

Illustrative examples to assist with the interpretation of the additional guidance

Summary

The International FA Board (IFAB) Technical Sub Committee has provided *additional guidance* re Law 11 – Offside, with specific relevance to the practical interpretation of interfering with an opponent.

The two additional bullet points do not constitute a change in the Laws of the Game, but aim to provide greater clarity for the interpretation of interfering with an opponent.

It is important to note that the current interpretation of offside for Interfering with Play, Interfering with an Opponent, and Gaining Advantage from being in that position remain unchanged, and as such the *additional guidance* contained in the two additional bullet points is an addition to current practice.

Additional guidance

A player in an **offside position** shall be penalised if he:

- **clearly attempts to play a ball** which is **close** to him **when this action impacts on an opponent**

or

- makes an **obvious action** which **clearly impacts** on **the ability of an opponent to play the ball**

Useful definitions

In addition to the two additional bullet points for interfering with an opponent, the following working definitions have been provided:

- **‘clearly attempts’** – *this wording is designed to prevent a player in an offside position who runs towards the ball from quite a long distance being penalised (unless he gets close to the ball)*
- **‘close’** is important so that a player in an offside position is not penalised when the ball goes **clearly** over his head or **clearly** in front of him
- **‘impact’** applies to an opponent’s ability (or potential) to play the ball and will include situations where an opponent’s movement to play the ball is delayed, hindered or prevented by the offside player

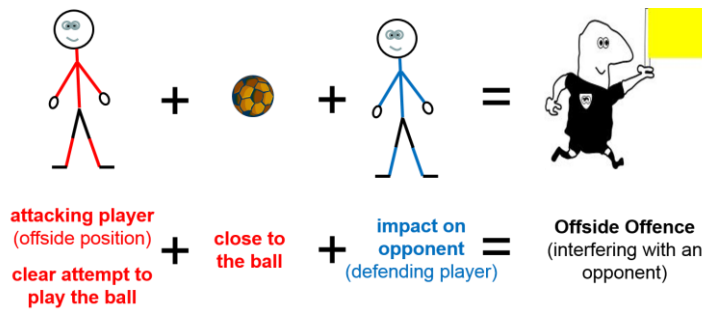
However, just because someone is an offside position it does not always mean that they are having an impact. e.g:

- *if the ball is on the right-hand side of the field and an ‘offside’ player in the centre of the field moves into a new attacking position he is not penalised unless this action affects an opponent’s ability to play the ball*
- *where a player tries to play the ball as it is going into the goal without affecting an opponent, or situations where there is no opposition player near, he should not be penalised*

Bullet Point 1 - decision making process

A player in an **offside position** shall be penalised if he:

- **clearly attempts to play a ball** which is **close** to him **when this action impacts on an opponent**



It is important to remember that **ALL three elements** are **required** before the criteria for an **offside offence** is satisfied.

General Principles:

- Judgment should be based on the **physical evidence** i.e. **movement** and **actions** of the player in an offside position
and,
- Attacking players who clearly 'benefit' from being in an offside position by clearly impacting on an opponent should be penalised

