U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION

A “Promising Attack” Definition

Promising Attack

An attack moving quickly towards the opposing team's goal with the promise to become a clear goal-scoring opportunity for the attacking team

Promising Attack

The phrase “promising attack” appears in IFAB’s Laws of the Game in several places including Law 09, Law 12, and “other advice” practical guidelines. The main topics related to these instances are:

- Handling the ball
- Delaying the restart to show a card
- Advantage
- Cautionable offenses
- Cautions for unsporting behavior

Promising Attack

In addition, part of Law 12 describes considerations for “denying of a goal or goal-scoring opportunity” (DOGSO). When all the four (4) components for DOGSO are clearly present, then the offending player is sent-off (red card) unless the offense occurred inside the penalty area, the referee awards a penalty kick, and the defender made an “attempt to play the ball”. Remember that the criteria for DOGSO is:

- The distance between the foul and the opponent’s goal
- General direction of the play towards the opponent’s goal
- Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball by the attacker
- Location and number of defenders able to challenge the attacker

Promising Attack

This is important because if one (1) of the four (4) considerations for DOGSO is not clearly present on the action for the incident, then DOGSO has not occurred. Instead, when this happens, the defender has interfered with or stopped “a promising attack” and the offending player is cautioned (yellow card) for unsporting behavior unless the offense occurred inside the penalty area, the referee awards a penalty kick, and the defender made an “attempt to play the ball”.

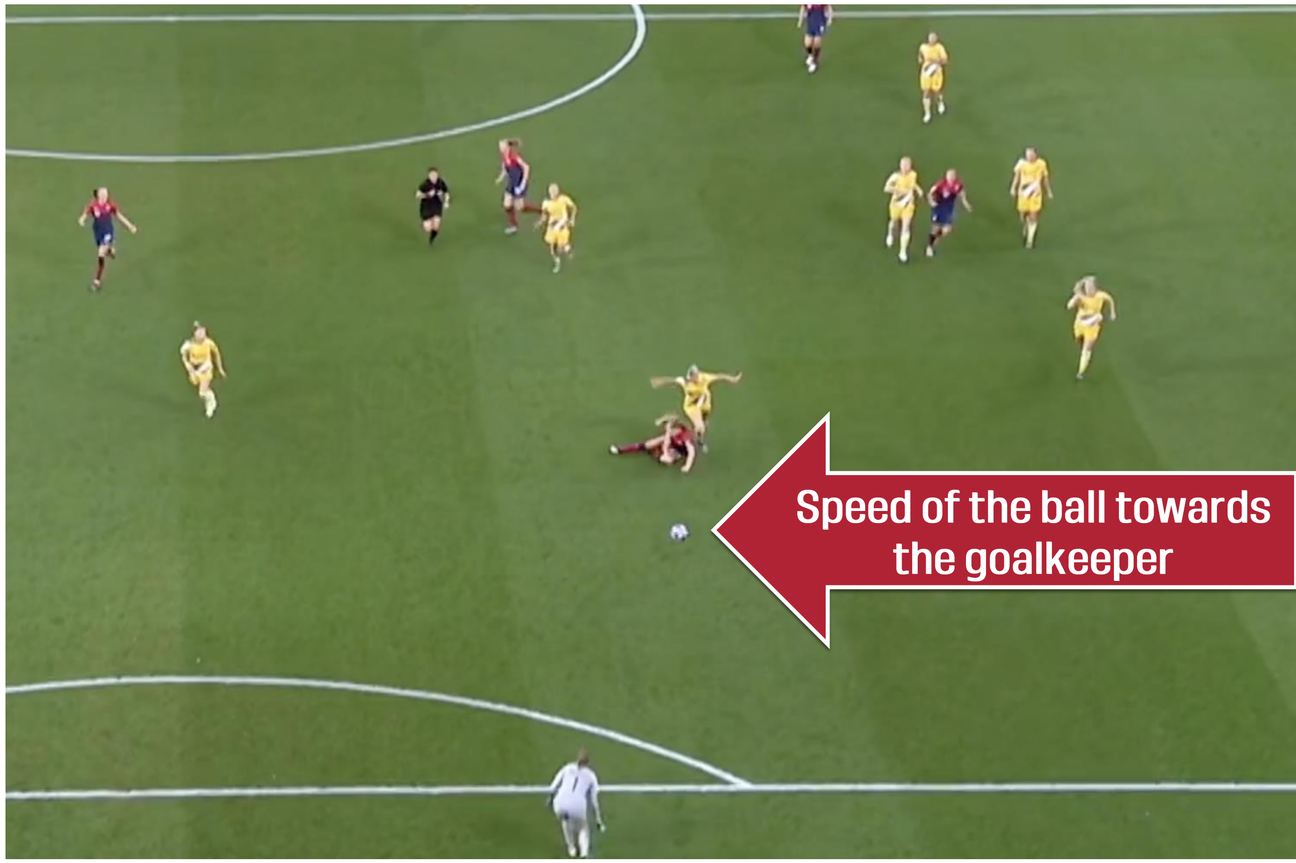
Promising Attack

There are other situations or incidents where 2 of the considerations are missing for DOGSO and a promising attack was interfered with or stopped. For now, and to help you remember, if one (1) of the four (4) considerations for DOGSO is missing, a defender as interfered with or stopped a promising attack:

- An attack moving fast towards the opposing team's goal with the promise to become a clear goal-scoring opportunity for the attacking team.

