

and shall not touch the ball in any case whatever, either in or out of touch or goal, or in any way interrupt or obstruct any player, until he is again *on side*. In case any player plays the ball when he is off side, the captain of the opposite side *may* claim that the ball be taken back and put down at the place where it was last played before the *off side* play occurred.

26. A Player being *off side* is put *on side* when the ball has been run five yards with, or having been kicked by, or having touched the dress or person of any player of the opposite side, has moved five yards; or when one of his own side has run in front of him either with the ball or having kicked it when behind him.

27. When a player has the ball, none of his opponents who at the time are *off side* may commence or attempt to run, tackle, or otherwise interrupt such player, until he has run five yards or taken his kick. But if any player when *off side* tackles, or in any way interferes with an opponent who has the ball before such opponent has run five yards or taken his kick, the captain of the opposite side *may* claim a *free kick* for the player so interfered with; such *free kick* shall be either a *punt* or a *drop-kick* from the place where the interference took place, and shall be taken in accordance with conditions in Law 44. Such *free kick* shall not count a goal.

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