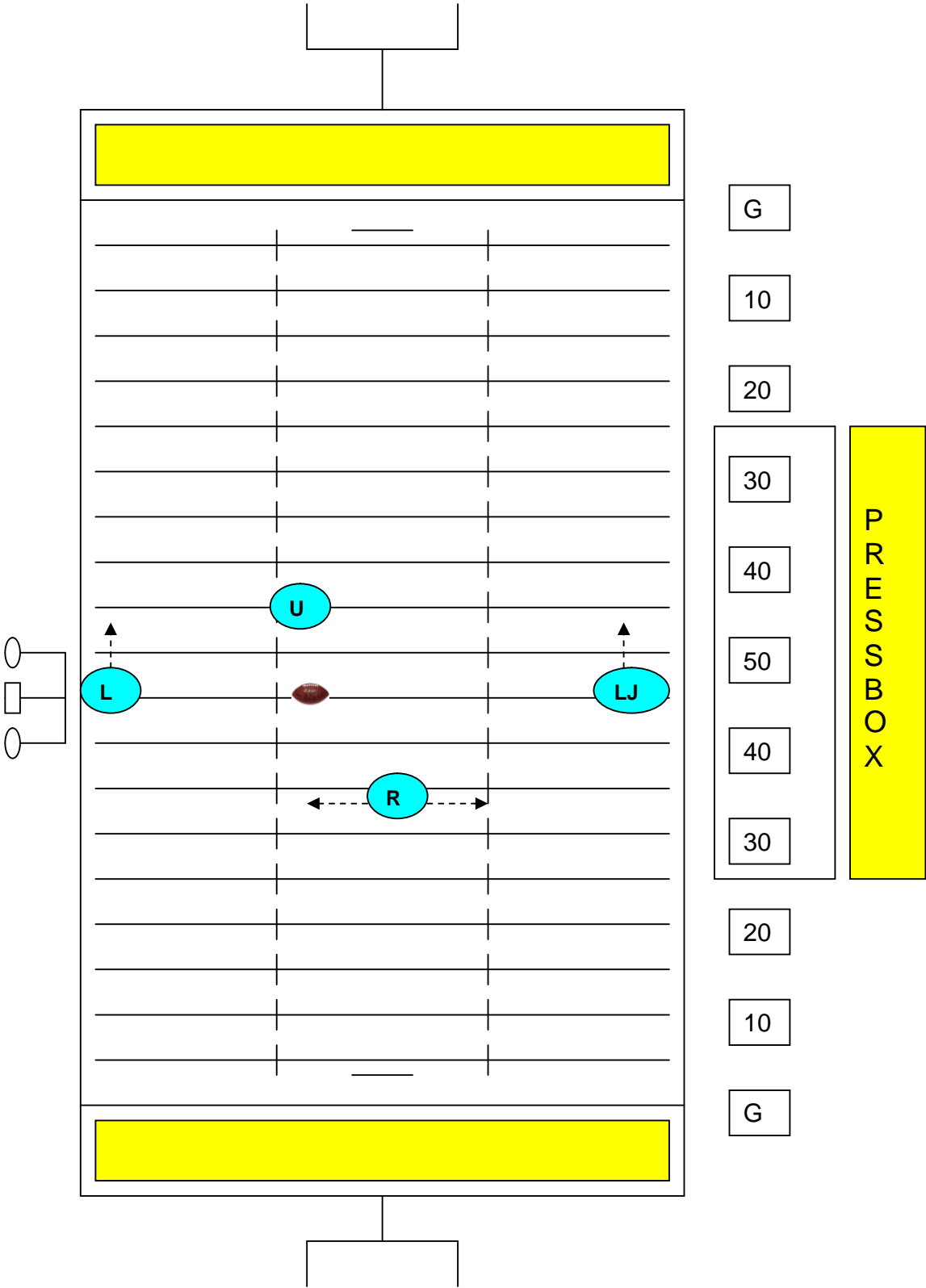


Run and Pass Mechanics (4 Man)



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Referee

After ball is spotted:

1. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.
2. Position: Behind team A, usually 3-4 yards deeper than deepest back.
 - a. On passing arm side of quarterback.
 - b. Able to view tackle on far side and backs.
3. Check the:
 - a. 25-second count.
 - b. One-second count after huddle or shift.
 - c. Number of A players and eligible backs.
 - d. Snap irregularities and movement of linesmen.
4. Be alert for illegal shift or player in motion.

