

How to coach players to take effective corner kicks

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Corner kicks are a key component of the game and it is vital that players understand how to take a corner kick, in order to use this set piece to the teams advantage in creating and scoring goals.

Law 17: The Corner Kick

A corner kick is a method of restarting play and is awarded “when the whole of the ball passes over the goal line, either on the ground or in the air, having last touched a player of the defending team, and a goal is not scored.”

Procedure: How to take a corner kick

The ball must be placed inside the corner arc and is in play when it is kicked, therefore the ball does not need to leave the corner arc to be in play.

If the player taking the corner kick touches the ball a second time before it has touched another player, an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team in the position where the second touch occurred.

Corner kicks and the Offside Rule

A player cannot be flagged offside when receiving the ball directly from a corner kick. This benefits the attacking team, who can utilise movement to attack the ball in the penalty area in an attempt to score on goal.

If the ball is touched by a player direct from the corner kick, and then finds a team mate in an offside position, that player will be deemed offside. An indirect free kick is taken by the opposition from the position of the offending player when the ball was last played to him/her.

Scoring goals from a corner kick

If any player touches the ball before it goes into the goal, then a goal is awarded.

A goal may also be scored directly from a corner kick, but only against the opposing team. If an ‘own goal’ is scored direct from a corner kick, then a corner kick is awarded to the opposition.

Goalkeepers and corner kicks

Goalkeepers are permitted to take corner kicks and are also allowed to challenge in the opposition penalty area to score from corner kicks.

Coaching players how to take a corner kick

The effectiveness of attacking corner kicks in youth soccer may be a contentious debate, especially with young players aged 10 and under not permitted to head the ball in the US.

However, Law 17 states that corner kicks are a method to restart play and occur in 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11 formats of youth games. Therefore it is important that coaches provide learning opportunities for youngsters to be able to perform a corner kick and understand how to attack and defend one in the penalty area.

These practices will help you to teach players how to take a correct corner kick and the more advanced practices again develop movement off the ball to ensure corners are effective in creating goalscoring opportunities.

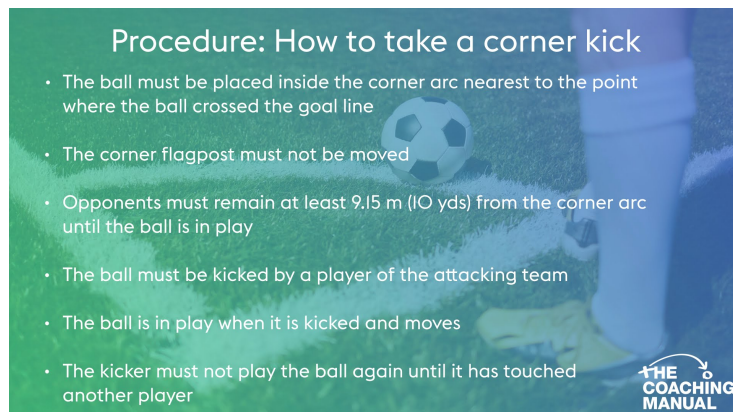
1 to 1 Corner Kicks: Technical Practice

This practice introduces players to corner kicks and provides challenges to ensure young players understand how to perform a corner kick correctly. [1 to 1 Corner Kicks: Technical Practice \(https://www.thecoachingmanual.com/Content/4811070180950016\)](https://www.thecoachingmanual.com/Content/4811070180950016)

Movements to receive from a Corner Kick: Technical Practice (11+)

A practice that develops the understanding between the corner kick taker and the attacking players in order to attack the ball in the opposition penalty area. [Movements to receive from a Corner Kick: Technical Practice \(11+\) \(https://www.thecoachingmanual.com/Content/4795420662300672\)](https://www.thecoachingmanual.com/Content/4795420662300672)

Attacking from Corner Kicks (13+)



Procedure: How to take a corner kick

- The ball must be placed inside the corner arc nearest to the point where the ball crossed the goal line
- The corner flagpost must not be moved
- Opponents must remain at least 9.15 m (10 yds) from the corner arc until the ball is in play
- The ball must be kicked by a player of the attacking team
- The ball is in play when it is kicked and moves
- The kicker must not play the ball again until it has touched another player

Another UEFA A Licence Set Piece practice that focused on players understanding positional requirements to create goalscoring opportunities from attacking throw-ins. [Attacking from corner kicks \(13+\)](https://www.thecoachingmanual.com/Content/6221921572093952) (<https://www.thecoachingmanual.com/Content/6221921572093952>).