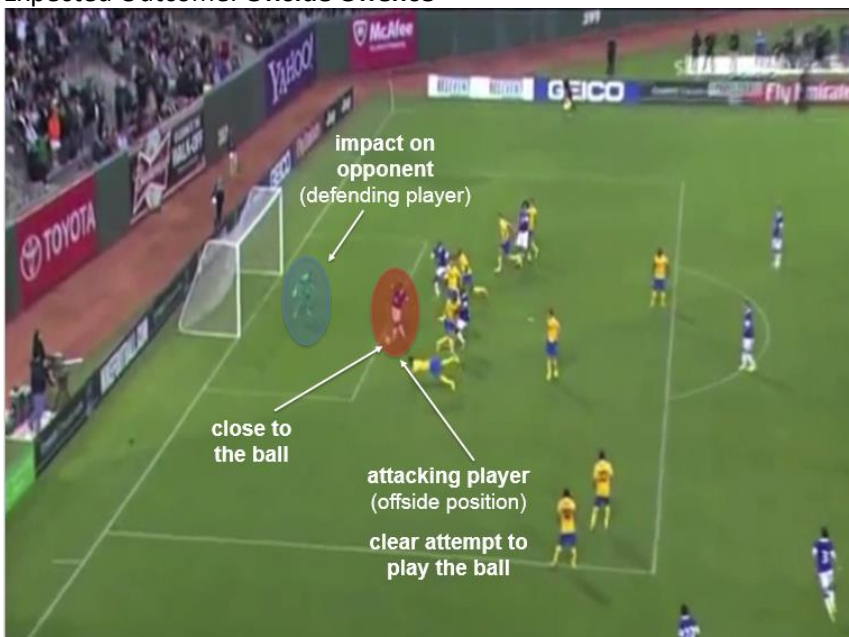
Bullet Point 1 - Illustrative Examples

Everton v Juventus

Clear attempt to play the ball by Blue attacking player in offside position (*stretches with left leg in an attempt to play the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, but the ball is **close** to the Blue attacking player.

Blue attacking player's actions **impact** on an opponent, in this case the goalkeeper (*goalkeeper needs to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**

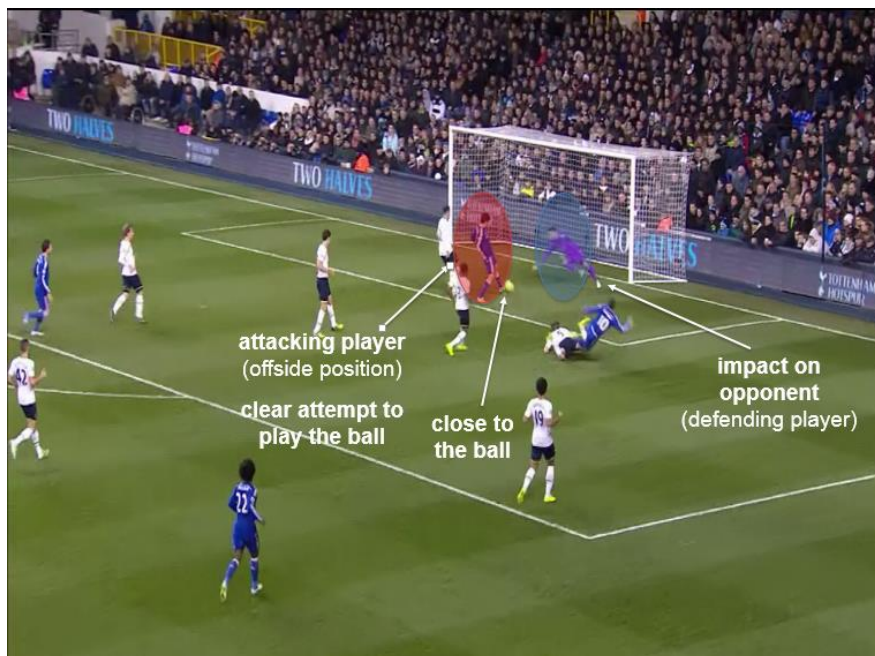


Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea

Clear attempt to play the ball by Blue19 (*stretches with left leg in an attempt to play the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, but the ball is **close** to Blue19.

Blue19's actions **impact** on an opponent, in this case the goalkeeper (*goalkeeper needs to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**

