

## Retreat Line

**UISA member clubs have approved the use of a Retreat Line for all U12-U13 eight-side play.**

The use of a retreat line will be introduced to improve young players' ability during goal kicks to play out from the back rather than kicking the ball away from their goal and down field.

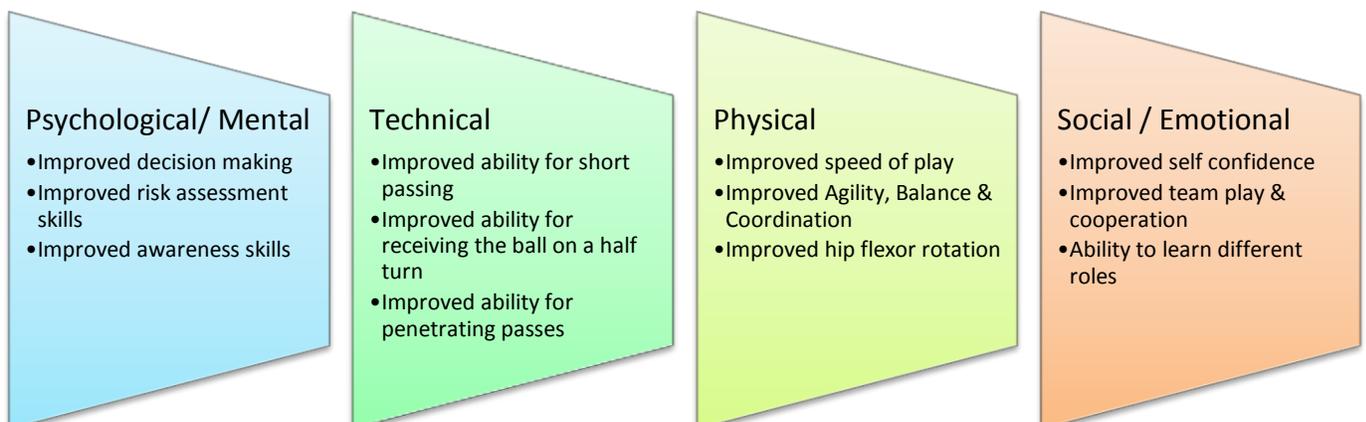
By introducing a retreat line the belief is the game will become more rewarding, by promoting a style of play where the quality of passing combined with good decision making results in a learning environment that constantly challenges each player.

All players on the field should be comfortable in possession of the ball during game situations and able to progress and penetrate through all the thirds of the field to provide goal-scoring opportunities.

The world of soccer is evolving and Canadian youth must also evolve with the game. The modern game now evolves around maintaining possession of the ball, with controlled, precise build up starting from the goalkeeper. Players must understand the right time to play forward and/or backwards.

To enable youth players to play this style of soccer they must learn to play through the thirds of the field and have the ability to maintain possession throughout the whole field while under pressure. Every player on the field must become comfortable in possession of the ball, as possession based soccer should become their default style of play

### Outcomes:



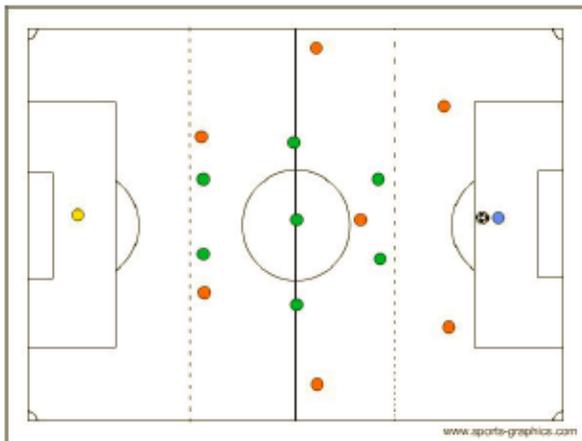
## Retreat Line Procedure:

The Retreat line comes into play when the ball has gone out for a goal kick. All opposing players will retreat to flags indicating the attacking 3rd zone and cannot pursue the ball until:

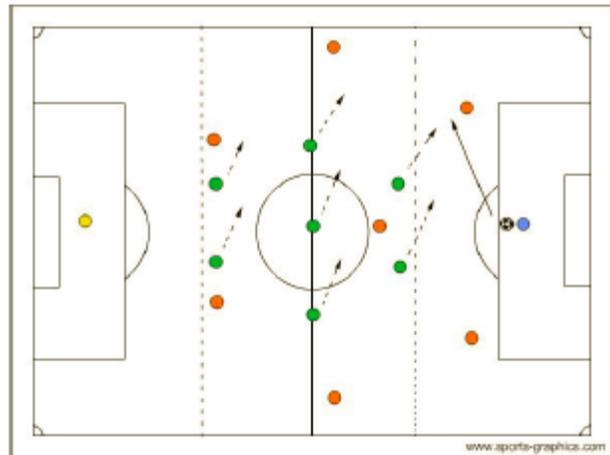
- The ball is received by a teammate OR,
- The ball travels over the retreat line OR,
- The ball leaves the field of play

If a team chooses to play quickly, they can. The ball will be in play as soon as it leaves the penalty area regardless of the opposing team's position.

If a player passes the retreat line before the ball is deemed in play, then the goal kick will be retaken. If the opposing team repeatedly infringes the retreat line, an indirect free kick shall be awarded from the place where the offence occurred for not respecting the restart.



**On a goal kick, players move behind the retreat line, forming a good compact shape.**



**On players first touch, the defending team can cross the line and pressure the ball.**

### **Making the Right decision:**

At times the correct pass is a long one, players need to recognize the positions of the opposing team and act accordingly. If there is the opportunity to play quickly to create a counter attack, it should be encouraged!

This supports the development of decision making for young players and the speed of their distribution.

### **Summary:**

This is a new initiative to help young players. It will take time for players, coaches, officials and parents to adapt to something new and UISA appreciates your support.