Considerations

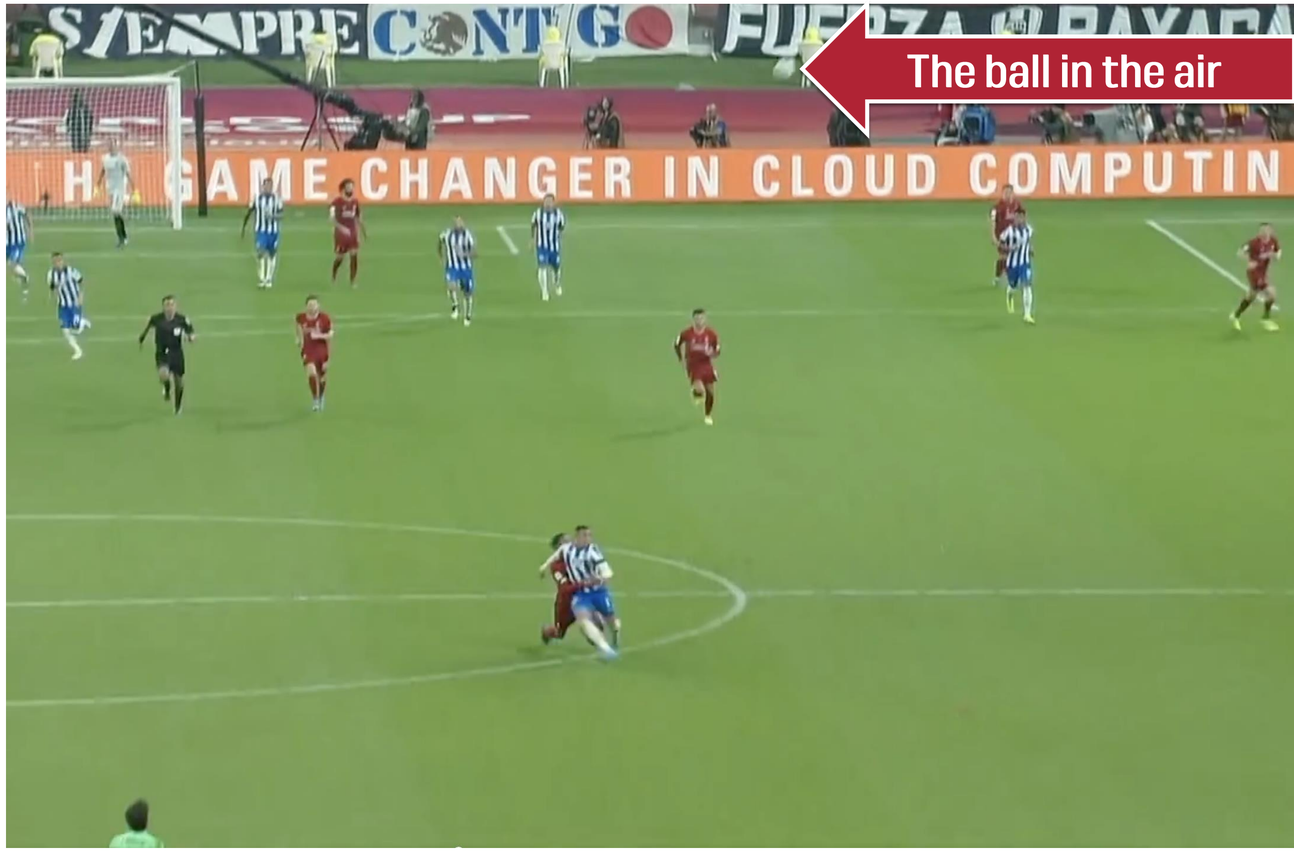
- Distance between the offense and the opponent's goal
- General direction of the play towards the opponent's goal
- Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- Location and number of defenders that can challenge the attacker



If one (1) of the above is not clear, then we see a "promising attack", not DOGSO.

Considerations

- Distance between the offense and the opponent's goal
- General direction of the play towards the opponent's goal
- Likelihood of keeping or gaining control of the ball
- Location and number of defenders that can challenge the attacker



If one (1) of the above is not clear, then we see a "promising attack", not DOGSO.

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION

www.ussoccer.com/referee-program
learning.ussoccer.com/referee