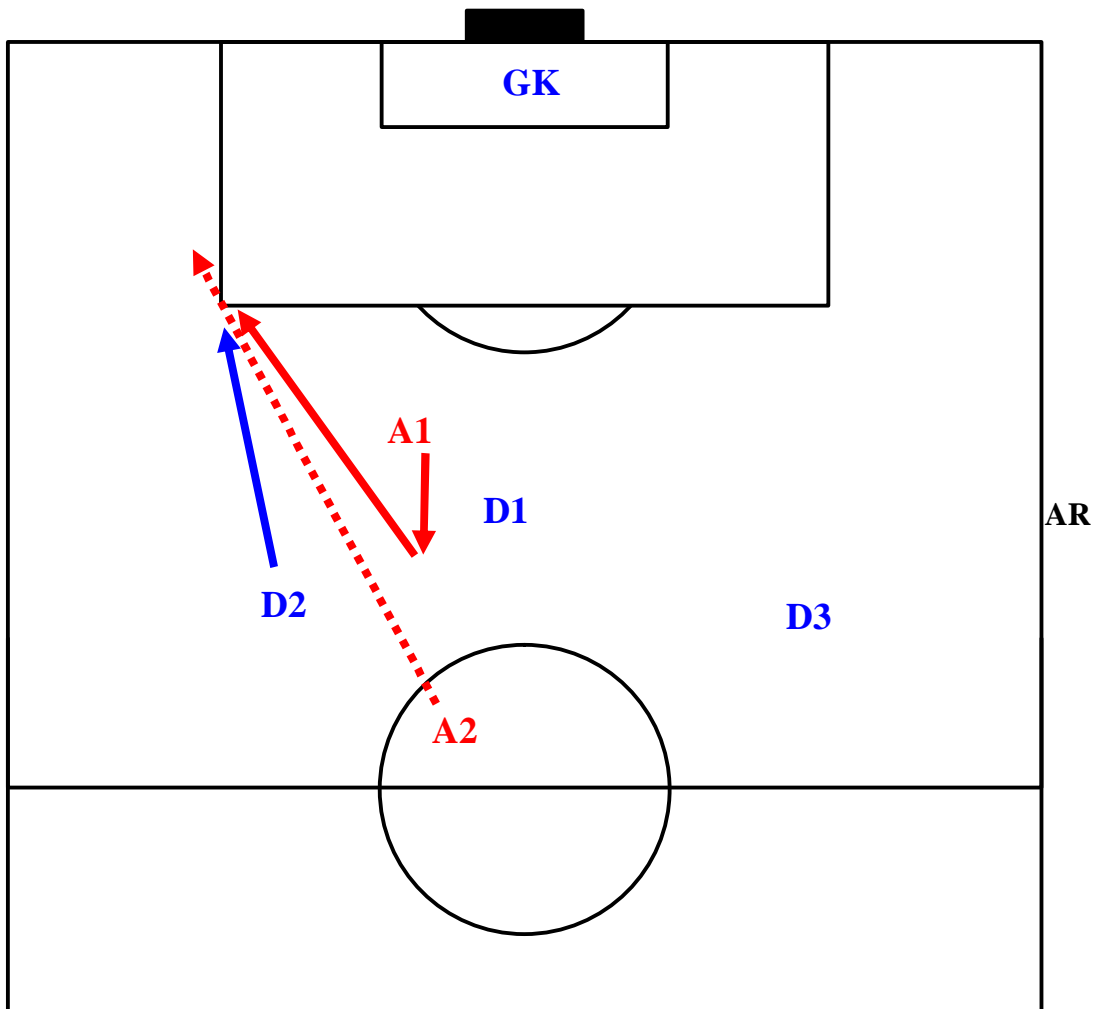
Q1.

All defensive team members except the GK are in the other half of the field. A1 is about 5 yards into the defensive half of the field, tying his shoelace. His own GK gains possession of the ball and kicks it toward A1. His teammates yell “**Hey A1, get the ball**”. A1 runs across the halfway line and 15 yards into his own half of the field to collect the ball and passes it back another 5 yards to A2.



