



## California North – District VI

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To all District VI Instructors:

As the District VI Director of Instruction it is my duty and responsibility to interpret for this District, with guidance from the State Director of Instruction and USSF, the laws and procedures of USSF and disseminate those interpretations to all concerns, including instructors, assessors, assignors, etc., on down to the players. It is to one of these interpretations that this memorandum addresses; that is, the new FIFA Law changes to Law 11, Offside.

According to my sources, from the SDI to personal contacts higher up, my interpretation of the change in Law 11 concerning interfering with play is that **there is no change that affects referees doing USSF sanctioned games from previous years.** USSF has had the “wait and see” policy for several years in deciding if a player should be penalized for being in an offside position. The FIFA changes simply addresses that in their change for the benefit of the rest of the world.

If a player is in an offside position he/she can only be penalized for being in that position if he/she either:

Interferes with play, or

Interferes with an opponent, or

Gains an advantage simply by being in an offside position

The change refers only to the first situation. Interfering with play simply means playing the ball but it also means having a reasonable chance to play the ball or a reasonable chance to benefit from an error by his/her opponent. **If the chances of the latter two are reasonable, then raise the flag. Don't wait until contact with ball is made.** It may create situations that are difficult to manage such as charging the keeper or injury to the players.

It is our duty to keep our fellow soccer officials not only informed but correctly informed. This memorandum formally advises the interpretation of the Offside Law that **is to be implemented in this district by all referees officiating in this district.** This statement has not been generated out of arrogance on my part but of responsibility backed with investigation and statements made by higher ups. USSF expects all referees to comply.

This document may be copied and used as the official interpretation of this District. If there are any unanswered questions, please feel free to call me at 916-725-0886.

Yours in Soccer,

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Tom Starr  
District VI Director of Instruction