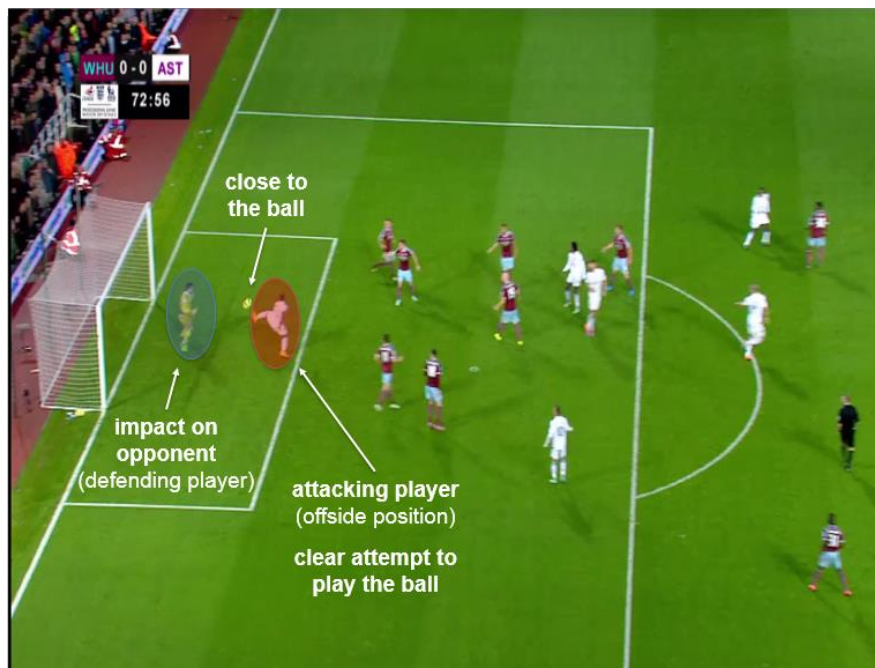


West Ham United v Aston Villa

Clear attempt to play the ball by White11 (*stretches with left leg in an attempt to play the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, but the ball is **close** to White11.

White11's actions **impact** on an opponent, in this case the goalkeeper (*goalkeeper needs to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**

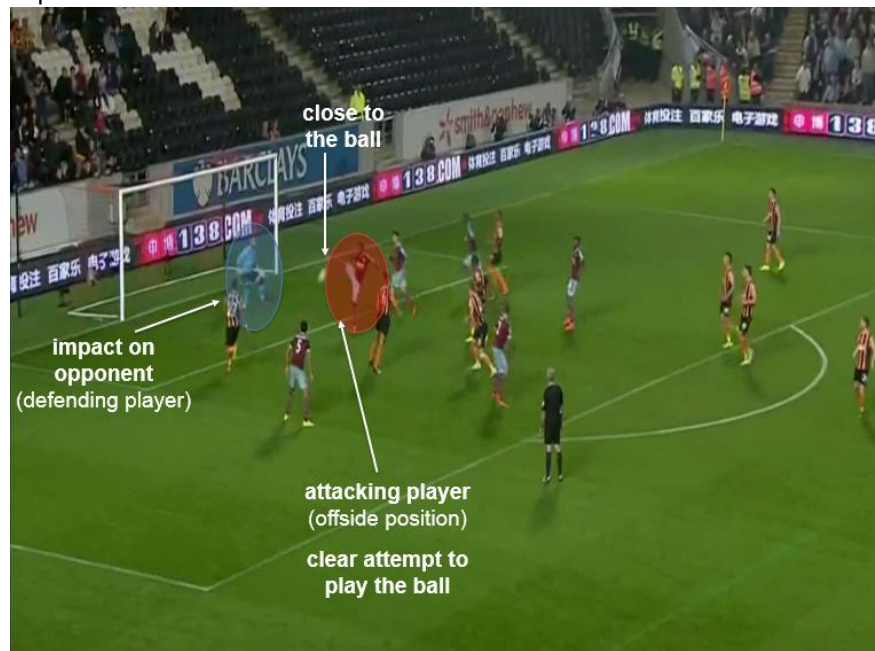


Hull City v West Ham United

Clear attempt to play the ball by Claret31 (*stretches with right leg in an attempt to play the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, but the ball is **close** to Claret31.

Claret31's actions **impact** on an opponent, in this case the goalkeeper (*goalkeeper needs to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**



Sunderland v Arsenal

Clear attempt to play the ball by Red/White4 (*jumps to make a clear attempt to play the ball with his head*), no contact is made with the ball, but the ball is **close** to Red/White4.

Red/White4's actions **impact** on an opponent, in this case the goalkeeper (*goalkeeper needs to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**



Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley

No clear attempt to play the ball is made by White23 (*remains stationary as ball passes him*), no contact is made with the ball, but the ball is **close** to White23.