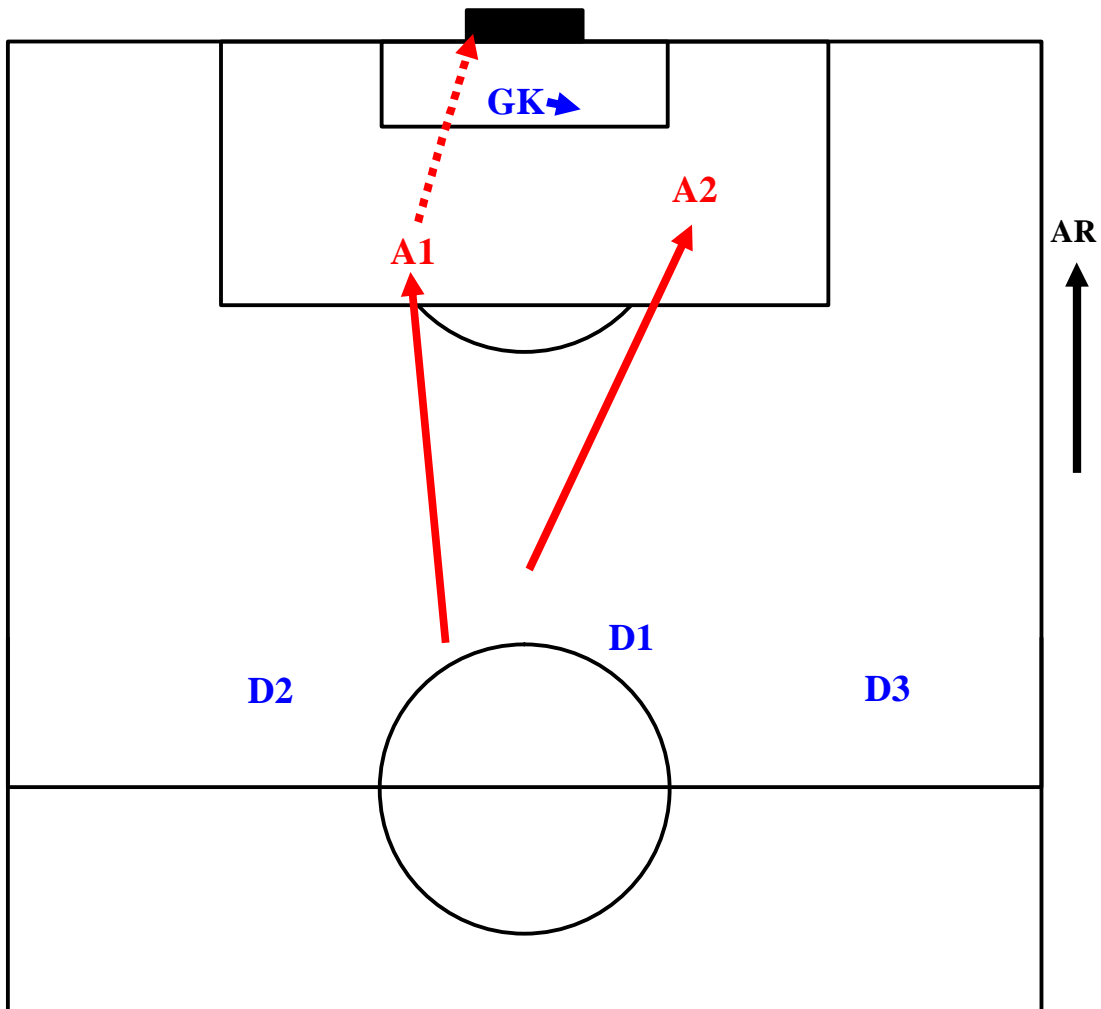
Q2.

A1 is in an offside position about 5 yards behind the defenders. A2 plays the ball through the defenders towards A1. The defenders remain stationary and appeal for the offside flag. A1 runs away from the ball and into an onside position. As soon as the players realize the AR has not raised the flag, there is a mad rush to get to the ball, with A1 racing a defender and both players reaching the ball together.



