

Soccer Source 360
Observation & Suggestions
Goalkeeper Distribution
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Observation: About 6 years ago, FIFA changed the laws regarding goalkeeper distribution. The goalkeeper no longer is restricted in the amount of steps they have, but is now under a time restraint. The law now states the goalkeeper must release the ball in 5 or 6 seconds. The only real difference we see in games is the goalkeepers almost always come out to the edge of the box to release the ball. We believe coaches have neglected thinking about how your team can gain a tactical advantage by starting counter attacks quickly.

Suggestions:

- Encourage young goalkeepers to punt the ball on the run. They will not be a successful early but with practice they will master the ability to punt for distance quickly.
- Encourage you team to vacate the defensive area as soon as the goalkeeper has possession of the ball secured. Beat the opposition to the space the ball is going to be played into. The players need to know the distance the goalkeeper can play the ball with a punt.
- Make sure one or more player gets depth in the event your opponents withdraw quickly and are not in an offside position.
- Have a forward check to the ball as soon as the goalkeeper gains possession. The goalkeeper then can throw the ball to this player's feet when the situation allows.
- Introduce the double pass combination for balls thrown to your checking forward.
- Track the number of second balls won when your goalkeeper punts the ball. We believe the most important ball to win from a goalkeeper punt is the second touch. The second touch allows for a positive possession. This is to say the player who gets the second ball from a punt can pass, dribble or even shoot. Players not competing for the first ball must anticipate the second ball.

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