



DIRECT KICK

An informative newsletter brought to you by Catoosa Soccer Association

VOL. 1, ISSUE 3

MAY 2018

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Skills Development Camp July 16-18



Catoosa Soccer Association is excited to announce our first joint venture with its new partner, the Wolverhampton Wanderers FC of the English Premier League (EPL)! We are hosting a camp July 16-18 at Rodger berry Sports Complex, 9am-3:30pm. The cost is \$165 per player. Campers who register at least two weeks from the start will receive a camp shirt.

This is a great opportunity for players to learn from one of the best programs in the world. It is also a chance for coaches to learn, as well! Please be looking for more details to come your way in the near future!

Register for the camp at www.bit.ly/catoosa.

Fireworks Fundraiser



We will once again operate a fireworks stand at the Blue Whale, partnering with Big Blast Fireworks. This fundraiser begins on June 21 and will run through July 5th. We need everyone's help, and there is plenty of time to plan around schedules to help out. The sign-up is online and can be found through SignUpGenius.com.

Please, don't wait for someone else to help! Let us count on you!

Thanks for Another Great Season!



On Saturday, May 12, we help our annual Spring Bash, bringing an end to the regular seasonal year. Overall, our club was pretty successful, having teams place in both the regular season league and in tournaments.

We have a few things lined up for the summer: 1) the fireworks fundraiser (for which we need YOUR help), 2) a skills camp with an English Premier league team, 3) opening of fall registration, and 4) nominations and elections of four executive board seats. We are also looking at the possibility of rebooting our competitive program and making changes to the U6 program.

Great things are coming our way...and we want YOU to be an active part in it! Let us know how you would like to help, and we will find a way to make it happen! Thanks again for a great year!

Laws of the Game Explained: Offside



This is a rather lengthy explanation, but it is of the two most misunderstood Laws of the Game: offside.

One of the most difficult calls for a referee or assistant referee (AR) to make is that of offside (notice that there is no "s" at the end of the word). This is an infringement that can be a close call or no call. In this issue, we can hopefully come out with a better understanding of Law 11 of the game. Before explaining it, let's take a look at the Law itself.

Law 11 states that being in an offside position is not an offense in itself. A player is in an offside position if: 1) any part of the head, body or feet is in the opponents' half (excluding the halfway line) **AND** 2) any part of the head, body or feet is nearer to the opponents' goal line than **both** the ball and the second-to-last opponent. The hands and arms of all players, including the goalkeepers, are not considered. Only those parts of the body that can be legally scored with are considered.

A player is not in an offside position if level with the: 1) second-last opponent or 2) last two opponents.

A player cannot be penalized for an offside offense for receiving the ball **directly** from a throw-in, goal kick, or corner kick. However, on a free kick (as the result of a foul or other offense), a player can be penalized for offside.

Now, the tricky part...

Where a player is **at the moment the ball is played** determines whether or not he is guilty of an offside infringement. It does NOT matter where that player receives the ball. For example, if a player (A1) is in an offside position when a teammate plays the ball, and A1 runs 30 yards back towards to his own goal and is the first player to touch it, A1 is guilty of an offside offense.

When a player is in an offside position, whether or not a referee or AR penalizes the offense is determined by 3 factors:

⇒ interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a team-mate,

⇒ interfering with an opponent by preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by 1) clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision, 2) challenging an opponent for the ball, 3) clearly attempting to play a ball which is close to him when this action impacts on an opponent, or 4) making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball, or

⇒ gaining an advantage by playing the ball or interfering with an opponent when it has 1) rebounded or been deflected off the goalpost, crossbar, match official or an opponent, or 2) been deliberately saved by any opponent.

To illustrate, a player on the left wing might be in an offside position when the ball is played towards him. If he makes no attempt on the ball, he is not penalized. However, if he challenges for the ball, even without touching it, he is penalized.

Something else to consider is that if a defender makes a deliberate play on the ball, and touches it (even if he misplays the ball), and an attacker receives the ball, that attacker cannot be penalized for an offside offense.

Offside is one of the two primary duties of an Assistant Referee. Because of his required position in relation to the second-to-last opponent, he generally has a much better view whether or not a player was in an offside position when the ball was last played by a teammate.

As you can see, the Law can be difficult, especially in a fast-paced game. So, the next time you don't agree with an offside decision, think about this very short description, realizing that all these factors are taken into consideration within about 2 seconds.