After snap:

1. Areas of responsibility:
 - a. Key tackle on opposite side.
 - b. If he blocks aggressively, **read run**.
 - Ball, runner and action around him to neutral zone.
 - If action is not in direction of original position, move toward line of scrimmage.
 - Delay moving immediately toward line of scrimmage to avoid hindering reverse or delayed play.
 - If there is a score and no foul, give the touchdown signal and record score.
 - c. If he pass blocks, **read pass**.
 - Observe all blocks behind the neutral zone.
 - As the passer retreats, remain wide and deeper than the passer.
 - Give special attention to contact with the passer:
 1. After the ball is released, continue to observe the passer, not the flight of the ball.
 2. Verbally alert defenders when passer has released the ball.
 - Determine whether the pass is forward or backward.
 - Be alert to observe illegal pass:
 1. Move to the spot of the pass to determine whether passer's feet were in or behind neutral zone when ball was released.
 2. If illegal, drop your penalty marker and continue to officiate.
 3. If close, mark the spot of the pass with beanbag and continue to officiate.
 - Solely responsible for intentional grounding. You may get assistance from wing officials.
 - Continue to observe action behind the neutral zone before leaving area.
 - Responsible for the runner until he crosses the neutral zone.
2. Move behind play toward side of field that the play advances to cover runner if he is downed near neutral zone.
3. Check for:
 - a. Illegal use of hands by players of team A.
 - b. Action behind and away from runner near neutral zone.
 - c. Action on quarterback after handoff.
 - d. Signal from Linesman or Line Judge indicating foremost point of ball on quick line plays.
 - e. Backward or forward pass when the ball is thrown.
 - f. Out-of-bounds spot behind neutral zone.

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4. Continue to observe action behind neutral zone before leaving area.
5. Responsible for the runner until he crosses neutral zone.
6. When ball is dead:
 - a. Move quickly to its location.
 - b. Be positive of the ball location before sounding whistle.
 - c. Signal number of the next down.
7. Help spot the ball, then give the read-for-play signal and sound whistle.
8. If first down has been made or change of team possession has occurred, give the time-out signal to stop clock.

Umpire

After ball is spotted:

1. Position:
 - a. Usually will spot and remain over the ball until Referee gives ready-for-play signal.
 - b. Usually 3-8 yards behind team B's line and between B's ends keeping snap in view.
 - c. Do not interfere with vision or movement of defensive backs.
 - d. Vary position so players cannot use you as interference.
2. Check the:
 - a. Number of A players.
 - b. 5 players numbered 50-79 on the offensive line.
 - c. Interference with the snap, false start or encroachment.
 - d. Disconcerting signals by B.
 - e. Note position of ball between inbounds lines.
 - f. Note B's players on the line of scrimmage in free blocking zone.

After snap:

1. Areas of responsibilities:
 - Key the center and guards.
 - If he blocks aggressively, **read run**.
 - Read the point of attack, paying particular attention to free blocking zone restrictions.
 - When play is wide to side:
 - Move in that direction observing initial line play and action around the runner.
 - Remain on the inside working out to maintain boxed-in coverage.
 - When hole opens directly in front of you:
 - React and adjust according to play, possibly moving laterally from hole.
 - Watch the tight end cutting across.
 - Cover action at point of attack and then behind runner.
 - If he pass blocks, **read pass**.
 - Step toward the neutral zone.
 - This removes you as a target on shallow drag passes.
 - This puts you in position to rule on whether ineligible is illegally downfield.
 - Observe action of players in and just behind the neutral zone.
 - Assist the Referee to determine whether passer's feet were in or behind the neutral zone when the ball was released.
 - Drop penalty marker at the spot from which an illegal pass is thrown.
 - Cover short passes down the middle.
 - Know where the forward pass first touches anything.

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2. Check for illegal use of hands or arms and other fouls near neutral zone.
3. Be alert for:
 - a. Quick kick or pass.
 - b. Ineligible receivers and point forward pass first strikes anything.
 - c. If fumble occurs beyond neutral zone, assist in determining who secures possession.
 - d. Illegal contact on snapper.
 - e. Action of players in and just behind neutral zone.
4. Do not sound whistle unless covering official is not in position.
5. Assist in spotting the ball.
6. Assist relay if ball goes out-of-bounds or down field.