As there is **no clear attempt to play the ball**, no judgment is needed as to whether or not White23's actions impact on an opponent, in this case they **do not impact** on an opponent (*White23 does not prevent any opponent having the opportunity to play the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **No Offside Offence** (play continues, valid goal)

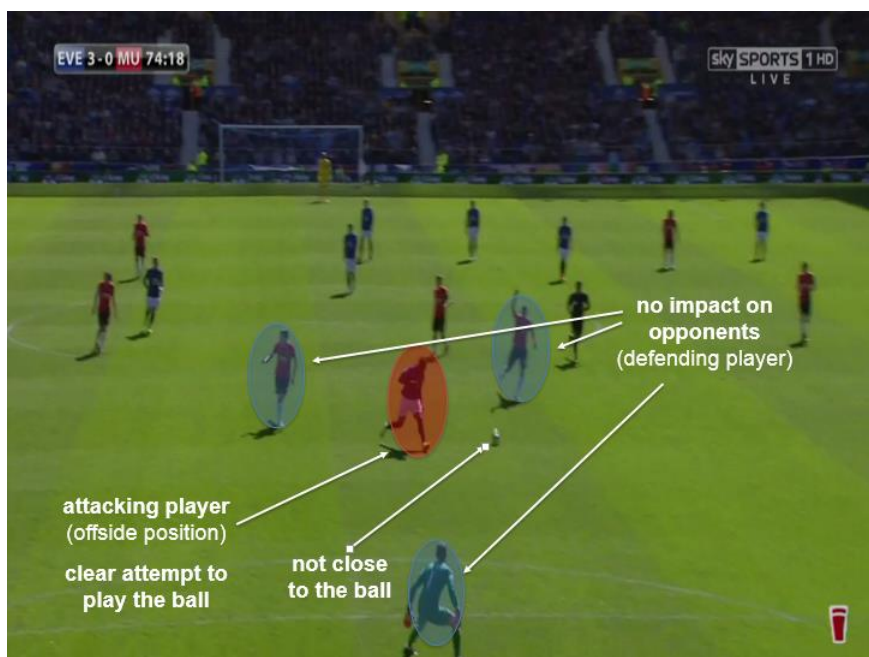


Everton v Manchester United

No clear attempt to play the ball is made by Blue10 (*whilst he moves towards the ball, there is no clear attempt to play the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, and Blue10 is **not close** to the ball (*it is clearly in front of him*).

As there is **no clear attempt to play the ball**, no judgment is needed as to whether or not Blue10's actions impact on an opponent, in this case they **do not impact** on an opponent (*Blue10 does not prevent any opponent having the opportunity to play the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **No Offside Offence** (play continues, valid goal)

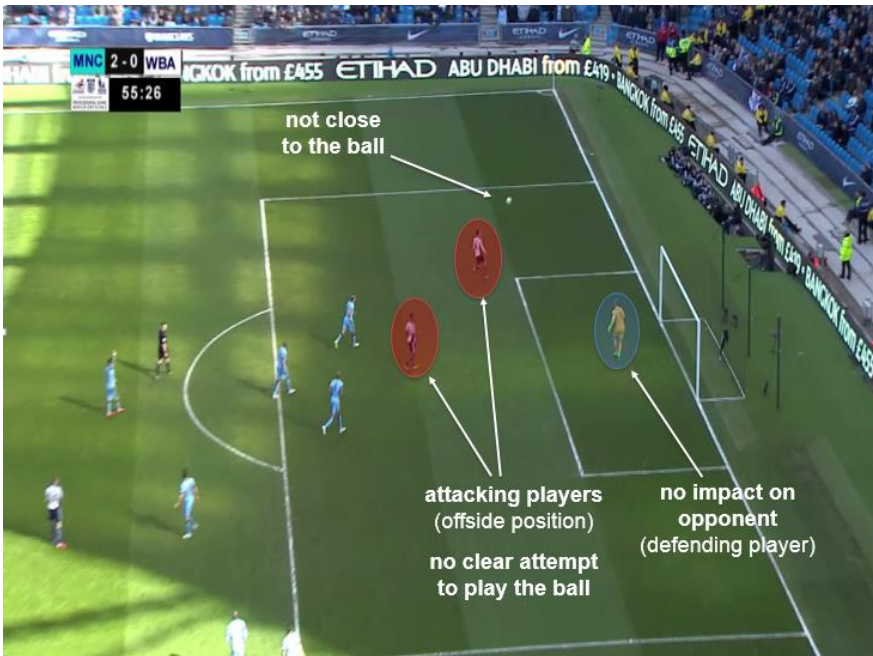


Manchester City v West Bromwich Albion

No clear attempt to play the ball is made by either White8 or White18 (*whilst White8 moves towards the ball, there is no clear attempt to play the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, and White8 is **not close** to the ball (*it is clearly in front of him*).

