

2014 FOOTBALL RULE CLINIC



NEW DEFINITIONS – SAME RULES



- The new definitions for “targeting” and “defenseless player” puts increased emphasis on certain illegal acts.
- Targeting fouls have previously been illegal under rules involving illegal helmet contact and making contact above an opponent’s shoulders.
- Defenseless player fouls have previously been illegal under the “unnecessary roughness” rules and deal ball fouls.



Dr. Swearngin on this subject



The emphasis on “targeting” fouls seen at the professional and collegiate levels will be brought into the high school game with a new rule. Targeting is defined as “the act of taking aim and initiating contact to an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow, or shoulders”. This change was made to demonstrate to players, coaches, and the general public that serious injuries result from illegal contact to a player’s head. This definition just emphasizes rules on illegal contact that have already existed.

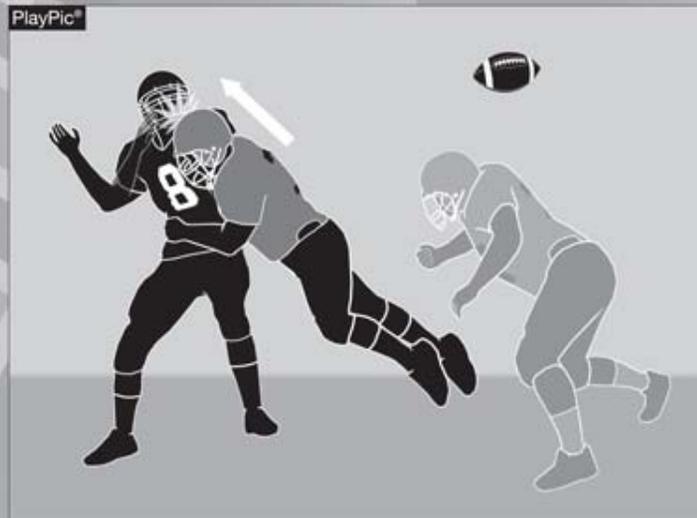
Another definition was brought into the rule book, and that involves determining a “defenseless” player. A defenseless player is “a player who, because of his physical position and physical concentration is vulnerable to injury”. This definition focuses on fouls that used to be known as “unnecessary roughness”. While players need to stay vigilant on the field to protect themselves, there is no place in the high school game for “cheap shots”.

Please don’t assume that the advent of these two new definitions will make the game easier to play and/or officiate. When all players are moving and changing directions rapidly, there is going to be contact at the shoulders and above. That contact will be initiated by both offensive and defensive players. Referees will be given the responsibility of judging which of these collisions are legal, and which are illegal. And I suspect that a number of people will not agree with their decisions – whatever they might be.





Targeting Rule 9-4-3m (NEW) Illegal Personal Contact



Targeting is an act of taking aim and initiating contact to an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders. Targeting may be called for contact against any opponent, including the runner. Note that the passer in this play is also a defenseless player. Targeting is a 15-yard penalty for illegal personal contact.

RULE CHANGE

REFEREE

The blow can be delivered with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow, or shoulder. **Targeting** means that a player takes aim at an opponent for purposes of attacking with an apparent intent that goes beyond making a legal tackle or a legal block or playing the ball (2-43). Some indicators of targeting include but are not limited to:

- Leading with helmet, forearm, fist, hand or elbow to attack with contact at the head or neck area.
- Lowering the head before attacking by initiating contact with the crown of the helmet.
- Launch—a player leaving his feet to attack an opponent by an upward and forward thrust of the body to make contact in the head or neck area.

- A crouch followed by an upward and forward thrust to attack with contact at the head or neck area—even though one or both feet are still on the ground.



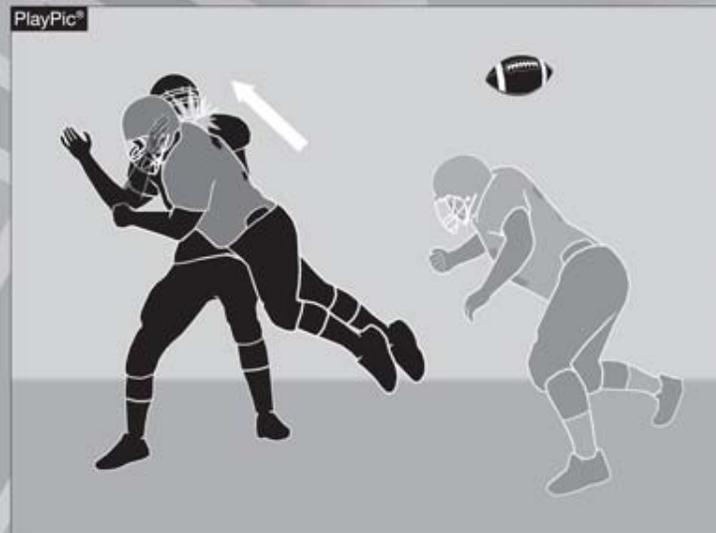


RULE CHANGE

Targeting

Rules 2-20-2 (NEW); 9-4-3m (NEW)

EXAMPLE: SHOULDER TO THE HEAD



Targeting is an act of taking aim and initiating contact to an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders. Targeting may be called for contact against any opponent, including the runner.

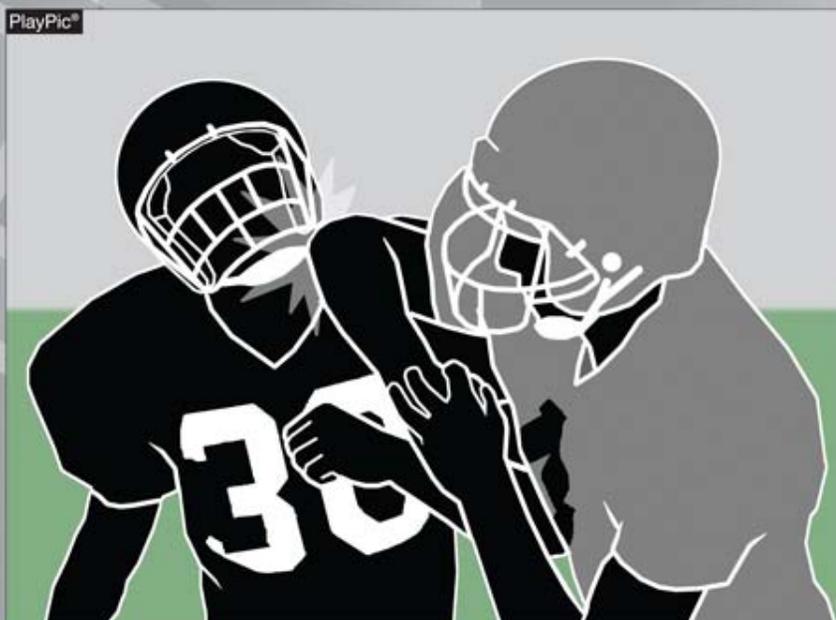
REFEREE



RULE CHANGE

Targeting

Rules 2-20-2 (NEW); 9-4-3m (NEW)
EXAMPLE: ELBOW TO THE HEAD



Targeting is an act of taking aim and initiating contact to an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders. Targeting may be called for contact against any opponent, including the runner.

REFEREE



RULE CHANGE

Targeting

Rules 2-20-2 (NEW); 9-4-3m (NEW)
EXAMPLE: FOREARM TO THE NECK



Targeting is an act of taking aim and initiating contact to an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders. Targeting may be called for contact against any opponent, including the runner.

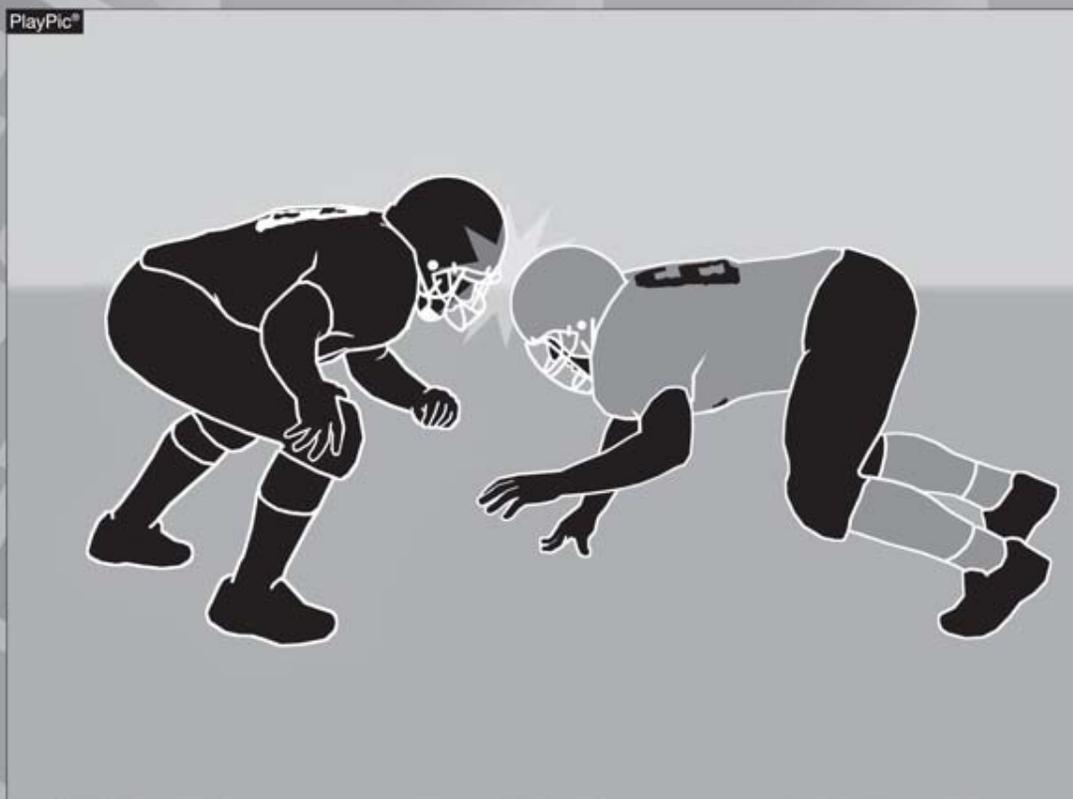
REFEREE



Targeting

Rules 2-20-2 (NEW); 9-4-3m (NEW)

RULE CHANGE



A blow to the helmet by two linemen in the free blocking zone is not necessarily a targeting foul.



RULE CHANGE

Defenseless Player

Rules 2-32-16 (NEW); 9-4-3i(3)

EXAMPLE: PASS RECEIVER



A pass receiver attempting to catch a pass, or a pass receiver who has clearly relaxed when the player has missed the pass or feels he can no longer catch the pass, is considered defenseless.

