



Retreat Line information

Options for Goalkeepers - 5v5/7v7/9v9

How the retreat line is implemented.

When the goalkeeper has the ball at a goal kick or after making a save the opposing team members would "retreat" to the predetermined area of the field. The predetermined areas are as follows:

- 5v5 - Half way line. It is recommended the goalkeeper does not drop kick the ball
- 7v7 - Half way line
- 9v9 - Half way line or a 1/3rds line. This is dependent on the sizing of the field. For the larger 9v9 fields use a 1/3rds line. For the smaller 9v9 fields use the half way line. The host club or organization should communicate with game officials and coaches where the retreat line will be, as clearly indicated in the rules of the competition.

With the opposition retreating to the correct part of the field the goalkeeper can now successfully throw or pass the ball to a team mate. Once the player receiving the ball from the goalkeeper receives the ball, the ball is in play and the opposition players can pressure and attempt to win the ball.

If the goalkeeper chooses not to wait for the opposing players to "retreat" and throws or passes the ball down the field, the ball is instantly in play and does not require a player from the goalkeeper's team to touch the ball first.

The ball is in play once it leaves the penalty area (7v7/9v9) All opponents must be behind the retreat line and cannot cross the retreat line until the ball:

- Is touched by a player of the team taking the goal kick **OR**,
- Leaves the field of play **OR**,
- Goes over the retreat line. (If the goalkeeper chooses to play the ball across the retreat line prior to the opposition crossing the retreat line)

For more information on the retreat line complete with diagrams please take a look at The Ontario Soccer Association publication, Field Organization Guide. It's available to view/ download at;

<http://www.ontariosoccer.net/Portals/11/LTPD/Field%20Organization%20Guide%20-%20FINAL%20-%20revised.pdf>

Or listen to a retreat line podcast at;

<https://soundcloud.com/alanjgould/retreat-line-explained>