

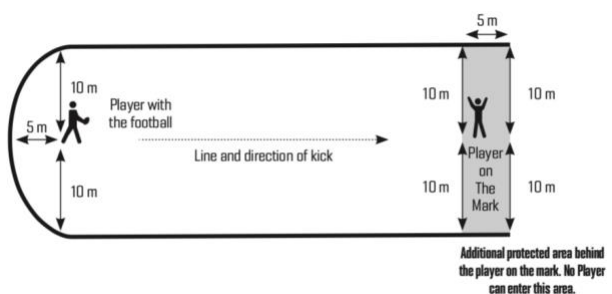
Player Standing The Mark

The defending Player will be permitted **zero** lateral movement on The Mark once the umpire has communicated 'Stand'. If the defending player moves off The Mark in **any** direction prior to 'Play On' being called, a 50-metre penalty shall apply. Once the umpire communicates 'Stand', the Player on The Mark is not permitted to be substituted.

Setting the Mark after a Behind has been scored

The Mark shall be set at 15 metres from the centre of the Kick Off Line (also known as the top of the Goal Square) towards the centre of the Playing Surface. This was previously set at 10 metres from the centre of the Kick Off Line. Where this is not marked on the Playing Surface, The Mark is to be set at 24m from the goal line towards the centre of the ground.


Frequently Asked Questions relating to Player Standing The Mark

Question	Answer
Is this rule intended to apply only to Marks or will it also apply to Free Kicks?	This rule will be adopted for all set kicks situations i.e., Marks and Free Kicks
If a player marks the ball with a defender 5 metres away (and behind where The Mark would be), the Player with the football chooses to immediately play on, can the defending player also immediately move?	If the player who marks the football shows no intent to stop, the umpire will immediately call 'play on' as usual. If the player marks the football and moves off the line of kick or shows intent to 'play on' then subsequently decides to stop, the umpire shall call 'play on' as the player has played on. Umpires must be alert to quick play on calls.
If the defending team chooses to not to have a player on The Mark but rather have a defending player standing behind The Mark, would this allow the defending player to move?	The defending team may choose not to put a player on The Mark. However, if they elect to do this, any defensive players needs to be outside of the Protected Area, which now includes an additional 5m area immediately behind The Mark as shown below. 
In the past we have often seen the defending player move back several metres behind The Mark and then run toward the mark as the player takes a shot on goal. Is this permitted under the new rule?	If a player is kicking for goal, the defending player will not be permitted to move backwards off The Mark to then move towards The Mark mark as the player is kicking for goal. The player standing the mark will only be allowed to move/jump up and down on the spot. Once the umpire calls 'Stand' the player on the mark is essentially fixed to that position.
A player of the the same team as the Player with the football enters the additional protected area behind the Player on The Mark. What should occur?	No other players (of either team) are permitted in the Protected Area. In the same way as if player of the same team enters the Protected Area currently, the umpire should re-set The Mark and clear out the additional Protected Area behind the Player on The Mark.
If more than one defender is in the marking contest, can the defending team choose which player they stands the mark?	The defending team chooses the person who stands The Mark. Once a player from the defending team has chosen to stand The Mark, the umpire will communicate 'Stand' and that player will no longer be able to move. All other players must make every endeavour to immediately vacate the Protected Area.

2021 Laws of the Game Changes & Interpretations



Frequently Asked Questions relating to Setting The Mark after a Behind has been scored

Question	Answer
<p>When bringing the football back into play after a Behind has been scored, does the Player on The Mark have to 'Stand'?</p>	<p>After a Behind has been scored, if a defending player takes up position on The Mark (15m out from the Kick Off Line towards the centre of the Playing Surface) the 'Stand' rule applies and that player must not move from The Mark until the umpires calls 'Play On'. However, if a defending player stands beyond the 15m point (i.e., 16m +), defensive players are permitted to move laterally as the 'Stand' rule does not apply in this situation.</p>
<p>When bringing the football back into play after a Behind has been scored, what is the Protected Area?</p>	<p>The Protected Area when bringing the ball back into play after a Behind has been scored will now be 15m from the Kick Off Line (otherwise known as the top of goal square). This area will extend to the behind posts, as shown below.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">This Protected Area is generally only applicable where a full sized field is used, however refer to your local By-Laws for accurate information</p>