



***BC SOCCER***

## **Under 13 Retreat Line Guidelines**

June 2016

## Introduction

The Retreat Line is a development tool that assists with the development of players, technically and as a team, tactically. It is currently implemented within all Small-sided Under 12 and below playing environments and the following documentation provides the guidelines for implementation into the Under 13 age group playing environments throughout the BC Soccer Membership.

## Set up of the Retreat Line within the Laws of the Game

### Law 1: Field of Play

The length of the touchline must be greater than the length of the goal line.

Length (touch line):

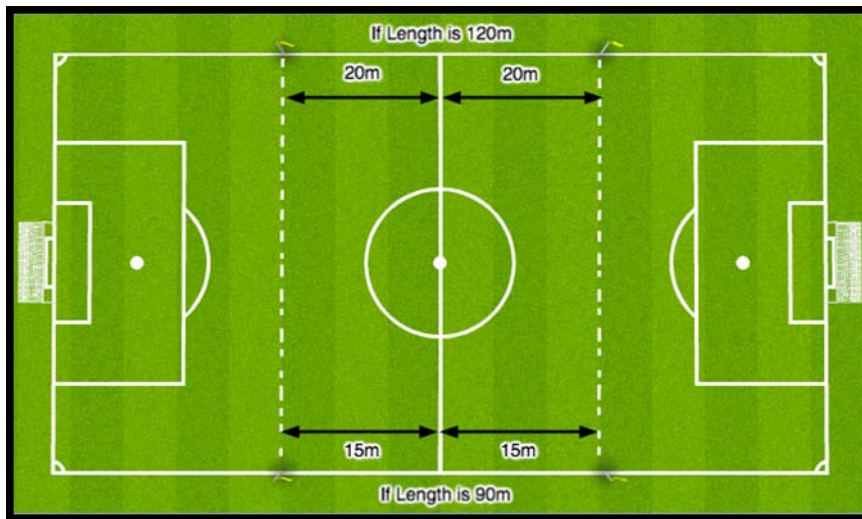
- Minimum 90 m \* maximum 120 m

Length (Attacking 3rd for Retreat Line)

- Minimum 15 m (both sides of half) \* maximum 20 m (both sides of half)

Width (goal line):

- Minimum 45 m \* maximum 90 m



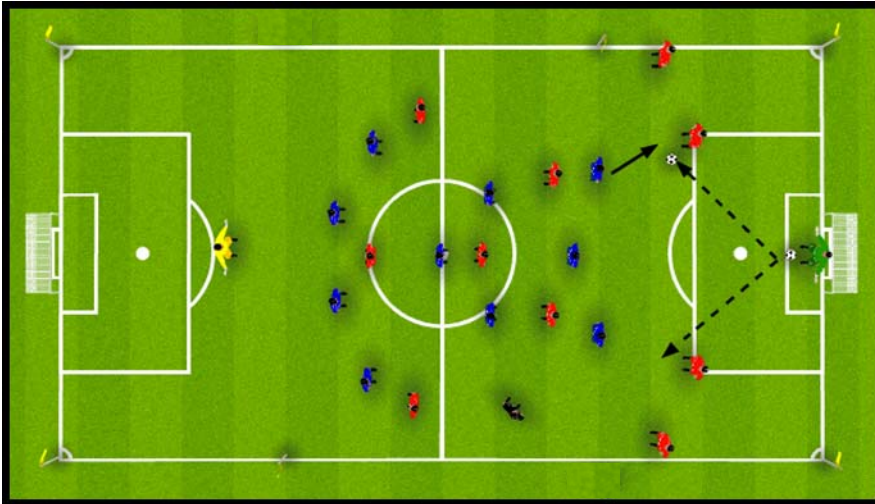
Equipment to be used:

Corner Flag or Disc Cone



The above equipment is to be used to mark the Retreat Line

Retreat line markers are to be placed 1m off of the touchline



### **Retreat Line Procedure - U13**

During a goal kick (Law 16), the opposing team retreats to the middle third of the field and may not pressure the ball until:

- A teammate receives a pass from the Goalkeeper.
- A long pass goes directly into the middle third of the field.
- The ball leaves the field of play

This is to help the goalkeeper learn to play out from the back.

However, if a team wants to play quickly they can; the ball is in play as soon as it leaves the penalty area regardless of the defending team's position. If a 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.

### **Encroachment of retreat line:**

If the defending team encroaches across the retreat line before a teammate receives a pass, the referee will stop the play and the goal kick will be retaken.

If the opposing team repeatedly encroaches the retreat line, then an indirect free kick shall be awarded from the place where the offence occurred for not respecting the restart of play.

### **Making the Right Decision:**

A team is allowed to take the goal kick even if the opposing players are not behind the retreat line; however, if the team choose to do so, then the ball is in play as soon as it leaves the penalty area regardless of the opposing team's position.

### **Development Benefits of the Retreat Line**

- The use of the retreat line for Under 13 players transitioning to eleven-a-side soccer increases the number of passing sequences and frequency of the ball advancing beyond the middle third from a goal kick.
- The space generated by the retreat line allows players to practice appropriate dispersal, which enables supporting movement into channels to help advance the ball out of the defensive and middle thirds of the field. Also the space provides opportunities for goalkeepers to be more involved and practice their distribution.
- The time generated by the retreat line allows attacking team players the opportunity to receive and play the ball into their teammates, which allows for players to repeatedly receive the ball with less pressure, that enhances the opportunity of three or more passes.