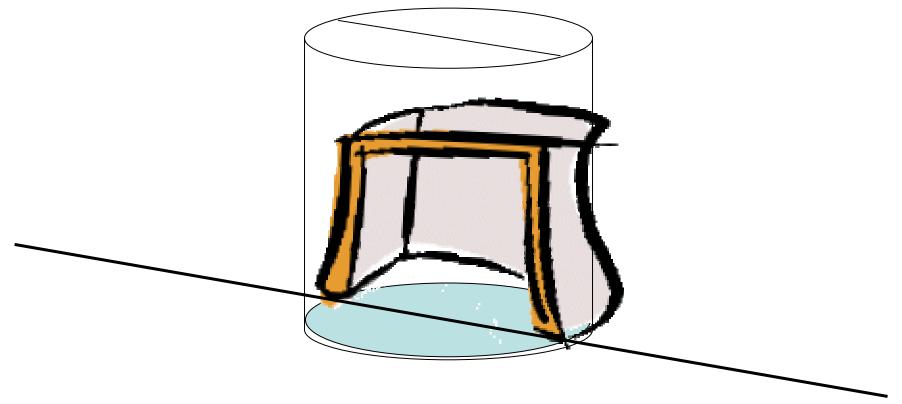
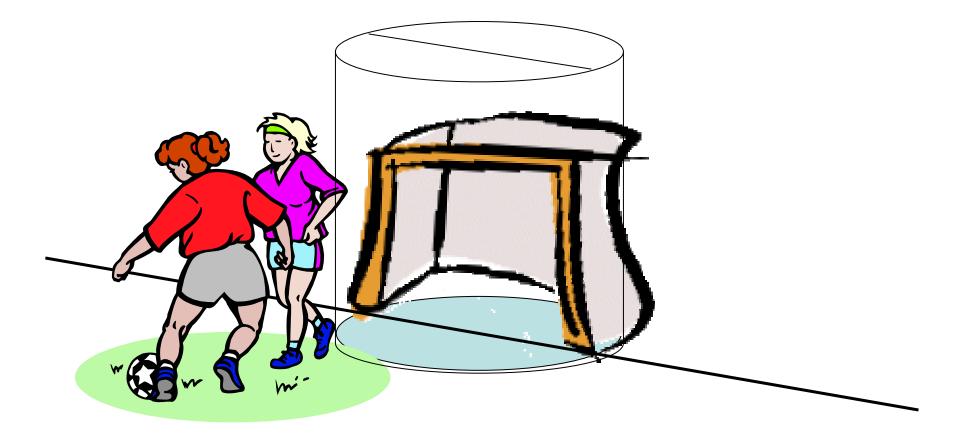


Goal Arc: There is no ball contact allowed within the goal arc. A player touching the arc or is inside the arc becomes (his/her body) an extension of the arc. If a player has one foot inside the arc and touches a ball outside the arc with the other foot, the arc is "extended" to the player's other foot thus creating an arc violation. The plane of the arc extends upward, thus a player can violate the plane of the arc with the upper body as well.

Any player may enter the arc, stand inside the arc, and pass through the arc as long as there is no contact with the ball while inside the arc. If the ball comes to rest in the arc, a goal kick is awarded regardless of who touched the ball last. If a defender touches the ball in the arc, a goal is awarded to the offensive team. If an offensive player touches the ball within the arc, a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team. Once the ball has broken the plane of the arc, if the ball is touched by the defensive team, a goal will be awarded. If the offensive player touches the ball after the ball has broken the plane, a goal kick will be awarded.



The arc is a half circle that is drawn in front of the goal mouth. The reasoning behind the arc is to prevent a team from having a dedicated goalie that could allow a defensive player to back up into the goal and prevent scoring. The arc actually extends vertically upward to create a "half" cylinder, an area that has certain "rules" of play.



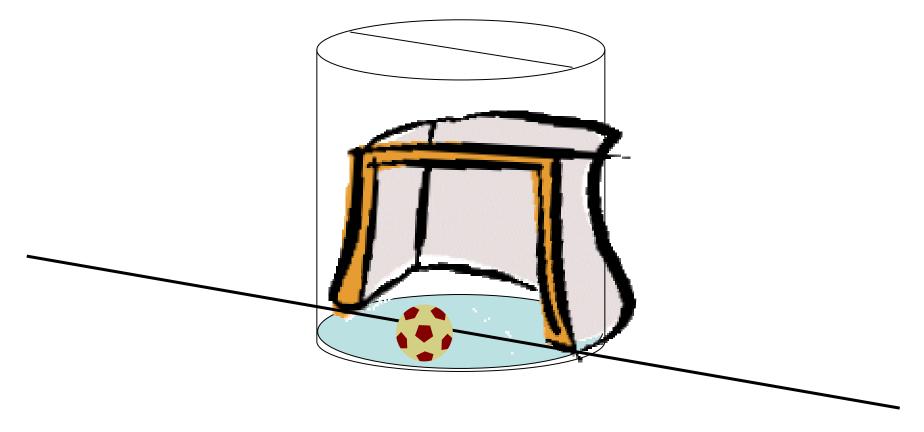
The rules of play for the arc "area" is different for the offensive player and the defensive player. Generally, neither player can "play" the ball while the player or the ball is inside the arc. The ball is considered inside the arc when the ball breaks the plane (on the ground or in the air) of the arc. When a player is inside the arc, the player's body become an extension of the arc.



Arc violation: a player makes contact with the ball outside the arc while standing in the arc. A player standing (a ½ inch or more) on the line of the arc is considered within the arc. A player whose foot may be slightly touching the arc line when making contact with the ball may or may not be called for a violation. This will be a referee decision (and decisions are final). An offensive player has much more visibility to see the arc and can avoid making contact with the arc while a defensive player backing up may not have as much visibility. Depending on the situation, the referee may choose to call or not to call the violation depending on the circumstances. For example, a defensive player slightly making contact with the arc ends up touching a ball that is not heading into the goal... this situation might be overlooked by the referee. A defensive arc violation, results in the awarding of a goal so we want to make sure the goal is deserved.



Arc violation: a player makes contact with the ball while the ball is MOVING within the arc or passing through the arc. If the ball is stopped in the arc, the ball is considered dead.



Dead ball: if the ball comes to rest inside the arc, the ball is considered dead and a goal kick is awarded to the defensive team. Goal kicks are taken on the end touch line.