

Date _____

LAW 11 • WATCH THE LINE

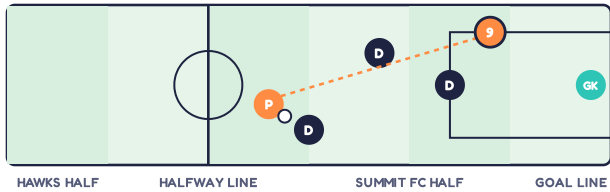
Offside Close Reading · Page 1 of 3

A Make the Call

Each diagram freezes the moment the passer plays the ball to #9, who then plays it. Use paragraph 1 to make the call.

● Harbor Hawks, attacking the goal on the right ● D = Summit FC defender ● GK = Summit FC goalkeeper P = passer with the ball · 9 = Hawks #9, who receives the pass

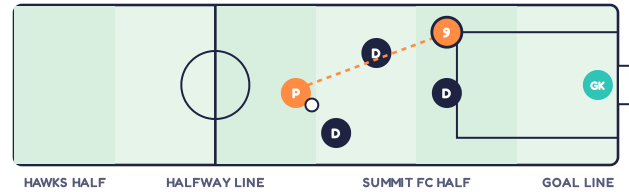
1 Diagram 1. Hawks #9 runs onto the pass.



Circle: **ONSIDE / OFFSIDE**

Why? _____

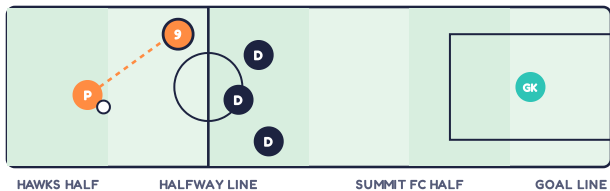
2 Diagram 2. Hawks #9 is even with the defender nearest her.



Circle: **ONSIDE / OFFSIDE**

Why? _____

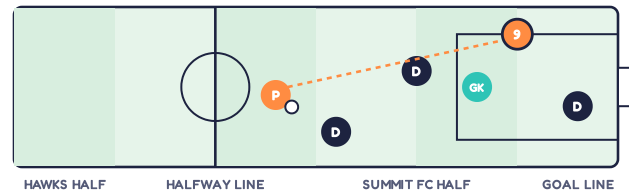
3 Diagram 3. Hawks #9 starts in her own half, then sprints past everyone.



Circle: **ONSIDE / OFFSIDE**

Why? _____

4 Diagram 4. The goalkeeper has rushed out. A defender covers the goal line.



Circle: **ONSIDE / OFFSIDE**

Why? _____

B Context Clue Words

Write the word or phrase from the bank that matches each meaning. Use clues in the article. One is not used.

Word bank: level · indirect free kick · interfering · formation · halfway line

1 exactly even with another player, the same distance from the goal line
Word _____

3 an arrangement of where a team's players line up on the field
Word _____

2 getting in an opponent's way, such as blocking the goalkeeper's view
Word _____

4 the restart given to the other team after an offside offense
Word _____

C Timeline & Evidence

Put the events in order, then back up the author's claim with a detail from the text.

1 Write the letters from earliest to latest.

A VAR is used at a men's World Cup for the first time.

B The IFAB lowers the number of opponents needed from three to two.

C An attacker level with the second-last opponent is ruled onside.

D Semi-automated offside technology helps officials in Qatar.

E Football League goals jump to 6,373 in one season.

FIRST	2ND	3RD	4TH	LAST

Use each letter once.

2 Paragraph 5 says, "Later changes also favored attackers." Give **one detail** from paragraph 5 that supports this claim.

BONUS · YOUR TURN

Pick one rule from any sport you would change. Finish this cause-and-effect sentence: **If we changed** _____, **then** _____, **because** _____.

1 _____

2 _____

Answer Key (for teachers & parents)

Answers for **Offside Close Reading**, with sample wording where answers may vary. Print pages 1 and 2 for students, and keep this page for checking. For evidence questions, accept a quote or a close paraphrase from the named paragraph. Article facts come from the IFAB Laws of the Game (Law 11), Football League records and FIFA.

Page 1 Problems

- Answer: **Hands and arms**
Paragraph 1: "Hands and arms do not count."
- Answer: **The group that writes soccer's laws**
The appositive right after the name defines it.
- Answer: **B (punished)**
Clue: "The punishment is an indirect free kick."
- Answer: **3 opponents**
Paragraph 3: "an attacker needed three opponents."
- Answer: **1,673 goals**
 $6,373 - 4,700 = 1,673$.
- Answer: **B**
A and D are false. C is false too: paragraph 3 shows the rule existed before 1925. B covers the whole article.
- Answer: **More goals were scored (or: new formations)**
Evidence: goals went from 4,700 to 6,373 in the same 1,848 games.
- Answer: **No**
"There is no offside offense when a player receives the ball directly from a goal kick, a corner kick or a throw-in."

A · Make the Call

- Answer: **Offside**
#9 is in the Summit half, past the ball and past the second-last opponent (the D nearest the line, with the GK last).
- Answer: **Onside**
Level with the second-last opponent counts as onside (the 1990 change in paragraph 5).
- Answer: **Onside**
#9 was in her own half when the ball was played. Running past defenders afterward does not matter.
- Answer: **Offside**
The defender on the goal line is the last opponent, so the GK is the second-last. #9 is past the GK and the ball.

Quick score

Page 1 problems	_____ / 8
A · Make the Call	_____ / 4
B · Context Clue Words	_____ / 4
C · Timeline & Evidence	_____ / 2
Total	_____ / 18

Skills practiced

Informational text
Context clues
Central idea
Text evidence

Cause & effect
Sequencing
Applying a rule

Teaching tip: Before Section A, have students underline the two things #9 must be nearer the goal line than: the ball and the second-last opponent. Diagram 4 catches most students, since the second-last opponent can be the goalkeeper. **Bonus:** check for a clear cause, effect and reason.

B · Context Clue Words

- Answer: **level**
 - Answer: **interfering**
 - Answer: **formation**
 - Answer: **indirect free kick**
- Not used: halfway line

C · Timeline & Evidence

- Answer: **B, E, C, A, D**
1925 vote, 1925–26 goals, 1990 level rule, 2018 VAR, 2022 Qatar.
- Answer: **Answers vary**
Level with the second-last opponent became onside in 1990. Accept a technology detail only if tied to fairer calls.