



Futbol Club Emery

RETREAT LINE POLICY

Section:	Retreat Line Policy		
Effective Date:	2026	Date of Last Review:	Jan 1, 2026
Board Of Directors			

This policy aims to ensure implementation

- (1) all players follow Ontario Soccer Regulated grassroots standards
- (2) all players practice in OSA regulated standards

Who is this for?

- 1 Club Coaches
- 2 Technical Staff
- 3 Club Members

Why It Matters:

These standards are designed to provide a consistent, development-focused experience that ensures all players receive age-appropriate competition, rest, and opportunities to grow.

Purpose:

To explain the retreat line rule, when and how it is used, and why it is important for development

Key Standards:

- The retreat line is used in U9–U12 matches on goal kicks and goalkeeper possession

Active Start	Fundamentals		Learn to Train	
U4	U6-U7	U8-U9	U10-U11	U12-U13
Not Applicable	Halfway Line		One-Third	Not Applicable

- Opponents must retreat behind the designated line until the ball is in play.
- The ball is in play once it leaves the retreat line area or is touched by a teammate, Whichever happens first.

Halfway Retreat Line



One-Third Retreat Line



Implementation Tips:

- Use cones or field markings to indicate the retreat line.
- Educate players and parents on the purpose of the rule.
- Ensure referees enforce the rule consistently and clearly.
- Use the retreat line as a teaching moment to build confidence in possession.

Using the Retreat Line as a Teaching Moment

1. Building from the Back

- What to teach: Encourage defenders and goalkeepers to stay calm and make smart decisions under low pressure.
- How: Use the retreat line to create a safe zone where players can receive the ball, look up, and choose a pass rather than clearing it instinctively.

2. Decision-Making Under Pressure

- What to teach: Help players recognize when to pass short, dribble, or switch play.
- How: Once the ball is in play and opponents can press, players must quickly assess their options—this mimics real-game pressure in a controlled way.

3. Positional Awareness

- What to teach: Teach spacing, angles of support, and movement off the ball.
- How: Use the retreat line to show players where to position themselves to support the ball carrier and maintain team shape.

4. Confidence and Composure

- What to teach: Help young players feel confident receiving the ball near their own goal.
- How: Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that the retreat line gives them time to try new things without immediate pressure.

5. Goalkeeper Involvement

- What to teach: Encourage goalkeepers to be part of the play, not just shot-stoppers.
- How: Use the retreat line to give goalkeepers time to distribute the ball thoughtfully and communicate with teammates

Revision History	
Date:	Description:

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