



# *US Youth Soccer Initiatives*

## The “Build Out Line”

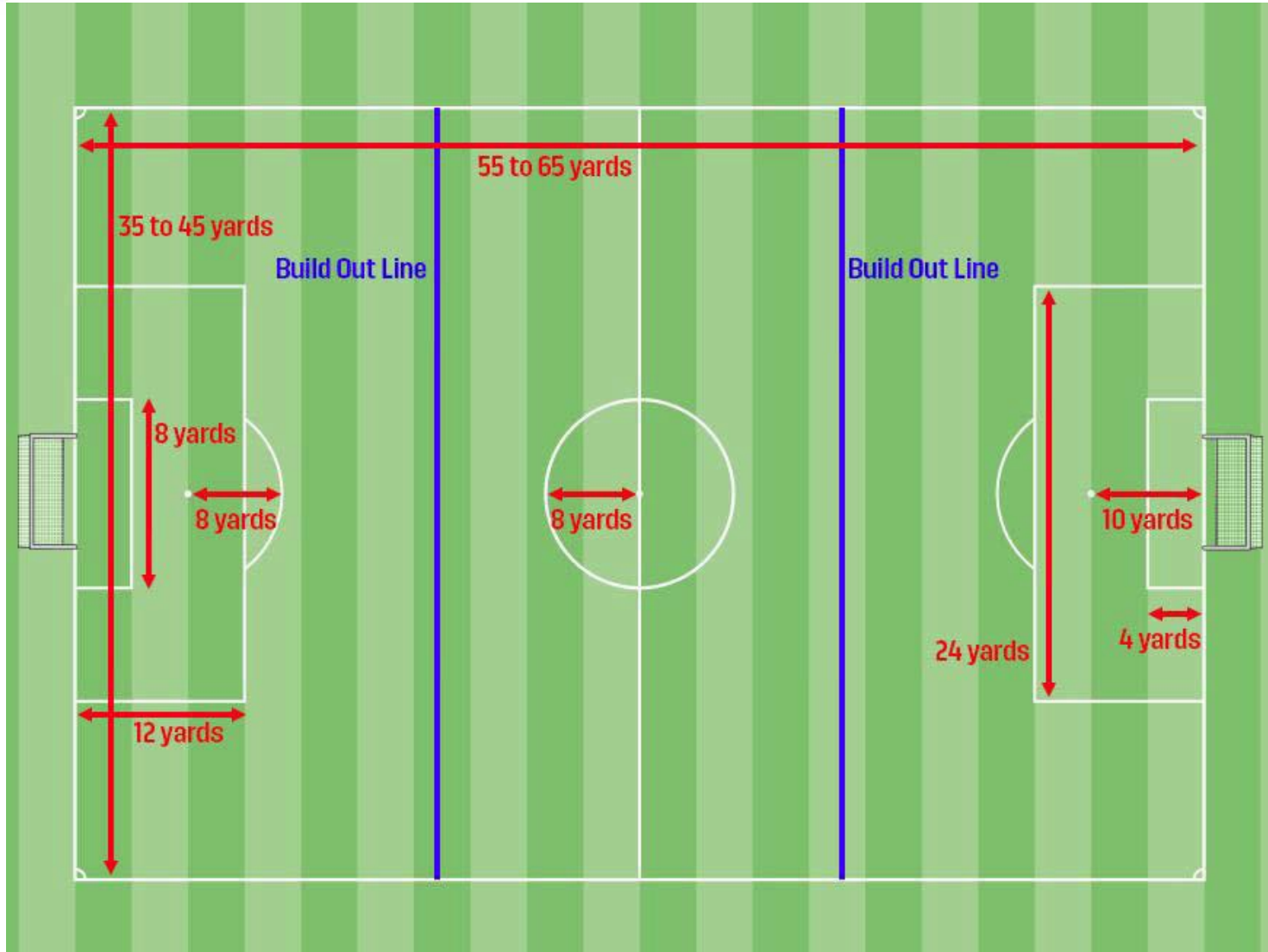


## What is a “Build Out Line”?

- In 2017, US Youth Soccer and Maryland State Youth Soccer have mandated the implementation of the Build Out Line for age groups playing 7v7 (U10).
- The build out line promotes playing the ball out of the back in a less pressured setting.
- From the Modified Laws of the Game: The Build Out Line is *“Equidistant between the top of the penalty area and the halfway line. The build out line may be of any color. It may be a solid or a dashed line.”*



# What is a “Build Out Line”?





# Rules of the “Build Out Line”

- 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
- Once the opposing team is behind the build out line, the goalkeeper can pass, throw or roll the ball into play (punts and drop kicks are not allowed)
- After the ball is put into play by the goalkeeper, the opposing team can cross the build out line and play resumes as normal
- The opposing team must also move behind the build out line during a goal kick until the ball is put into play
- If a goalkeeper punts or drop kicks the ball, an indirect free kick should be awarded to the opposing team from the spot of the offense
- If the punt or drop kick occurs within the goal area, the indirect free kick should be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the nearest point to where the infringement occurred
- The build out line will also be used to denote where offside offenses can be called
  - Players cannot be penalized for an offside offense between the halfway line and the build out line
  - Players can be penalized for an offside offense between the build out line and goal line



# Practical Applications

- 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 or she does so accepting the positioning of the opponents and the consequences of how play resumes
- To support the intent of the development rule, coaches and referees should be mindful of any intentional delays being caused by opponents not retreating in a timely manner or encroaching over the build out line prior to the ball being put into play
- Coaches are responsible for addressing these types of issues with their players
- Referees can manage the situation with misconduct if deemed appropriate
- Referees should be flexible when enforcing the 6 second rule and counting the time of possession should only begin when all opponents have moved behind the build out line
- Since this is a new initiative, many coaches and players are unfamiliar with how to implement and coach the Build Out Line. For this reason, we would ask that referees be flexible in the enforcement of penalties associated with the Build Out Line.