

FIELD JUDGE (abbreviation designation: F)

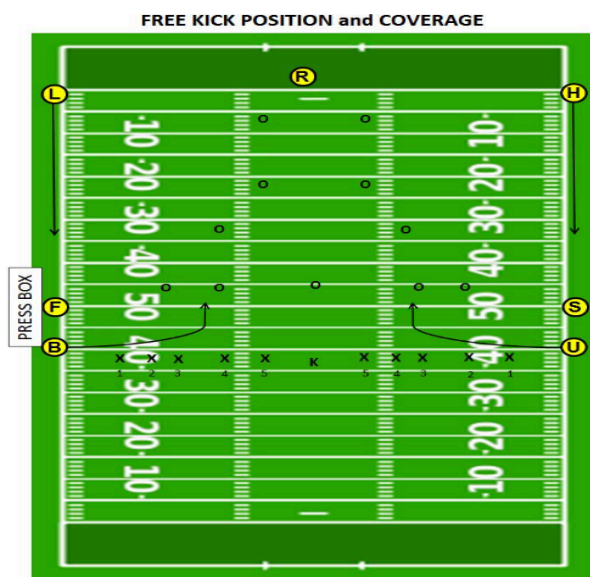
Pregame Duties and Responsibilities

1. MEET: Discuss signals & communication with SJ and BJ.
2. Pregame Duties on the Field
 - a. Introduce yourself to the Head Coach on your sideline and determine who is to receive foul reports during the game.
3. Who will handle most communication for the game?
 - a. **Who is the Get Back Coach?**
 - b. Instruct the **ball boys**. (SJ will assist.)
 - c. Have the **Home captains at the sideline 5 minutes** before kickoff.

Free Kick (Deep)

1. Starting position is on the sideline on the **press box side on R's restraining line**. Assist in clearing your sideline.
 - a. Keys on **K's players #2 & #3** on his side of the field (see Diagram A).
 - b. You must know if the ball was **kicked into the ground**.
 - c. After the members of the kicking team have passed by, move no more than 10 yards toward R's goal line to provide better coverage in the critical area where contact occurs between the kicking and the receiving team.
 - d. Sideline coverage to K's goal line on a runback.
2. Note: K's players #1 are not accounted for in the keys as he normally is not threatened until he reaches the Head Line Judge or Line Judge's zone (see Diagram A).

Diagram A

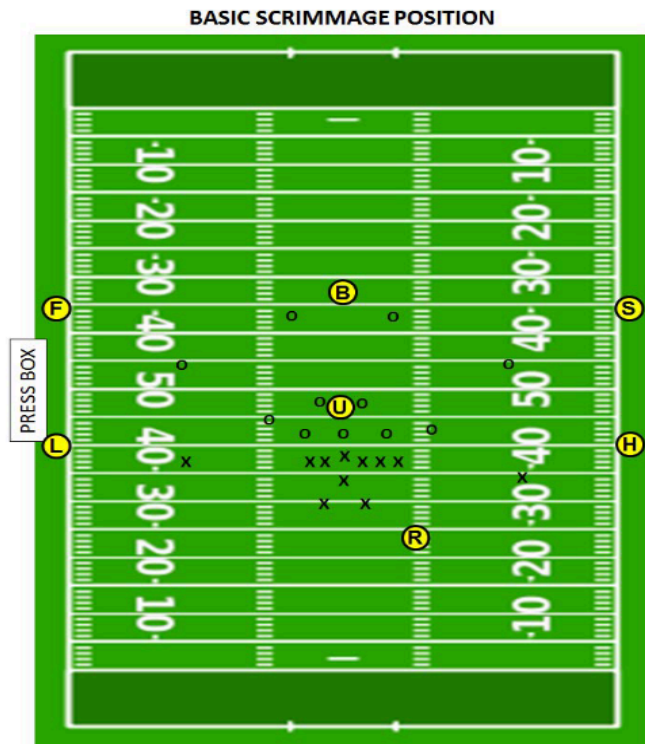


Free Kick (On-side)

1. Starting position is on the sideline on the press box side at R's restraining line. Have a bean bag in hand.
 - a. **You must know if the kick broke the plane** of R's restraining line. You are primarily responsible for touching by either team.
 - b. Be alert for a fair-catch signal by R and be prepared to cover the play if a R player recovers the kick and attempts to advance the ball.