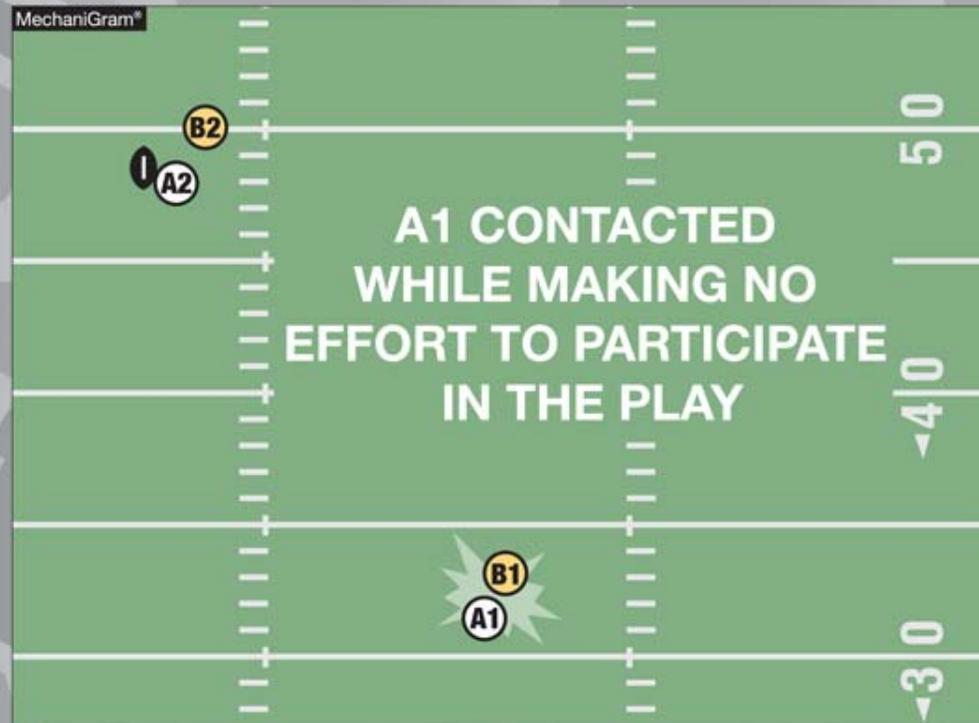
REFEREE



Defenseless Player

Rules 2-32-16 (NEW); 9-4-3i(3)

RULE CHANGE



A new definition for a defenseless player has been added. A defenseless player is a player who, because of his physical position and focus of concentration, is especially vulnerable to injury.

REFEREE



Defenseless Player

Rules 2-32-16 (NEW); 9-4-3i(3)

EXAMPLE: OUT OF THE PLAY

RULE CHANGE



B6 has chosen not to participate further and is obviously out of the play. He is considered to be defenseless.

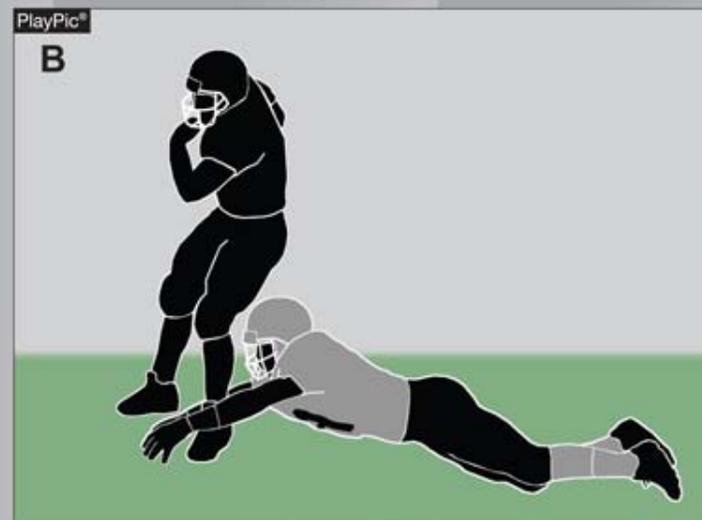
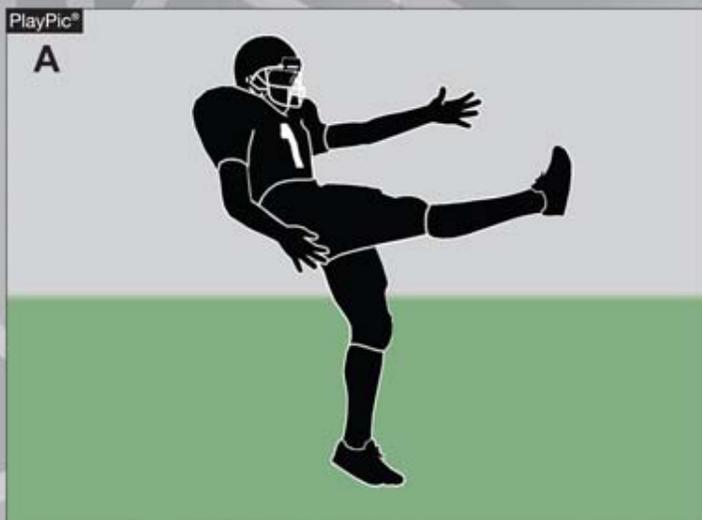


Defenseless Player

Rules 2-32-16 (NEW); 9-4-3i(3)

EXAMPLE: KICKER

RULE CHANGE

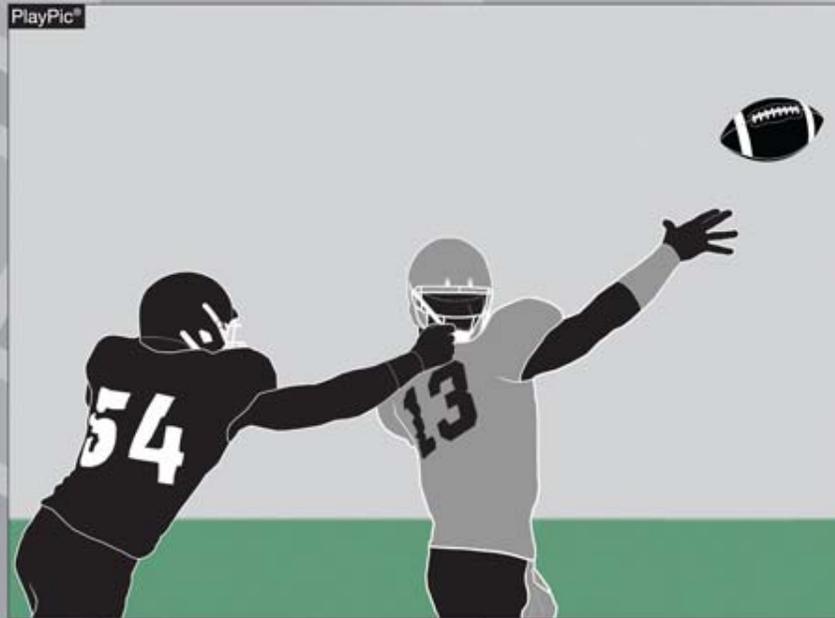


After a kick (PlayPic A), a kicker who has not had a reasonable amount of time to regain his balance after the kick (PlayPic B) is a defenseless player.



RULE CHANGE

Roughing the Passer Rule 9-4-4



No defensive player shall charge into, or commit any illegal personal contact foul listed in Rule 9-4-3 against the passer who is standing still or fading back, because he is considered out of the play after the pass and has not moved to participate in the play. Grasping of the face mask is considered roughing the passer.

REFEREE



Redding's Take

NEW IN 2014: Personal fouls against the passer (helmet contact, pulling the face mask, etc.) committed before it is clear that the ball has been thrown, are roughing fouls.

EXAMPLE 5-29: As A12 releases a forward pass, he is struck in the chest by B52 who had lowered his head and led with his helmet.
RULING: Although the contact was before it was clear that the ball had been thrown, the foul is for roughing the passer.

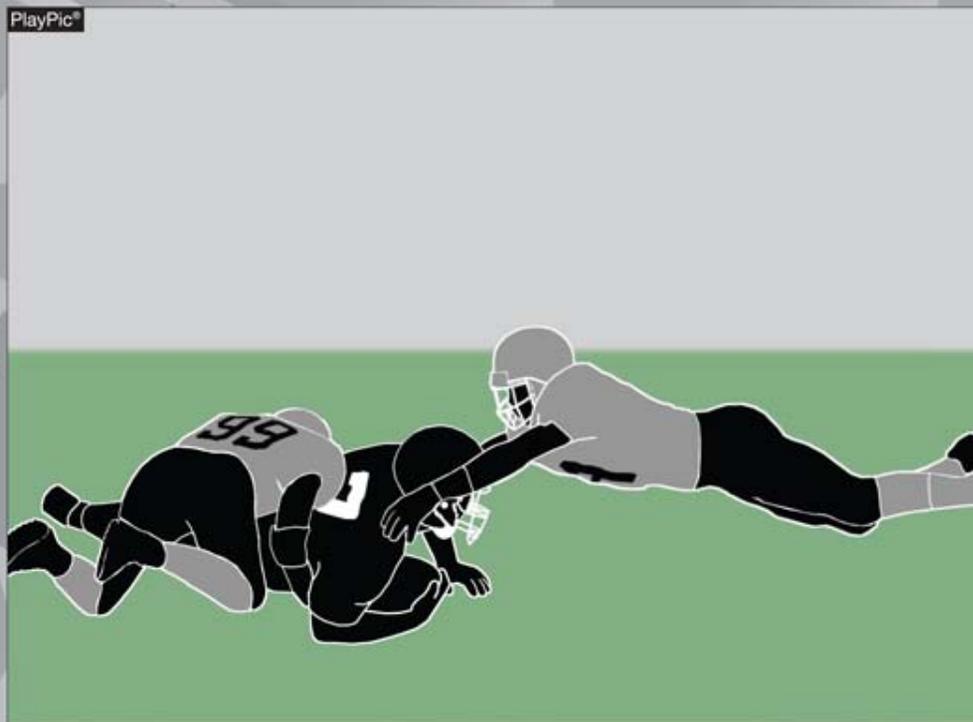


Defenseless Player

Rules 2-32-16 (NEW); 9-4-3i(3)

EXAMPLE: PLAYER ON THE GROUND

RULE CHANGE



A player who is on the ground is considered defenseless.