As there is **no clear attempt to play the ball**, no judgment is needed as to whether or not White8's actions impact on an opponent, in this case they **do not impact** on an opponent (*White8 does not prevent any opponent having the opportunity to play the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **No Offside Offence** (play continues)

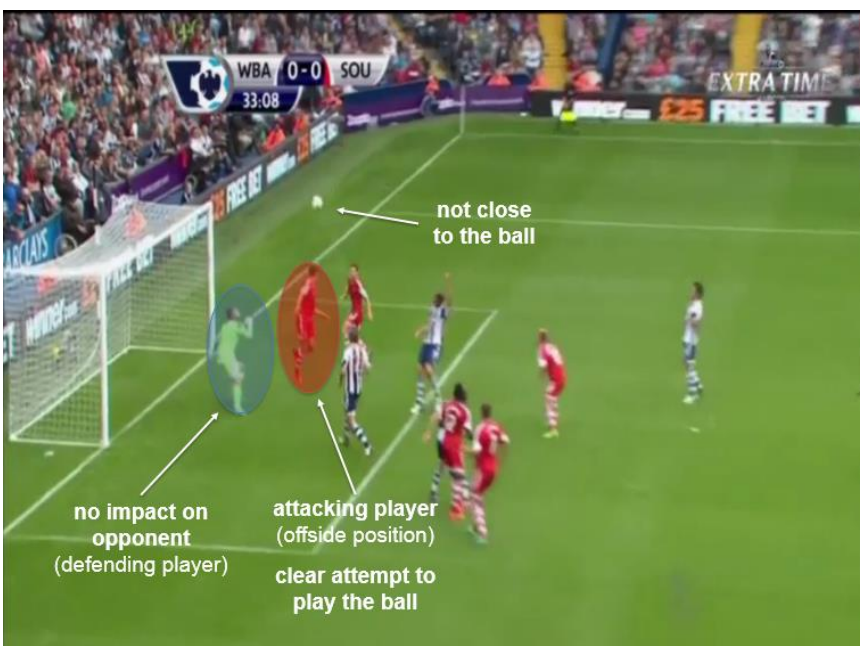


West Bromwich Albion v Southampton

Clear attempt to play the ball is made by Red9 (*jumps to make a clear attempt to play the ball with his head*), no contact is made with the ball, and the ball is **not close** to Red9 (*the ball goes clearly over his head*).

Red9's actions **do not impact** on an opponent (*Red9 does not prevent any opponent having the opportunity to play the ball, the goalkeeper has a clear sight of the path of the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **No Offside Offence** (play continues, valid goal)

