

# 9V9 RULES & GUIDELINES



The purpose of the U11 no punt rule is to comply with Implementation guidelines for U.S. Soccer's Player Safety Campaign: Concussion initiatives & heading for youth players.

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## NO PUNTING.

1. Goal Keepers are not allowed to punt the ball. This includes drop kicking or bouncing the ball and kicking it. If the keeper puts the ball on the ground to kick it themselves, players can immediately press the keeper. Violation of the rule will result in an indirect free kick on the restraining line.
2. **No heading. An indirect free kick will be awarded to the team who did not head the ball. If the ball is headed by the defending team in their own penalty box, the ball will be moved to the nearest blue line.**
3. **Off-sides will be called in the final 25 yards of the field only. The blue restraining line will act as the start of the off-sides line.**
4. **Kick-ins instead of throw-ins for U11 only.**
5. Restraining line: Players must drop behind the restraining line any time the keeper has the ball (Goal Kick or ball in Keeper's hand). The defending team cannot press the ball until the receiving player takes their first touch provided the pass from the keeper does not cross the restraining line.  
Keepers are not required to wait until the players drop. The opposing team must be dropping and can change directions to press the ball once the receiving player takes their first touch. Violation of the rule: Indirect free kick if they do not drop from the point of the infraction.

## 3-LINE RULE VIOLATION.

1. Using the restraining lines and midfield line.
  - 1.1. The field is divided into 4 sections by 3 lines.

1.2. Anytime the ball is kicked or thrown completely over three lines, toward the opponent's goal by the attacking team, a three-line violation is called.

1.3. The opponents are given a "Restart" with an indirect free-kick at the center of the first restraining line the ball crossed.

Once the keeper has the ball in their hands or is taking a goal kick, the opposing team must drop to the restraining line.



The keeper does not have to wait until the players get back behind the restraining line.

Defending players must move back to the restraining line and cannot turn and pressure the attacking team until one of the following happens:

1. The keeper has the ball in his hands and puts it on the ground at his feet.
2. After the keeper throws the ball or kicks it on a goal kick, and a teammate takes a first touch.
3. If the keeper throws the ball long or kicks a long goal kick the defending team can attack the ball once it crosses the restraining line.

Keeper plays quickly. Players should be running to their restraining line. They can turn on the attacking player's first touch.





3 line pass. When the attacking team kicks the ball from behind the restraining line in their own half in the air over the restraining line in the opposing teams half.

The opponents are given a “Restart” with an indirect free-kick at the center of the first restraining line the ball crossed.

#### **FIELD STANDARDS (9V9).**

- Length 75 to 80 yards long.
- Width 45 to 55 yards wide.
- Blue offside line 25 yards from end line.
- Goals: Recommended 6.5 x 18.5. 7 x 21 are acceptable.