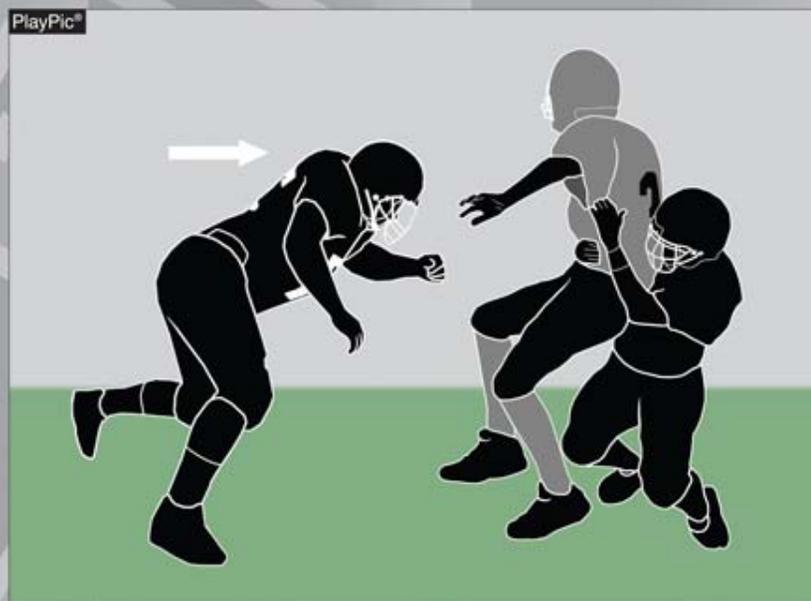


Defenseless Player

Rules 2-32-16 (NEW); 9-4-3i(3)

EXAMPLE: FORWARD PROGRESS STOPPED

RULE CHANGE

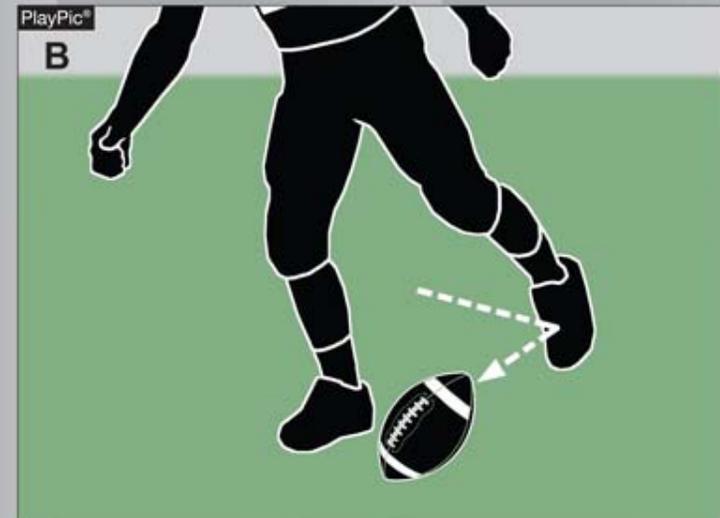
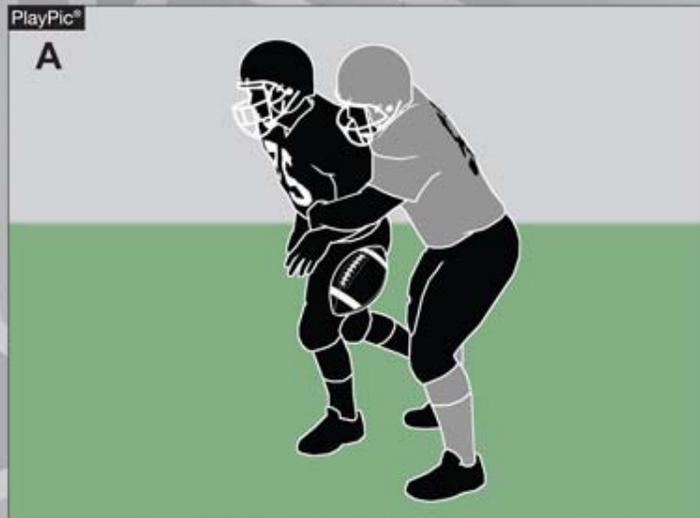


A runner already in the grasp of an opponent and whose forward progress has been stopped is defenseless. Contact on the runner could also be considered targeting.



Illegal Kick Status Rule 2-24-9

RULE CHANGE



When the ball is illegally kicked, the ball retains its original status. The player in PlayPic A fumbles and the player in PlayPic B kicks the loose ball. The ball remains a fumble.

REFEREE

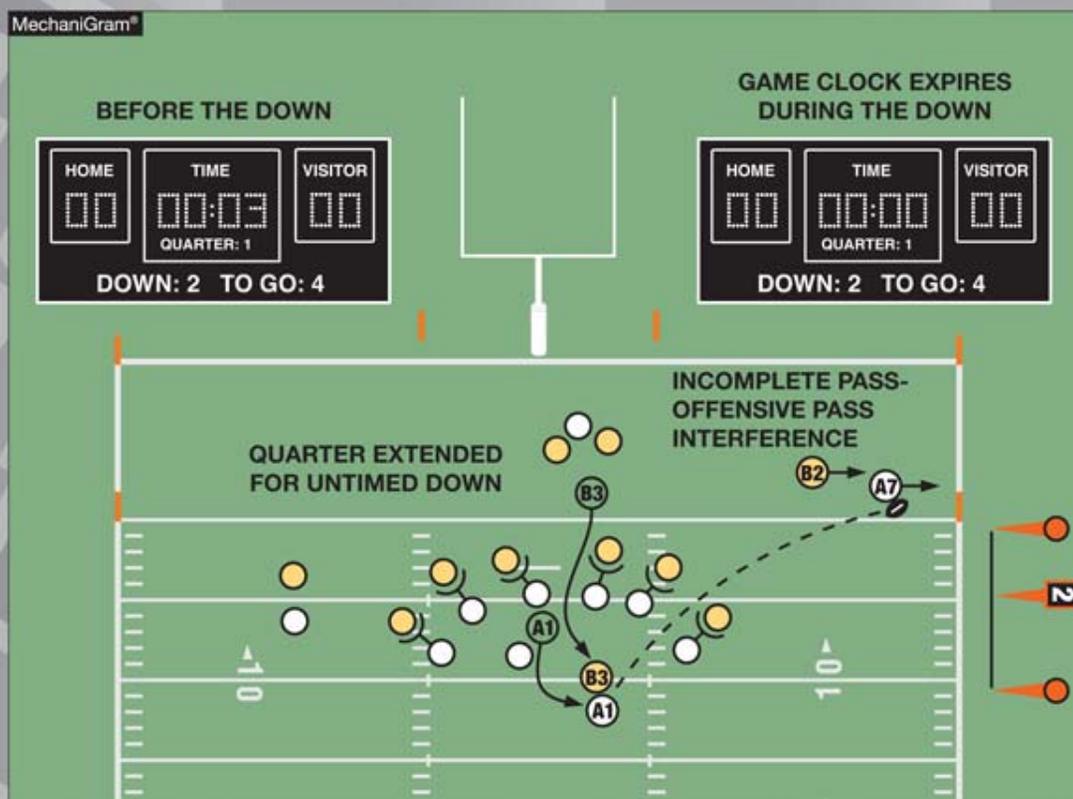
- **Play:** R2 muffs a kickoff at his five yard line. In order to prevent the ball from being recovered by the opponents, R4 kicks the loose ball into the end zone where it is recovered by K3.
- **RULING:** The result of the play is a touchback; the ball retained its status as a kick and force is not a factor. If the penalty for illegal kicking the ball is accepted, it is enforced from the previous spot and the down will be replayed from team R's 45 yard line (15 yards from team K's 40 yardline).
- K9 punts from the 40 – R34 muffs the ball at the 10 – just as K58 is about to recover R34 kicks the ball out of the back of the endzone.
- **RULING:** The result of the play is a touchback; the ball retained its status as a kick and force is not a factor. If the penalty for illegal kicking the ball is accepted, it is enforced as a PSK enforcement. R 1 and 10 from the 5 yrdl.





Untimed Down Rules 3-3-3; 3-3-4

RULE CHANGE

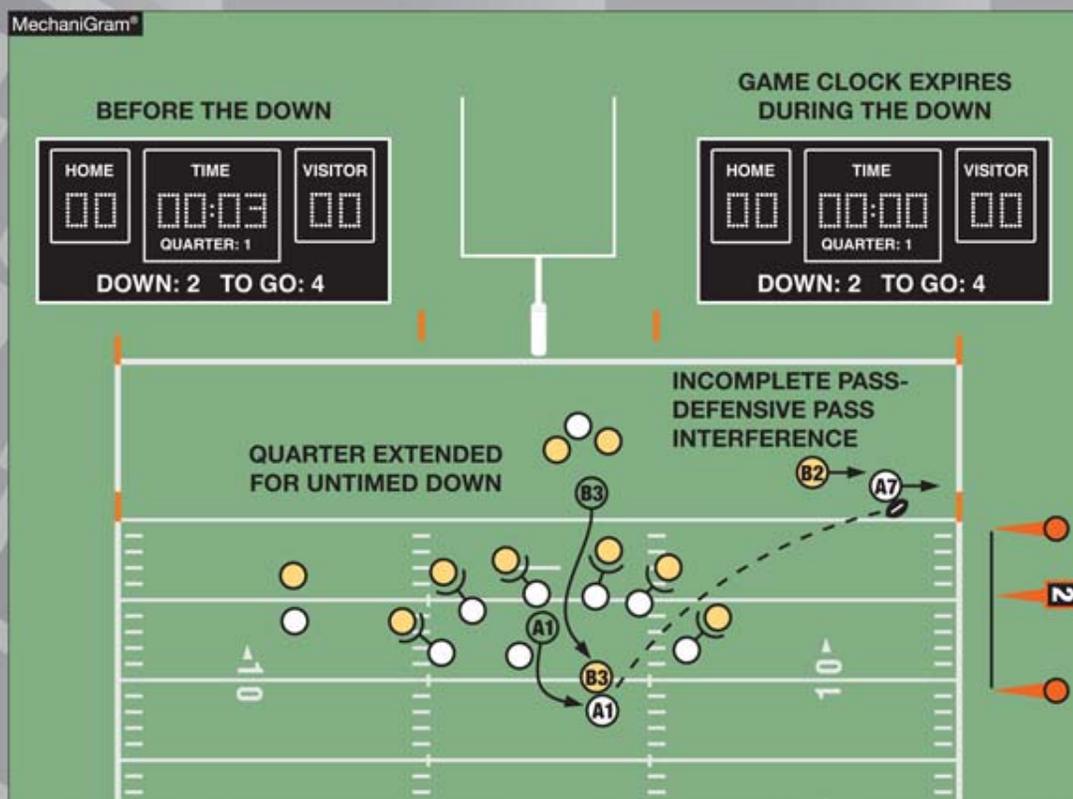


Team A commits a live-ball foul and time for the period expires during the down. As shown in the MechaniGram, if the penalty is accepted, the period is extended for an untimed down.



RULE CHANGE

Untimed Down Rules 3-3-3; 3-3-4



Team B commits a live-ball foul and time for the period expires **during** the down. If the penalty is accepted, the period is extended for an untimed down.

No Untimed Down Example

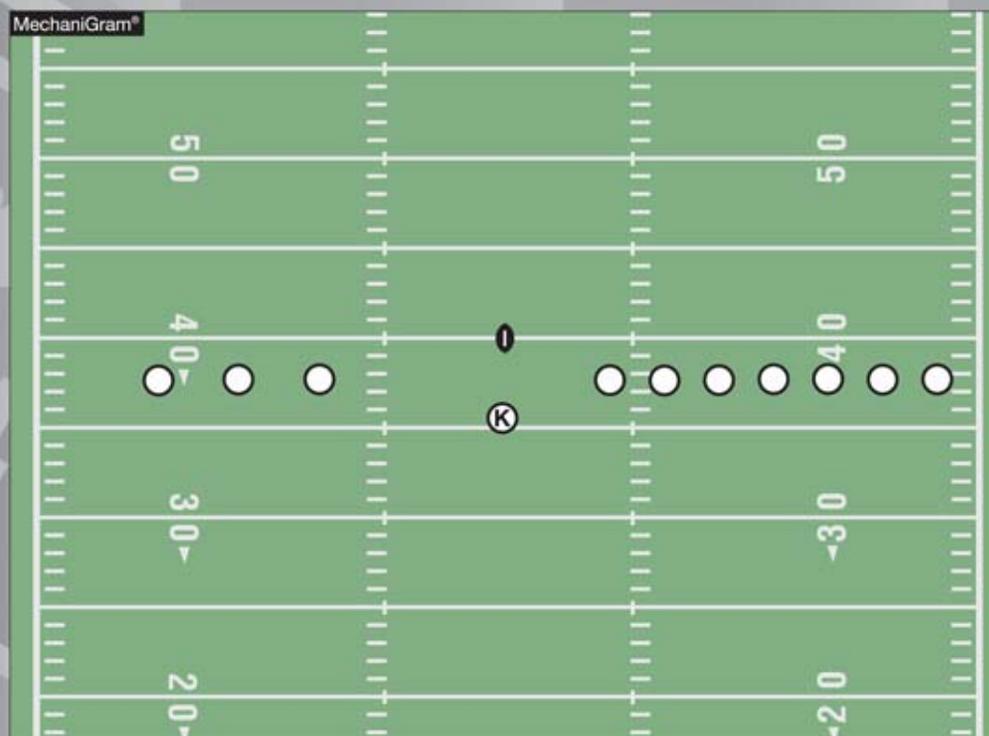
- A foul occurs during a down and the clock stops with 10 seconds remaining in period.
- After the penalty is assessed, the clock is started.
- The time runs out before the next down can be started.
- The period is over and there will be no untimed down.