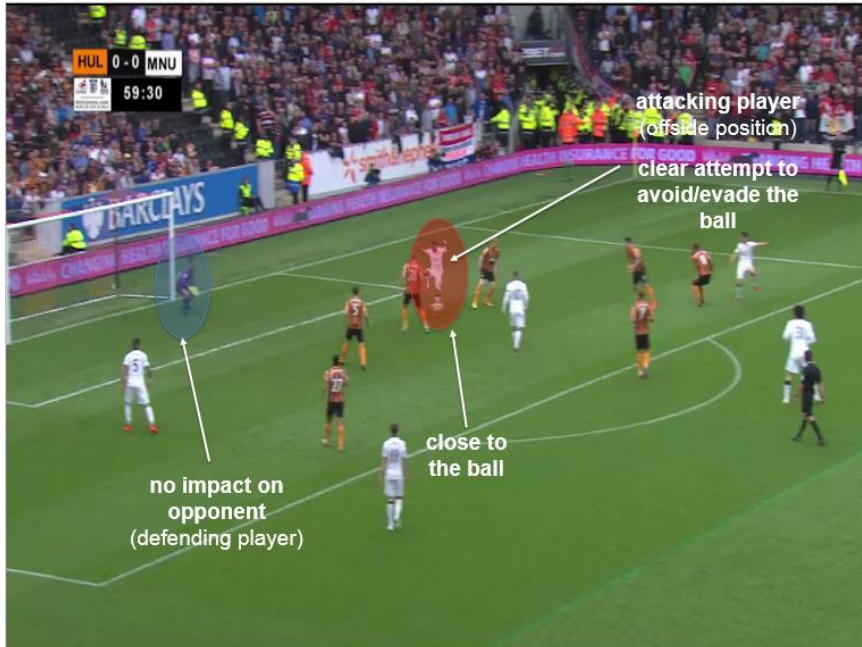


Hull City v Manchester United

No clear attempt to play the ball is made by White8 (*jumps to clearly avoid/evade the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, but White8 is **close** to the ball.

White8's actions **do not impact** on an opponent (*goalkeeper has a clear sight of the ball, so does not need to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **No Offside Offence** (play continues)



Doncaster Rovers v Rochdale

No clear attempt to play the ball is made by Red/White4 (*Red/White4 clearly moves to avoid/evade the ball*), no contact is made with the ball, but Red/White4 is **close** to the ball.

Red/White4's actions **do not impact** on an opponent (*goalkeeper's ability to play the ball are not impacted upon by Red/White4 given the distance he is from the goalkeeper*).

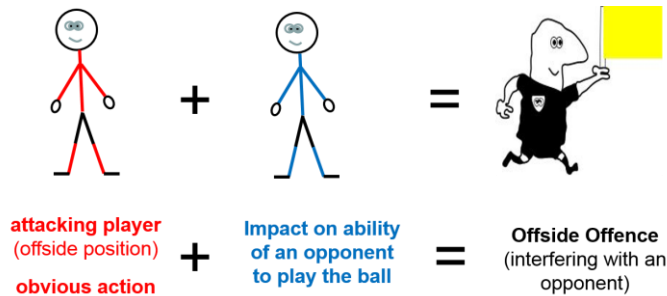
Expected Outcome: **No Offside Offence** (play continues, valid goal)



Bullet Point 2 - decision making process

A player in an **offside position** shall be penalised if he:

- makes an **obvious action** which **clearly impacts** on **the ability of an opponent to play the ball**



General Principles, to **impact the ability of an opponent to play the ball**:

- the attacking player in an offside position must make an **obvious action** (the action must be *obvious* but does not need to be deliberate)
- the opponent would *usually* have a clear view of the attacking player in an offside position
- the opponent would need to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball
- the opponent's movement or ball playing options are clearly restricted by the physical movement and/or actions of the attacking player in an offside position

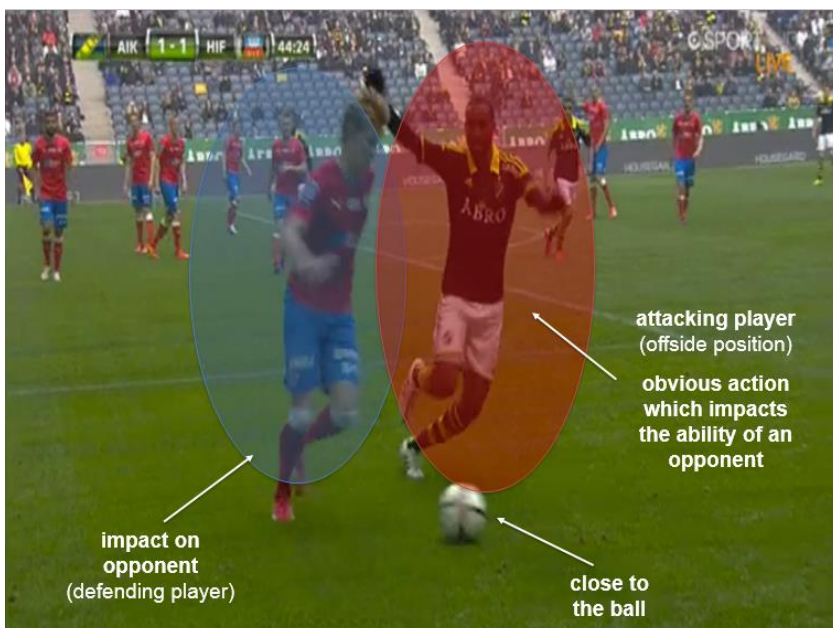
Bullet Point 2 - Illustrative Examples

AIK v Helsingborg

Clear obvious action by Black8 (clear movement to 'close down' the opponent).