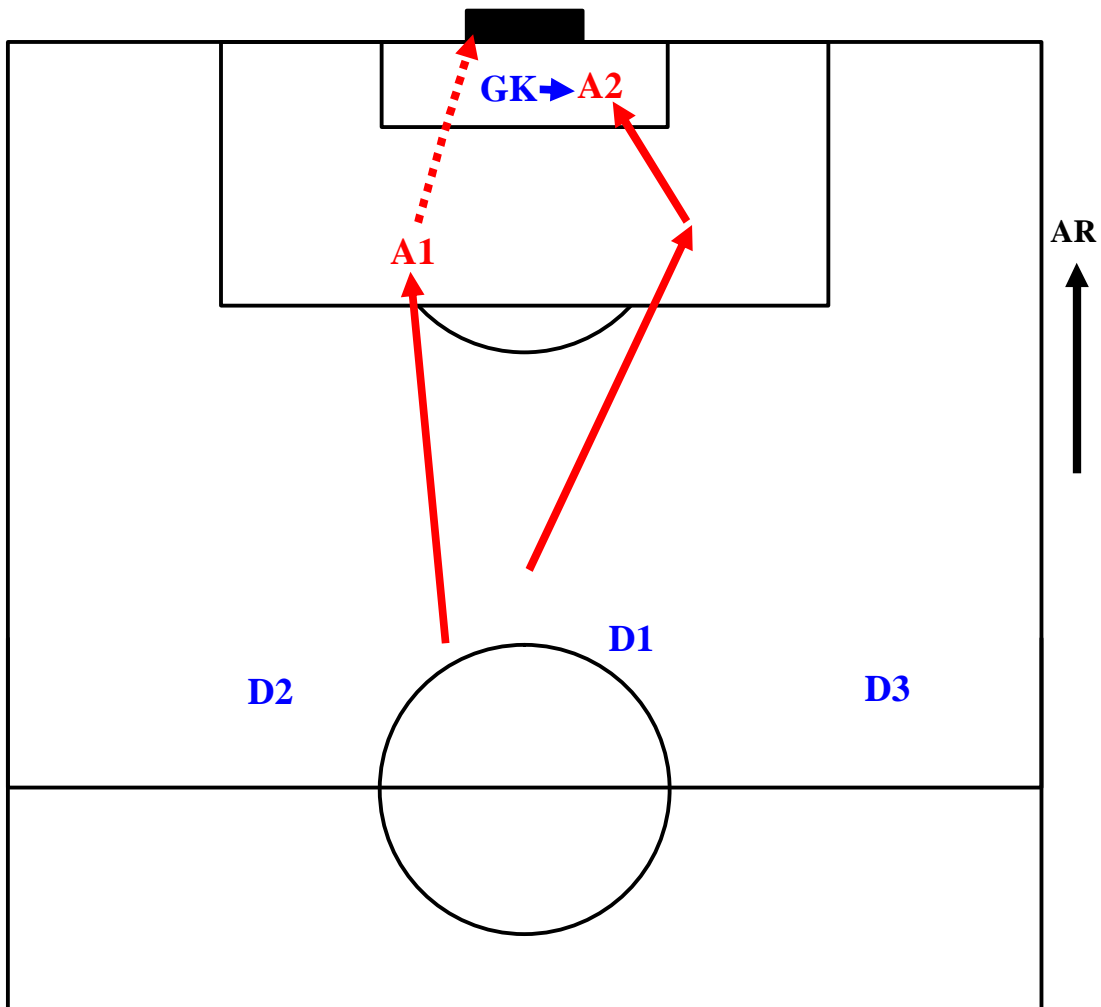
Q3.

A1 and A2 have broken through the defense and only the GK remains between them and the goal. A1 has the ball, and A2 runs off to the right and ahead of A1 (and the ball). As they approach the goal, A2 yells “**A1, I’m open, pass me the ball**”. The referee is trailing the play and clearly sees the GK react to A2’s comment by moving towards A2. A1 shoots at the side of the goal now left open and scores.



Q4.

A1 and A2 have broken through the defense and only the GK remains between them and the goal. A1 has the ball, and A2 runs off to the right and ahead of A1 (and the ball). As they approach the goal, A2 runs close to the GK and yells “**Hey Goalkeeper – watch me score!! A1, pass me the ball!**” The referee is trailing the play and clearly sees the GK react to A2’s comment by moving towards A2. A1 shoots at the side of the goal now left open and scores.



Q5.

The attacking team has developed a deliberate play and used it several times. After each attack, A1 and A2 lag about 10 yards behind the defenders on the far side of the field. When their team gains possession of the ball, they play the ball to midfield where A3 makes an exaggerated display of faking a kick towards A1 & A2, causing the defense to immediately pull up and raise their hands for an offside flag. Instead the teammate then plays the ball to A4 who is running from an onside position through the standing defenders on the near side of the field.

