



Retreat Line information – Revised August 30, 2017.

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

How the retreat line is implemented.

When the goalkeeper has the ball in their possession at a goal kick, after making a save or when the ball is in their hands, 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 – 1/3rds line.
- 9v9 - 1/3rds line.

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 touches 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 releases the ball from their hands to their feet or throws/passes the ball down the field, the ball is instantly in play.

Opponents must be behind the retreat line and cannot cross the retreat line until the ball:

- Is touched by a player of the team receiving the GK's distribution
- Leaves the field of play
- Crosses the retreat line. (If the goalkeeper chooses to play the ball across the retreat line prior to the opposition crossing the retreat line)
- Is released by the GK's hands to allow distribution with their feet (drops the ball to pass/dribble with their feet)

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

<http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0112/8119/1901-Field-Organization-Guide.pdf>

For questions relating to the Retreat Line, please contact Ontario Soccer's Player Development Team

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