Linesman and Line Judge

After ball is spotted:

1. Position: Straddle line the ball is on, no closer than 9-yards outside widest offensive player.
2. Check the down-box number. Signal the number of down.
3. Use extended arm signal and hold until snap to indicate closest A player is off the line.
4. Count B players and identify eligible receivers on your side. Be alert for illegal substitutions.
5. Check following:
 - a. Wingbacks, flankers, split ends and slot backs.
 - b. First 2 players in from your end of offensive line, including backs as eligible pass receivers.
 - c. Players in motion away from you and maintain responsibility for him if he reverses.
 - d. Minimum of 7 offensive players on line-of-scrimmage.
 - e. Encroachment or false start.

After snap:

1. Areas of responsibility:
 - a. Key end and wide receiver if defender is covering him tightly.
 - b. Be alert for quick plays into line and assist in making forward progress with down field foot.
 - c. Watch initial charge of linesmen.
 - d. On wide-end run to your side, observe blocking near neutral zone to tackle.
 - e. When ball comes to your side of field:
 1. Cover sideline and watch for crack back block.
 2. Sound whistle when ball becomes dead and move to spot of ball.
 3. Toss ball back to Referee or Umpire.
 - g. When ball goes to opposite side of field:
 1. Move cautiously into general area until certain there will be no reverse or counter.
 2. Observe action on linebacker and backside pursuit.
 - h. On down-the-line option plays toward you, observe pitchman, loose ball, and pitchman as he becomes runner.
 - i. Observe late blocks and forearm blows away from runner.
 - j. Responsible for entire sideline.
2. While moving downfield with runner, watch for illegal forward pass or fumble.
3. If the play continues following an illegal forward pass, drop your penalty marker at the spot of pass to indicate where the run ended and the spot of any subsequent foul.

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4. On a pass play:
 1. Check block on eligible receiver.
 2. Be ready to rule on the direction of a quick quarterback pass.
 3. Watch for interference by either team.
 4. Be ready to rule on any fumble or illegal pass after the completion.
 5. If the pass is incomplete in your area:
 - a. Sound your whistle.
 - b. Give the incomplete-pass signal.
 - c. Retrieve the ball and relay the ball back to the line-of-scrimmage.
 6. Be ready to adjust coverage if potential passer decides to run.
 7. Be alert for sideline action.
 8. Be alert for forward progress of runner or receiver.
 9. Responsible for entire sideline.
 10. Always be prepared to come back to rule on a play near the neutral zone.

Linesman (Working with the line-to-gain equipment and crew):

1. Echo Referee's signal verbally and with proper hand signal.
2. Repeat Referee's time-out signal.
3. Do not turn your back on the field of play when having equipment moved.
4. Authorize down marker to be moved only after Referee's signal.
5. When necessary to move yardage chain:
 - a. Spot foremost point of ball with downfield foot.
 - b. Have down-box operator mark the spot, informing Referee that yardage chain is ready.
 - c. Have line-to-gain crew set the two rods.
6. When line-to-gain is goal line:
 - a. Fasten chip to chain at intersection of goal line.
 - b. Remove line-to-gain equipment from sideline.

Line Judge:

1. When a kick is almost certain, be positioned behind B's line.
2. If first down, signal clock to stop.

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All Officials

1. Always keep the play properly boxed in.
2. Before sounding your whistle:
 - a. Be certain the ball is dead.
 - b. Be certain of the location of the ball.
 - c. Keep your eyes on the runner when you are covering.
3. When the ball becomes dead in your area, sound whistle promptly and be alert for:
 - a. Dead- Ball fouls.
 - b. Surprise plays or fumbles.
4. If there is a fumble, the covering official should:
 - a. Mark spot of the fumble with beanbag.
 - b. Rule on possession immediately.
 - c. If defense recovers, covering official should signal time-out and signal 1st down.
 - d. If offense recovers, covering official should indicate the number of the next down.
 - e. If ball becomes dead before the fumble, covering official should sound whistle and indicate the down has ended.
5. If ball goes out-of-bounds, covering official should:
 - a. Give time-out signal.
 - b. Mark and hold the spot.
 - c. Continue to observe action.
 - d. Nearest official should retrieve ball.
 - e. Other officials should echo time-out signal.
 - f. Move quickly to assist getting the ball ready-to-play.
6. Be alert for substitution infractions.
7. Be alert for an illegal pass.
8. Observe touching and catching by an ineligible player.
9. Watch for holding on eligible receivers and all contact beyond the neutral zone.
10. If the pass is intercepted inside the defensive team's 5-yard line and the player making the interception is downed in the end zone or ball goes out of bounds there:
 - a. Be prepared to rule whether his momentum took him into the end zone.
 - b. Mark the spot of interception with your beanbag.