Plays from Scrimmage

1. Basic position is on the sideline on the press box side, **20-22 yards** beyond the LOS.
 - a. Count the defense and verify count with BJ and SJ.
 - b. Observe the start of the game clock with the R's wind or ready signal.
 - c. Identify the receiver you will be responsible for at the snap. This will be the widest receiver (**#1**) on your side of the formation based on a snap-shot at the snap.



Running Plays

1. Basic position is on the sideline on the press box side, 20-22 yards beyond the LOS.
 - a. Count the defense and verify count with BJ and SJ.
 - b. Observe the start of the game clock with the R's wind or ready signal.
 - c. Identify the receiver you will be responsible for at the snap. This will be the widest receiver (**#1**) on your side of the formation based on a snap-shot at the snap.

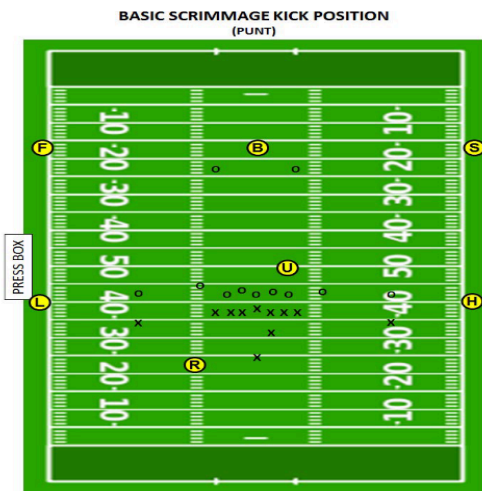
Passing Plays

1. You are responsible for action on and by the widest receiver (**#1**) on your side of the formation based on a snap-shot at the snap.
 - a. Hold your basic position at the snap and observe the type of play as it unfolds.
 - b. Begin to fade when you read pass and **maintain your 10-15 yard cushion** at all times.
 - c. Be alert to the wide receiver voluntarily going out of bounds. Throw your hat to signify the receiver is voluntarily (or involuntarily) OB.
 - d. Cover sideline from your original position to the end line.
 - e. Use Modified Fade Mechanics and **maintain a 10-15 yard cushion**.
 - f. Watch for holding and illegal checking of eligible receivers and all contact beyond the neutral zone both before and after the pass is thrown.
 - g. Stay with your receiver as long as possible; until another receiver enters your area or the pass is thrown. Know where the ball is. Never guard air.
 - h. Once the pass is thrown, all eyes go to the ball.
 - i. When ruling on a pass reception involving the sideline, watch foot and then ball. Give only incomplete signal if incomplete, timeout signal if complete.
 - j. Coordinate close sideline plays with L.
 - k. Reverse fade on interceptions
2. On interception run backs, switch responsibilities with the LJ.
 - a. You are responsible for the runner's forward progress to the opponent's 2 yard line, the LJ will rule on action in advance of the runner.
 - b. When the runner goes out of bounds, you will mark the spot of forward progress; the LJ is responsible for cleaning up the action around the play and in the team area.

Punts

1. Take a position on the sideline on the press box side no less than five yards behind the deepest receiver. **(usually about even with the BJ)**
 - a. When the ball is snapped at approximately Team A's 45 yardline, take an initial position at the goal line pylon.
 - b. You have responsibility for contact on or by your flyer(s).
 - c. Have a beanbag in your hand.
 - d. Count Team B players and verify count with BJ and SJ.
 - e. Be alert for blocked or fake kick. You have the widest receiver.
 - f. Be alert to kicker's 'flyers' **voluntarily going out of bounds**. Be ready to throw your flag at the spot of the player's return to the field and participation in the play.
 - g. You must see any illegal blocks on or by your flyer, especially blocks into the receiver.
 - i. Be alert for fair catch signals and the actions of players when a signal is given. The offside official is responsible for blocking by the fair catch signaler.
 - ii. Be prepared to rule on interference with the catch opportunity by your gunner.
 - h. When it is obvious that the kicked ball will not land in your area of responsibility:

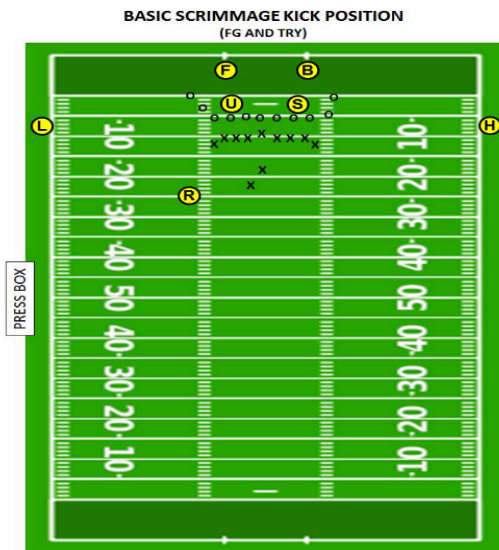
- i. Hold fast in your original position while the ball is in the air.
 - ii. Cover action in front of the receiver and then cover action around the runner if the play is away from you. Use cross field mechanics to assist the SJ with progress.
 - iii. Be ready to clean up and be alert for dead ball fouls.
- i. If the return is to your side, take over the runner when he takes a step after catching the ball. You are responsible for his forward progress to the opponent's 2 yard line.
- i. The **LJ will cover action in front of the runner** and is responsible for cleaning up the action around the play and in the team area.
 - ii. When the ball comes down near your sideline, be prepared to rule on the receiver's position when he first touches the ball; inbounds or out of bounds.
 - iii. Be in position to rule on the legality of hand-offs on the kick return.
 - iv. On a kick out of bounds in flight, **look to the R hacking waving you in position to the out of bounds spot**. You are responsible for the out of bounds spot on kicks that come down inbounds and then roll out of bounds on your sideline.



Field Goals and Tries

1. Take a position just behind the upright of the goal on your side of the field.
 - a. Count Team B players and verify count with the BJ and SJ.
 - b. Read the offensive formation and determine your player responsibility/eligibility.
 - c. Be ready to rule on success or failure of field goal/try attempt.
 - d. Be alert for fake field goal attempts; be ready to cover runs or passes.
 - e. Be alert for the ball striking an upright or crossbar. If the ball strikes your upright, you are responsible for the ruling.
 - f. Coordinate with BJ on fakes and blocked kicks
 - g. When the ball is snapped outside the 20-yard line:

- i. Move at a 45-degree angle to the intersection of the goal line and sideline on your side of the field. Be at the pylon. You have goal line responsibility.
- ii. When the ball is snapped on or inside the 20-yard line:
 1. Move to the intersection of the end line and sideline on your side of the field. Be at the pylon. LJ has goal line responsibility.
 2. If the return is to your side of the field, you are responsible for forward progress to the opponent's goal line. The LJ will cover action in front of the runner and is responsible for cleaning up the action around the play and in the team area.



Goal line plays

1. When the ball is snapped **outside the 25, assume your normal position**. You are responsible for being at the goal line when the runner crosses.
 - a. When the ball is snapped from the **25 to the 7-yard line, your position is on the goal line at the pylon**. WHEN THE PLAY TERMINATES ON OR NEAR THE GOAL LINE, YOU MUST BE ON THE GOAL LINE TO RULE ON PLAY.
 - b. You are responsible for progress inside the last two yards.
 - c. When the ball is snapped from the **7-yard line in, take a position at the pylon at the intersection of your sideline and the end line**.
 - d. Count Team B players and verify count with BJ and SJ.
 - e. Read the offensive formation and determine your player responsibility.
 - f. Concentrate your attention on the sideline in the end zone and the end line in your area.
 - g. Coordinate with BJ on plays that involve the end line.

General Game Duties

1. Be particularly aware of player and/or substitutes entering or leaving on your sideline.

- a. Be aware of substitutions to deceive.
- b. Must know down, distance and clock status every play.
- c. Count B players before every down and confirm with BJ and SJ.

Penalty Enforcement

1. You are responsible for reporting the type of foul, number of player who fouled and a brief description of 'what he did' to the Head Coach on your sideline.
2. All officials are responsible to verify that the penalty has been properly enforced

Measurements

1. Ensure that players and/or officials do not block a view of the ball from the press box