RULE CHANGE

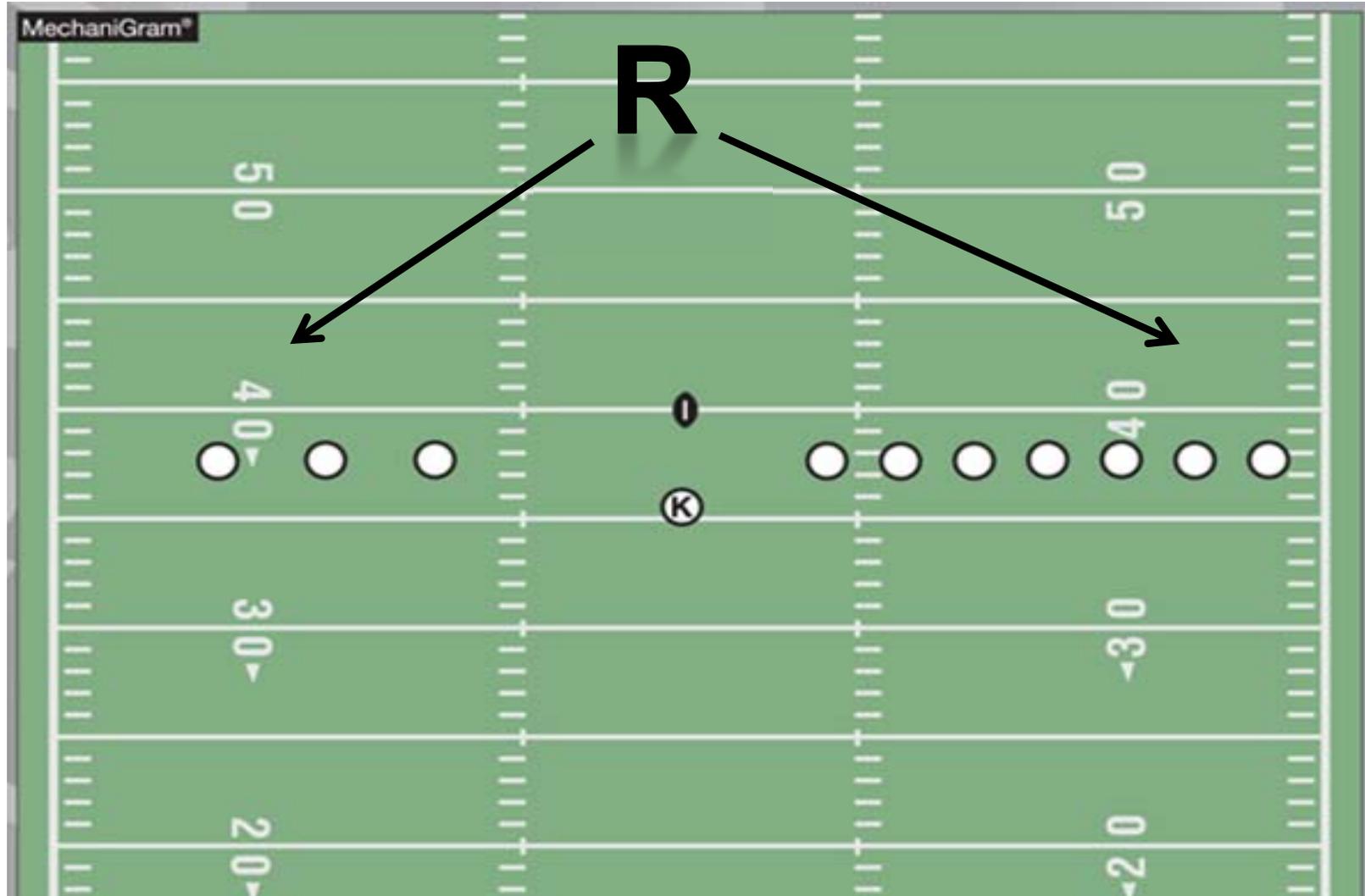
Free-Kick Formation Rules 6-1-3b (NEW); 6-1-3c (NEW)



After the ready-for-play has been signaled and until the ball is kicked for a free kick, team K must have at least four players on either side of the kicker. As shown in the MechaniGram, K is guilty of a dead-ball foul.



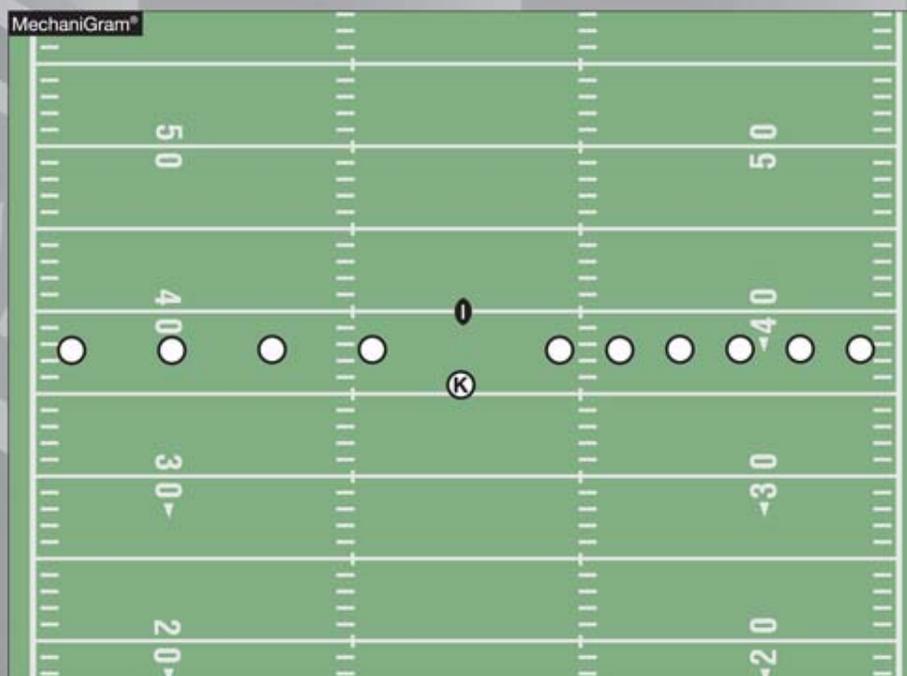
Mechanics Change!





Free-Kick Formation

Rules 6-1-3b (NEW); 6-1-3c (NEW)



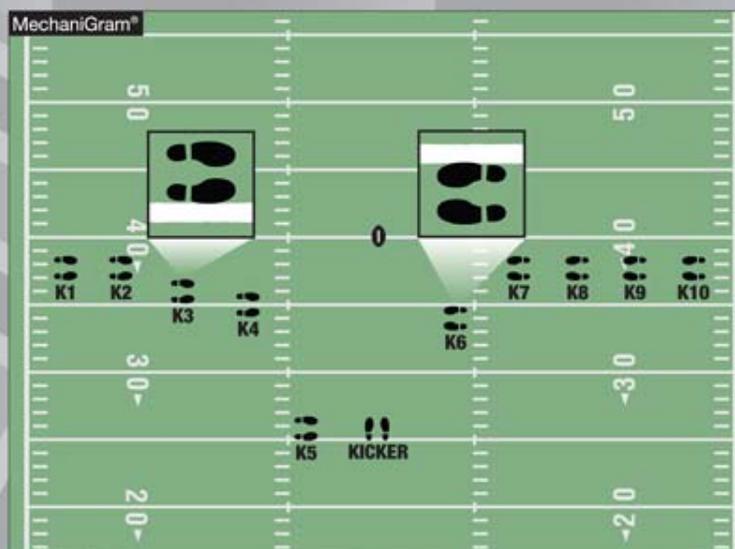
On a free kick, from the time the ready-for-play is signaled until the ball is kicked, no K player other than the kicker may be more than five yards from his free-kick line. The formation in the MechaniGram becomes legal when the ball has been declared ready-for-play.

RULE CHANGE

REFEREE



Free-Kick Formation Rules 6-1-3b (NEW); 6-1-3c (NEW)



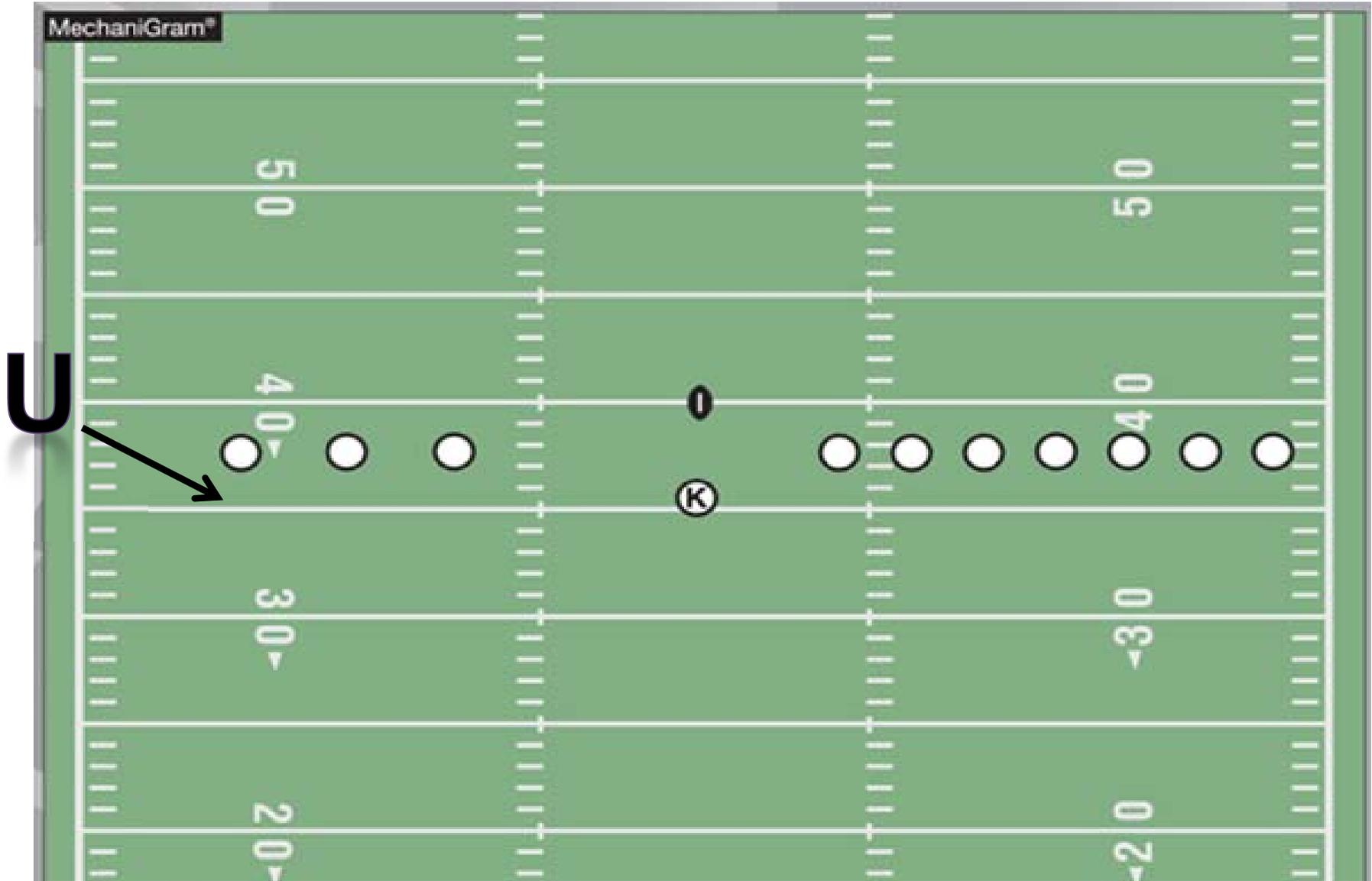
The formation in the MechaniGram becomes illegal when the ball has been declared ready-for-play. K3, K4, K5 and K6 are all more than five yards from their free kick line. No K players, with the exception of the kicker may be more than five yards behind the kicking team's free kick line. A player satisfies this rule when no foot is on or beyond the line five yards behind K's free kick. If one player is more than five yards behind the restraining line and any other player kicks the ball, it is a foul.