Black8's actions **clearly impact** on an opponent (restricting ball playing options of the opponent, Red15).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**



QPR v Crystal Palace

Clear obvious action by Yellow11 (*clear movement to 'close down' the opponent*).

Yellow11's actions **clearly impact** on an opponent (*restricting ball playing options of the opponent, Blue/White14*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**

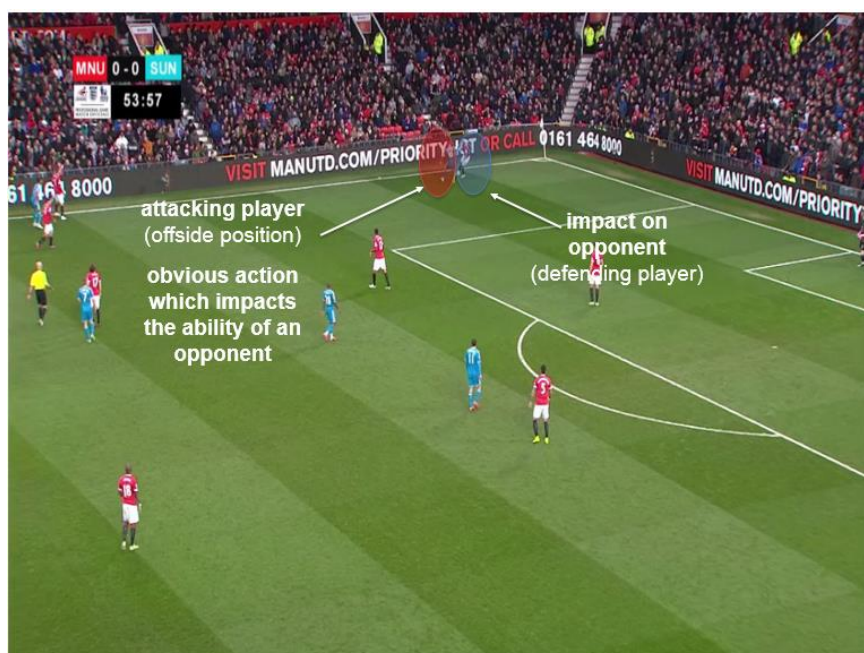


Manchester United v Sunderland

Clear obvious action by Blue10 (*clear movement to 'close down' the opponent*).

Blue10's actions **clearly impact** on an opponent (*restricting ball playing options of the opponent, Red25*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**

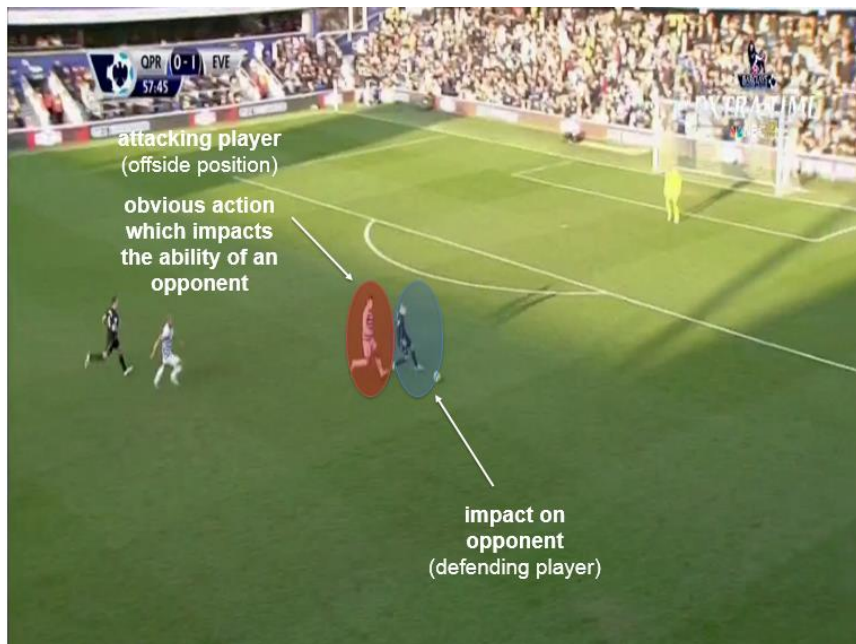


QPR v Everton

Clear obvious action by Blue/White14 (*clear movement to 'close down' the opponent*).

