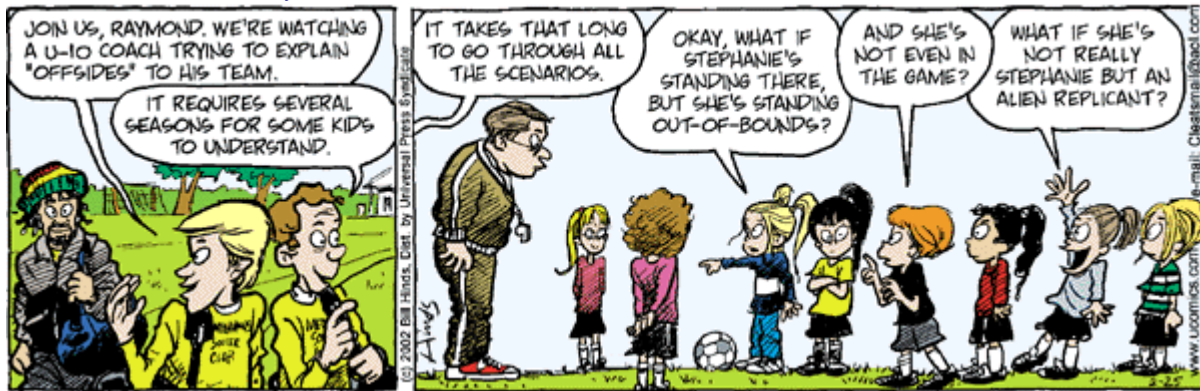


Dear soccer colleagues,

The main reason behind not having Law 11 enforced with the U10 and younger age groups is the ability of the players to understand the rule. Indeed most of the spectators do not really understand the rule either. Many of our parent/coaches across the nation do not understand the offside rule well enough to teach it to the players and their parents. Additionally, the U10 age group is the developing ground for young referees and they too are learning how to apply the law during a match. Furthermore, given the size of the field and the number of players on the field the game will flow better without Law 11. That some short-sighted coaches will park a player in the attacking third to "cherry-pick" is inappropriate to the growth of the players. Once the parents understand that their children are being shortchanged by such tactics they, along with league officials, will persuade these misguided coaches to change to a teaching approach with the long-term as well as the short-term development of the players in mind.

Coach Strickler's points below are well made and founded in practical experience. I am sure the he or one of his state staff coaches would be happy to spend some time with the coaches and club officials in question to explain further why it is in the players best interest to not have the offside rule in the U10 and younger age groups.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if the Coaching Education Department at US Youth Soccer can be of further assistance to you.



Sam Snow
Director of Coaching Education
US Youth Soccer
(800) 4SOCCER
www.usyouthsoccer.org