RULE CHANGE

REFEREE

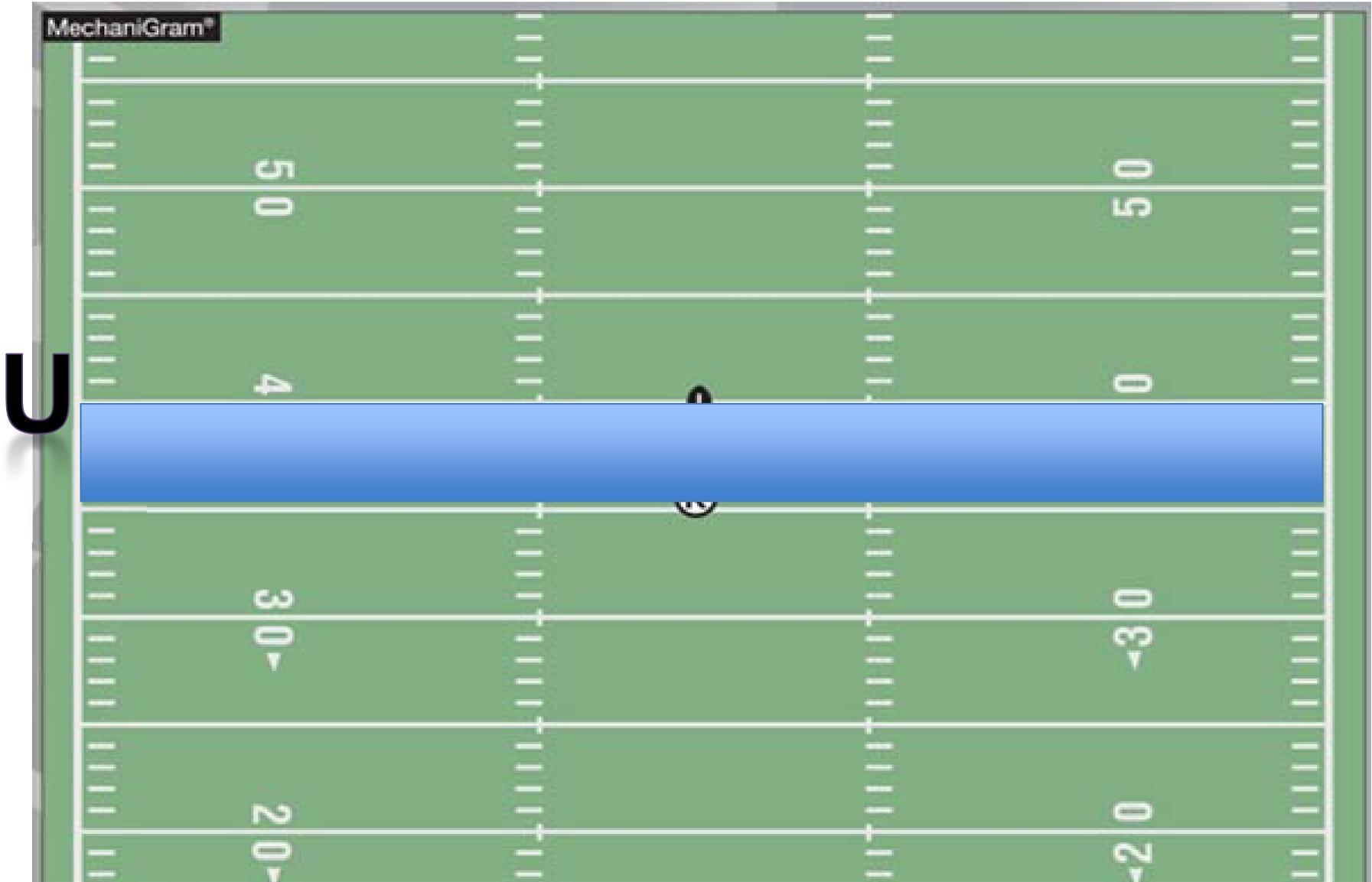


Mechanics Change!



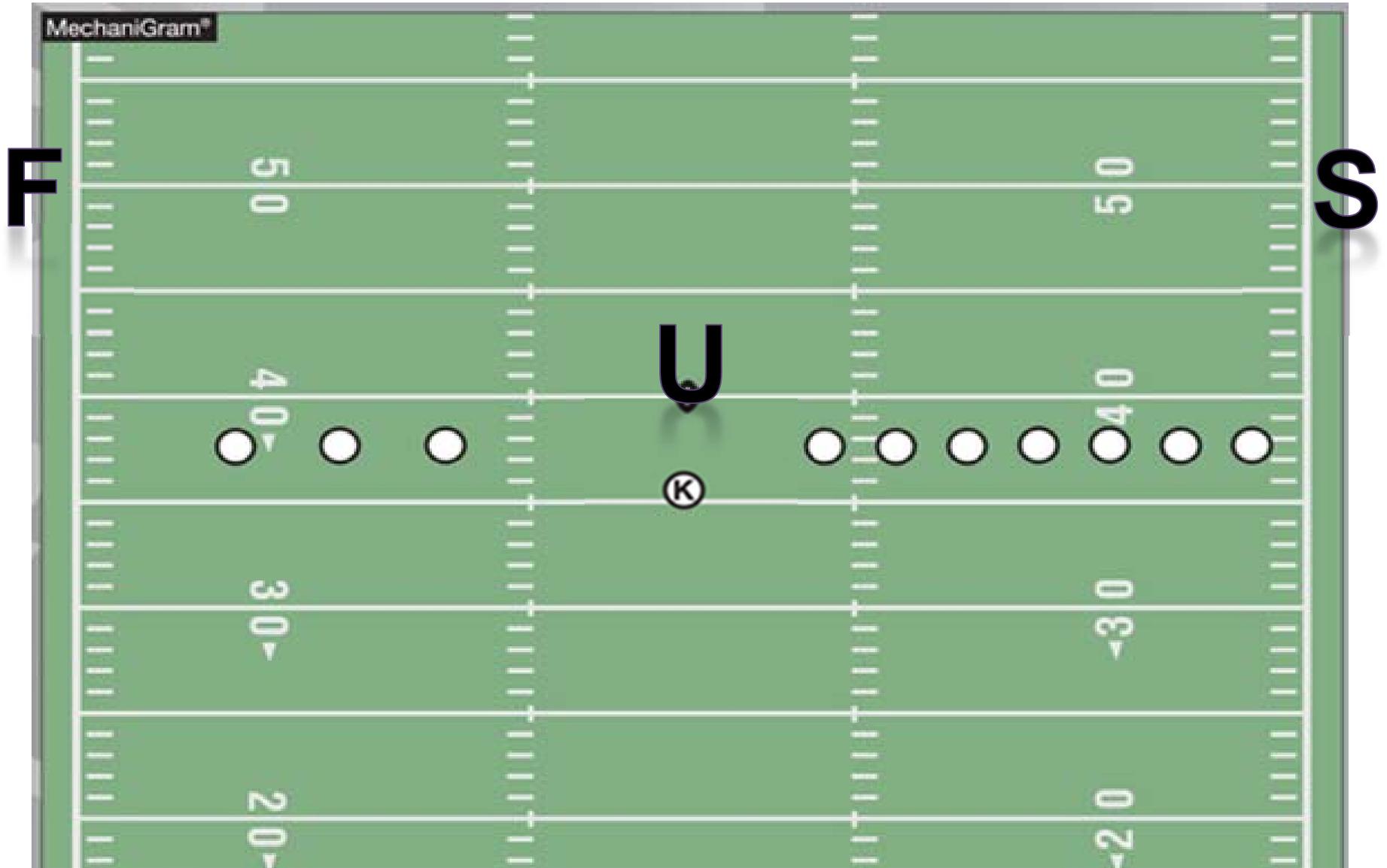


Mechanics Change!