Blue/White14's actions **clearly impact** on an opponent (*restricting ball playing options of the opponent, Black16*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**



CSKA Moscow v Arsenal

Clear obvious action by Red88 (*clear movement into the anticipated 'dropping zone' of the ball*).

Red88's **do not impact** on an opponent (*White4's ability to play the ball is not impacted upon by Red88. White4 does not need to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball. White4's movement or ball playing options are not clearly restricted by the physical movement and/or actions of Red88*).

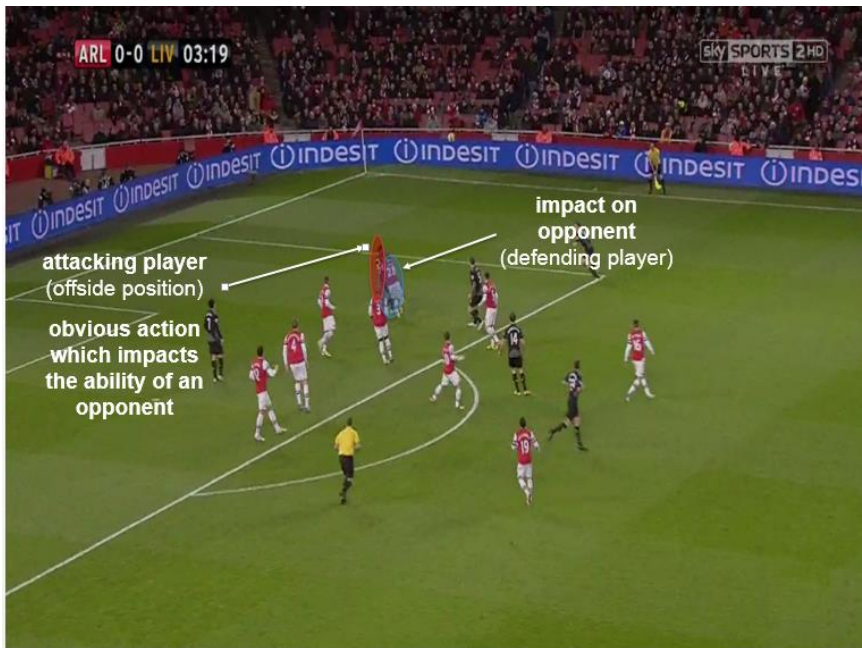
Expected Outcome: **No Offside Offence** (play continues, valid goal)



Arsenal v Liverpool

Clear obvious action by Black15 that **clearly impacts** on an opponent (*the normal contact by Black15 hinders Red28's movement and therefore impacts on his ability to play the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**



Preston North End v Manchester United

Clear obvious action by Red10 (*moves away from the path of the ball to avoid contact with the ball*).

Red10's actions **clearly impact** on an opponent (*goalkeeper needs to delay his action to wait and see if the attacking player in an offside position touches/plays the ball*).

Expected Outcome: **Offside Offence**



This situation demonstrates the **difficulty** that the assistant referee and referee may well face when making a 'real time' judgement as to whether or not an attacking player in an offside position has had an 'impact' on the ability of an opponent to play the ball.

On balance, in this situation, the **obvious action** of Red10 is considered to have **impacted** on the goalkeeper's ability to play the ball.

In practice, the refereeing team need to determine whether an **obvious action** has a **clear impact** on an **opponent's ability to play the ball**. It is only when **both elements** are satisfied that an **offside offence** should be penalised.

In principle:

The **closer** that the **attacking player** in an offside position making an **obvious action** is to an **opponent**, the **greater** the **likelihood** of him **clearly impacting** the ability of an opponent to play the ball.

Conclusion

The illustrative clips are intended to provide a guide to the principles and practical application of both additional bullet points. It is important to remember that the two bullet points in the *additional guidance* from IFAB are separate.