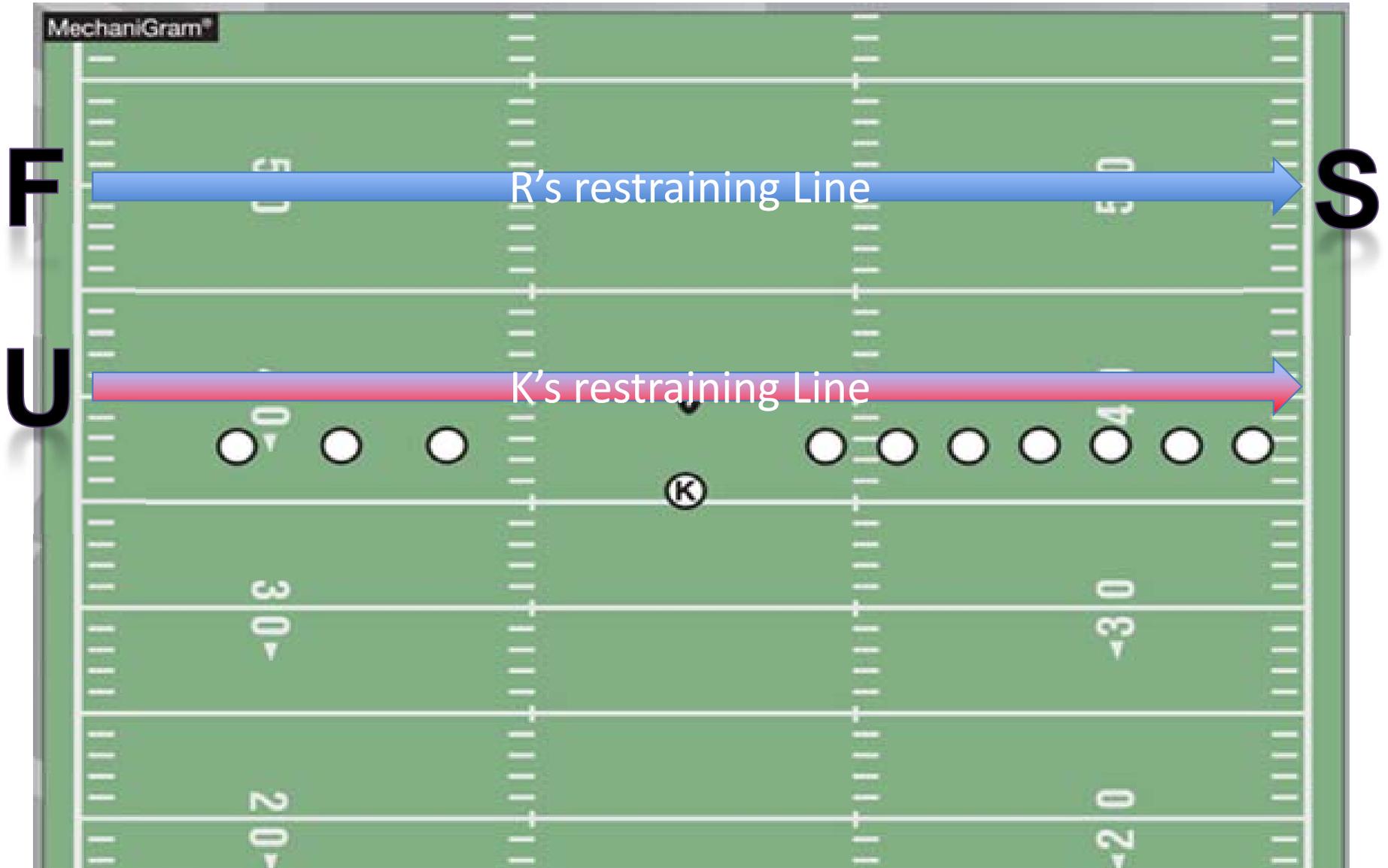


Mechanics Change!





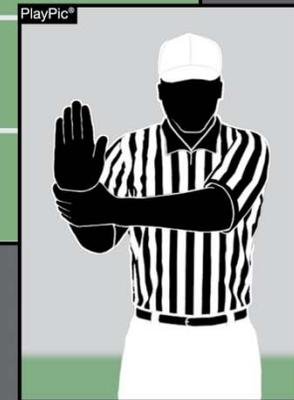
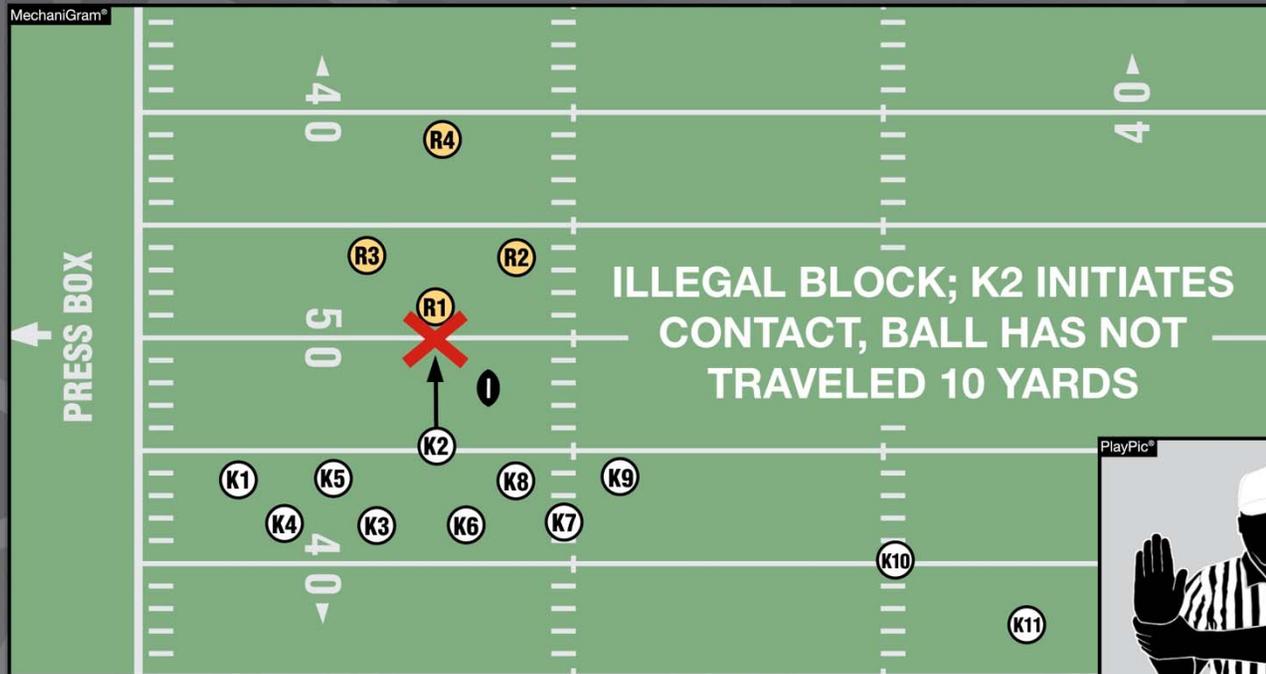
Mechanics Change!





RULE CHANGE

Illegal Blocking Rule 9-3-8c

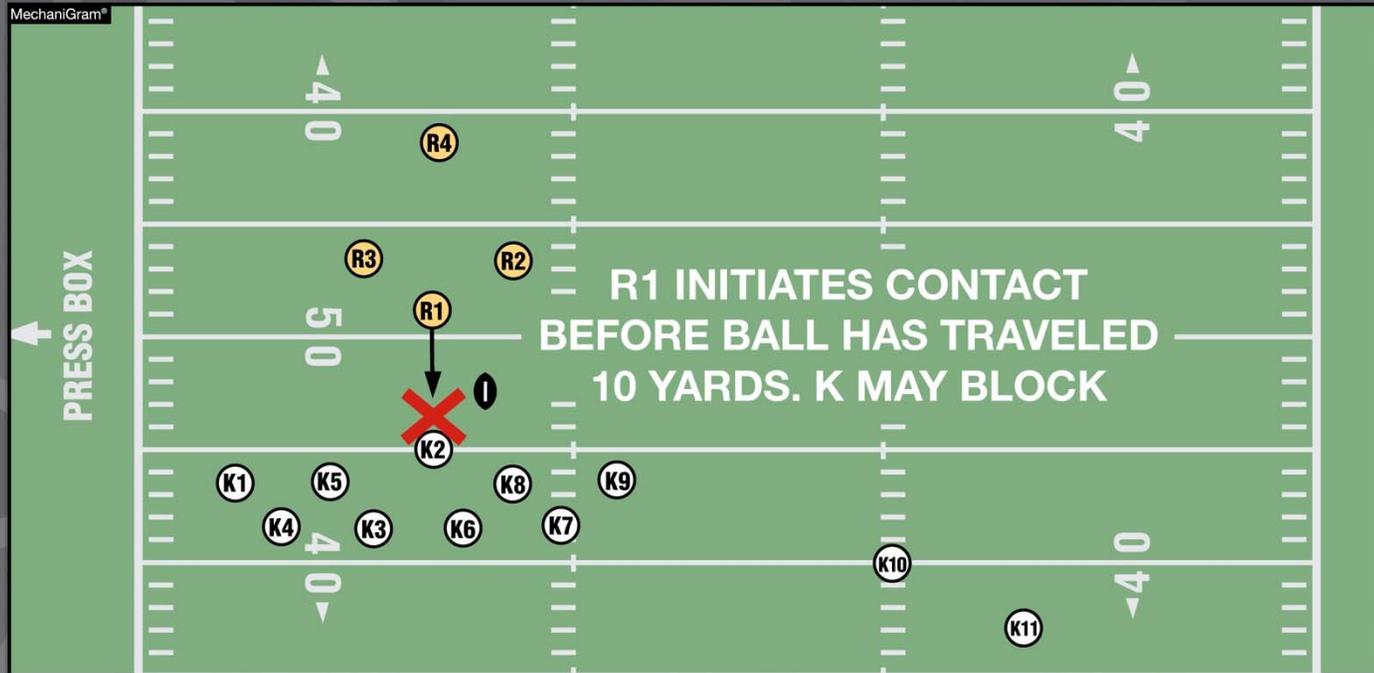


No member of the kicking team shall initiate contact to (block) an opponent until the legal kick has traveled 10 yards; or the kicking team is eligible to recover a free-kicked ball. The signal for illegal blocks is seen in the inset.



RULE CHANGE

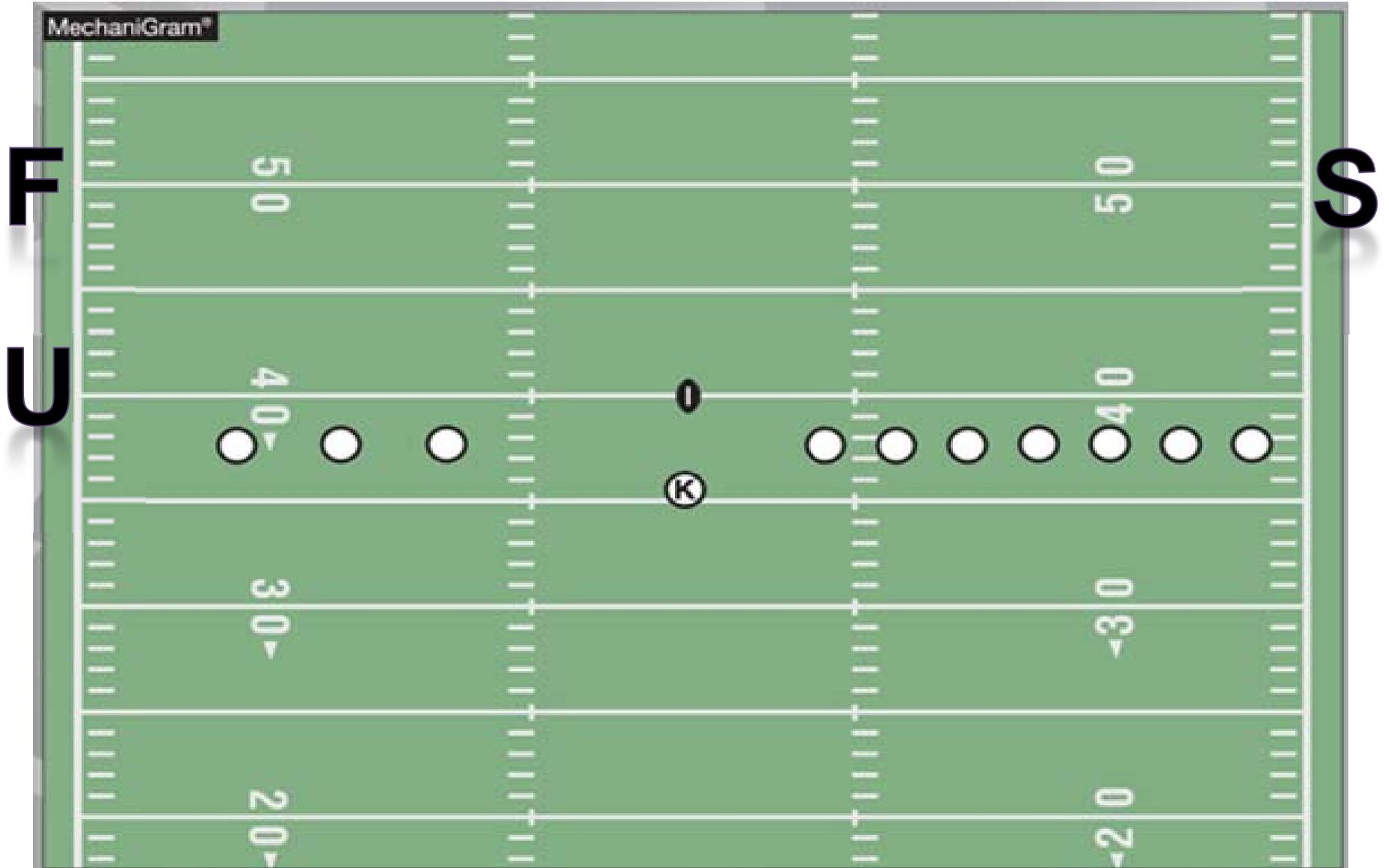
Illegal Blocking Rule 9-3-8c



Because R1 has initiated contact with a K player, all K players may block.

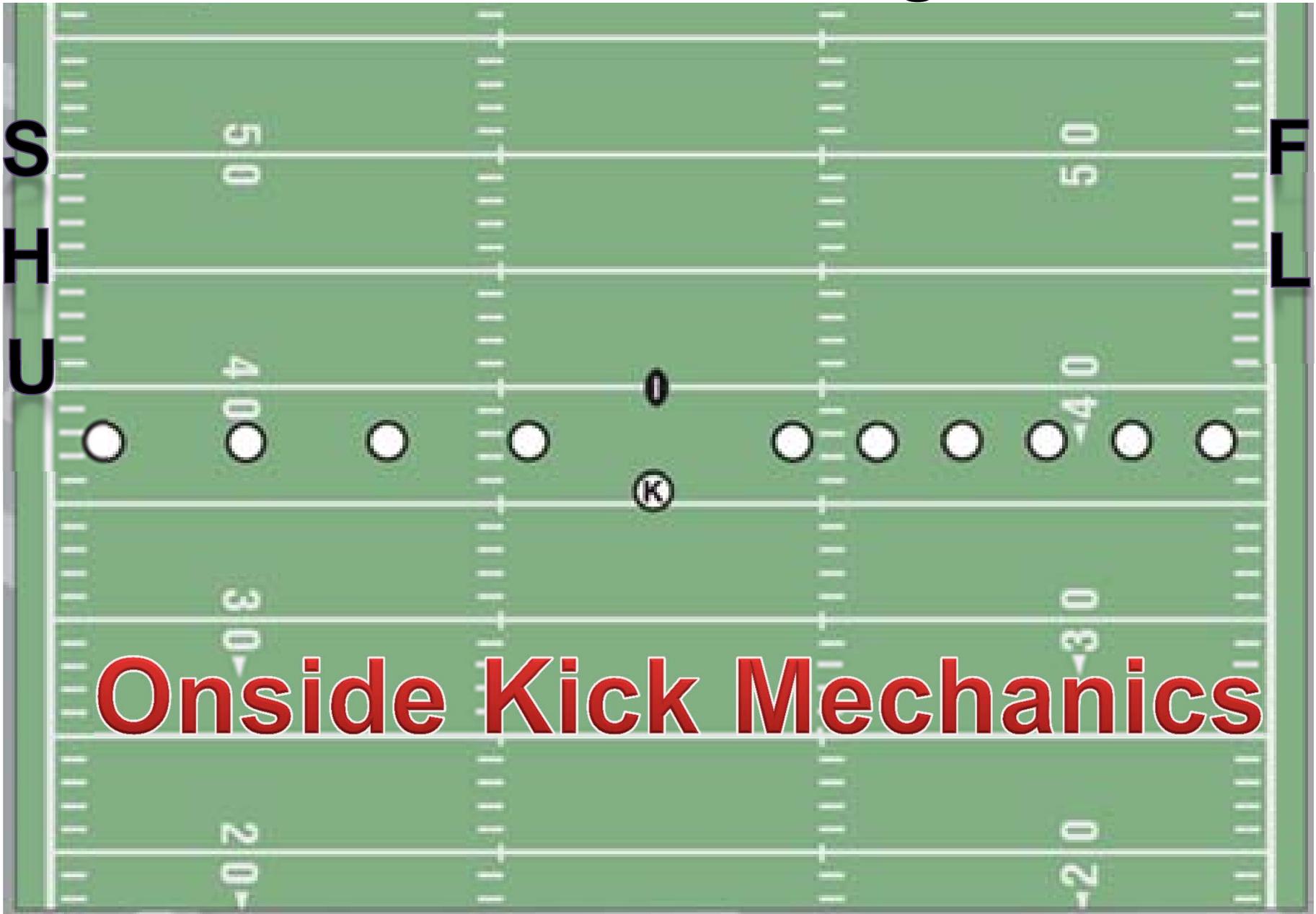


Mechanics Change!





Mechanics Change!





Other Mechanics Changes

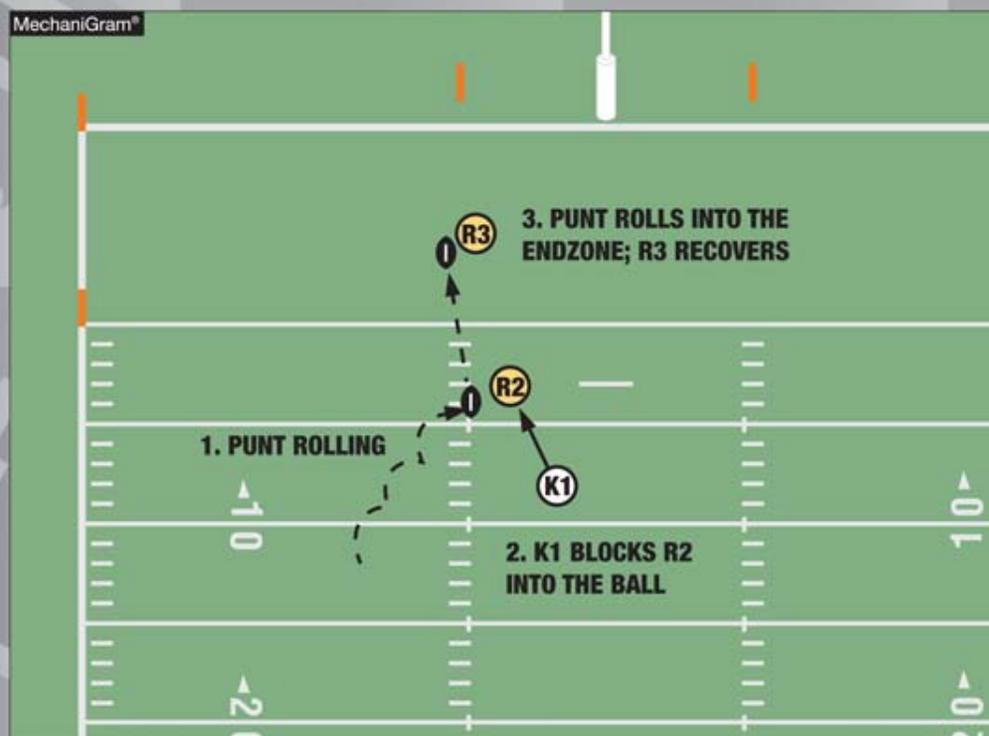


- There are 7 specific changes in the 2014 Officials Manual. In summary, these are:
- Correct labeling of Side Judge and Field Judge pre-game responsibilities. Pages 41 & 42.
- The covering official (only) may accompany his whistle with a dead ball signal at play's end. Page 29.
- On short yardage plays with ball in end zone, Umpires use "hands to the chest" signal to assist wing officials in calling TD or successful non-kick try. Page 34.
- Referee in a 4-man lines up near the center of the field (not on passing arm side) for an ordinary scrimmage down. Page 51.
- LJ must deal with game management and verify the presence of a working lightning detector as part of those duties. Page 41.
- Wings need to be willing to "pinch in" in goal line situations to get (and sell) dead ball spots and not remain "glued" to the sideline. Page 34.



RULE CHANGE

Force Rule 8-5-1b (NEW)



K1 blocks R2 into the ball. The accidental touching of a loose ball by a player who was blocked into the ball by an opponent is ignored and does not constitute a new force. The result of this play is a touchback.

National Federation of State
High School Associations



2014 Football Points of Emphasis

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

High School Football – State of the Game



Point of
POE
Emphasis

Risk Minimization



National Federation of State
High School Associations



2014 Football Rules Reminders

Take Part. Get Set For Life.™

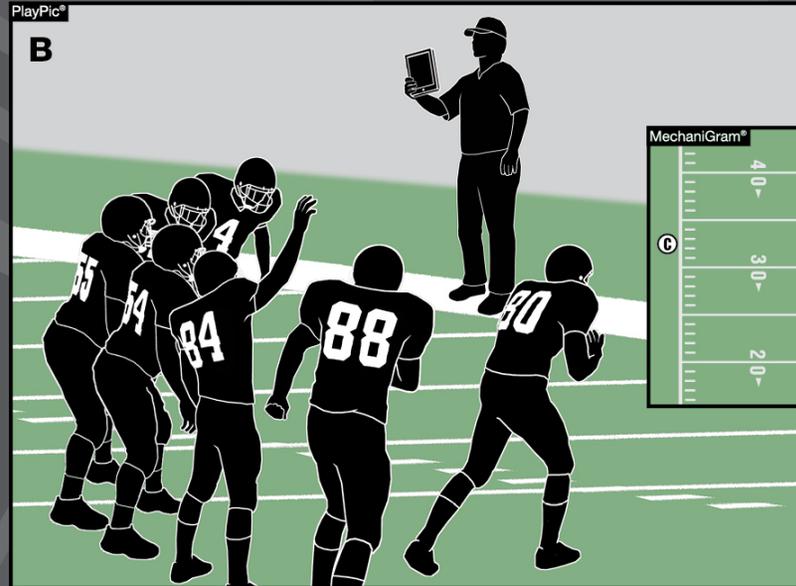


Coaches' Field Equipment Rule 1-6

RULE CHANGE



LEGAL



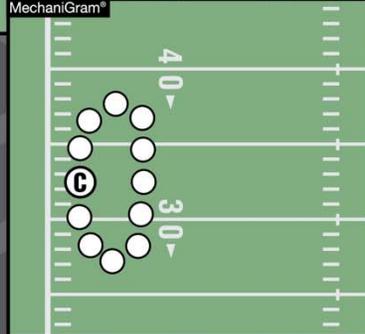
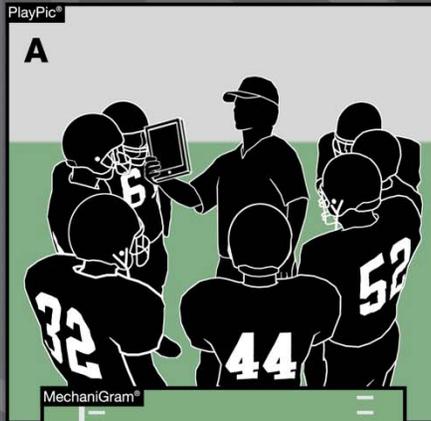
ILLEGAL

Communication devices may be used by coaches and nonplayers as in PlayPic A. It is illegal to use those devices to communicate with players inside the 9-yard marks, as in PlayPic B.



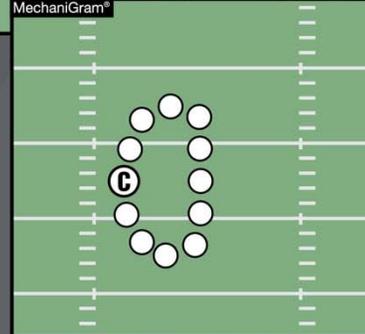
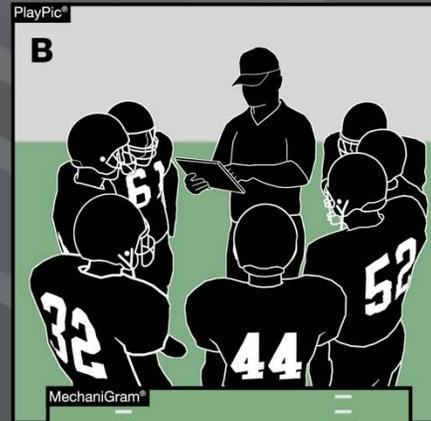
Coaches' Field Equipment Rule 1-6

RULE CHANGE



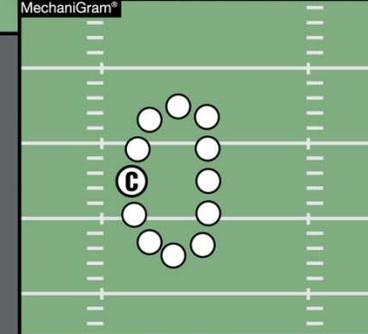
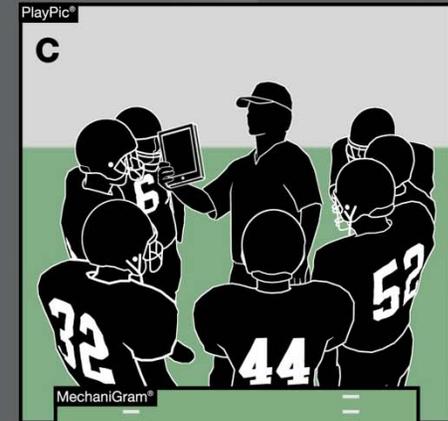
LEGAL

Outside 9-yard
mark conference



LEGAL

Inside 9-yard
mark conference
(coach use only)



ILLEGAL

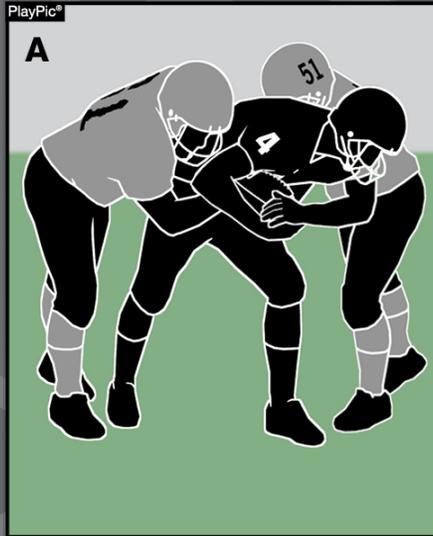
Inside 9-yard mark
conference (coach
and athlete use)

REFEREE

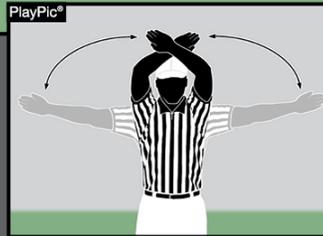
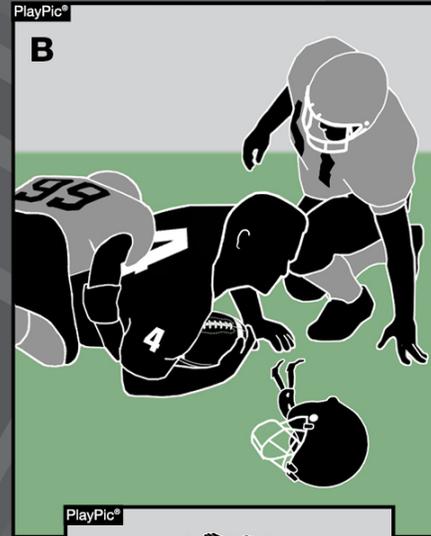


Helmet Comes Off Rule 3-5-10d

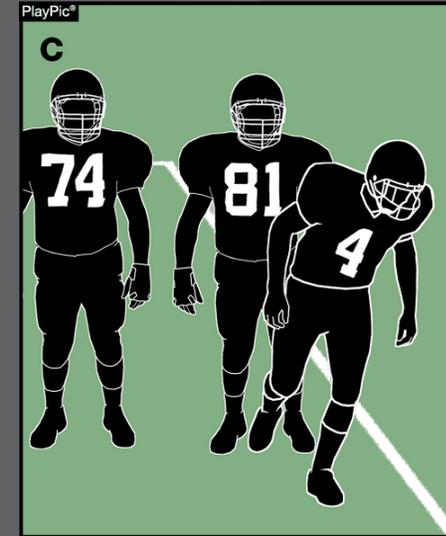
RULE CHANGE



Runner's forward progress stopped



Runner's helmet comes off as part of subsequent dead-ball action; official's time-out



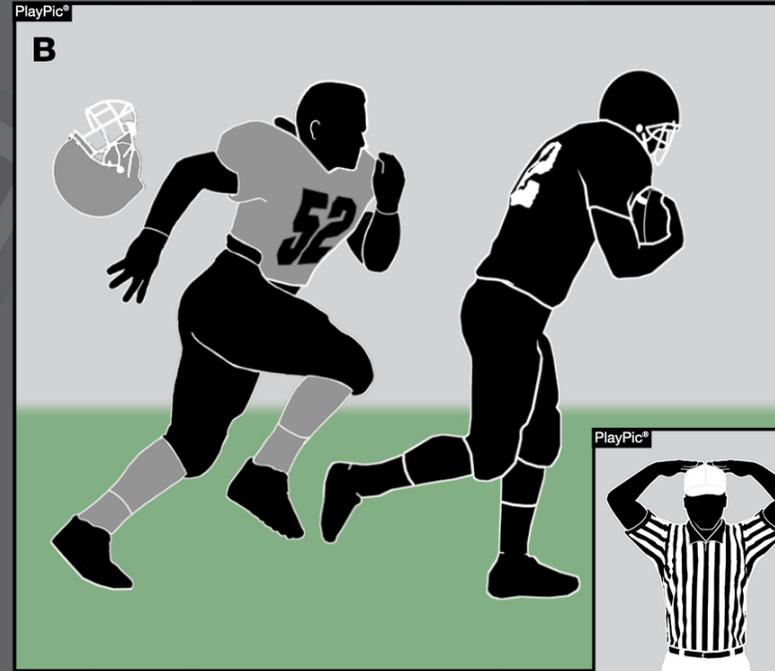
Player must leave for one down if the helmet came completely off without being directly attributable to a foul by the opponent

REFEREE



Illegal Participation Rule 9-6-4g

RULE CHANGE



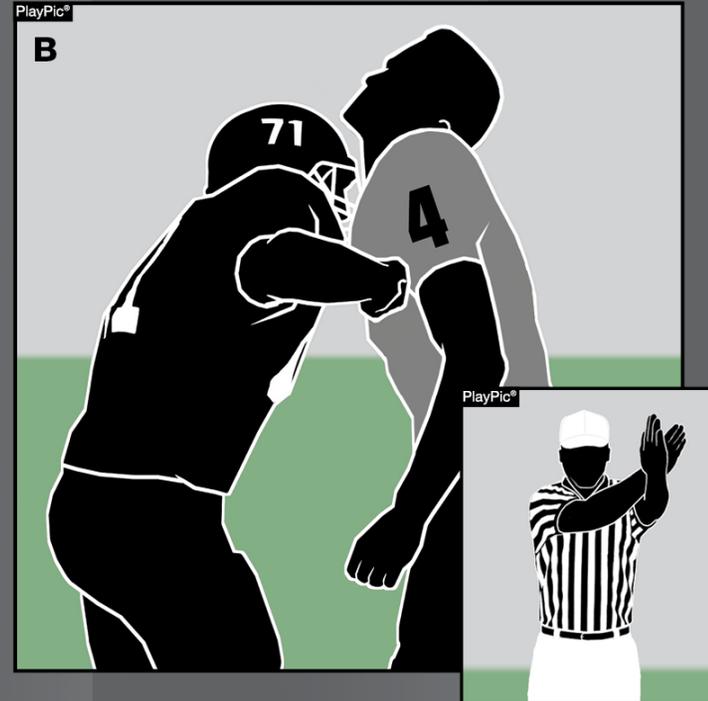
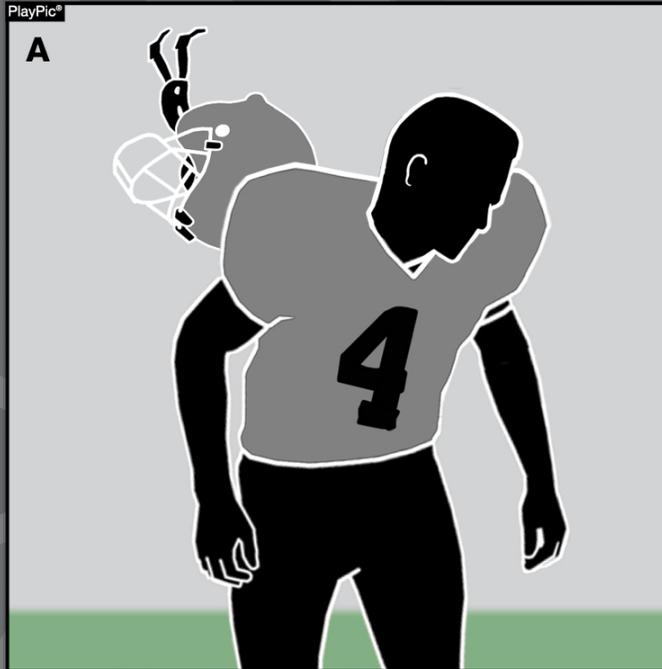
If a player whose helmet comes completely off during a down continues to participate beyond the immediate action in which the player is engaged, it is a foul for illegal participation.

REFEREE



Illegal Personal Contact Rule 9-4-3I

RULE CHANGE



It is a personal foul if a player or nonplayer initiates contact with an opposing player whose helmet has come completely off.

REFEREE



Today's Agenda

Welcome

- New Rules and Mechanics – 8:30 to 9:00 AM
- Position Meetings – 9:15 to 11:30 AM
- Lunch – 11:40 to 12:30 PM
- 1st Breakout Session – 12:40 – 1:10
- 2nd Breakout Session – 1:15 – 1:45
- 3rd Breakout Session – 1:55 – 2:25
- Sign out in your 3rd Session for Camp Credit!

REFEREE