

“Umpire Offensive Backfield

Regional Supervisor’s Clinic

NCHSAA

April 27, 2016



Initial Positioning

- The Umpire positions themselves 9-11 yards on the outside shoulder of the tight end on the opposite side of the Referee in the offensive backfield. If there is no tight end on that side, then line up on the opposite shoulder as if one were there. The Referee will position themselves 12-15 yard on the throwing arm side of the QB in the offensive backfield.

Ball Spotting Mechanics

- **Any official can spot the ball, just spot in the easiest and most efficient way. The closest official should spot the ball and the only exception here is that we don't want the wing official coming of his "spot" to get the ball. Let the R or B get the ball in this circumstance.**
- **If the ball goes outside the hash to the R's side, the U simply goes to the hash to wait for the ball to be relayed to him by the R or B. B, make sure you don't give up the deep pass before moving to assist with relay.**
- **If the ball goes outside of the hash on the U's side, the U or the B will relay the ball into the R who will spot the ball and move off the ball as the U is coming toward the ball. The R will then mark it ready for play. If the R is caught up in a chicken fight, game administration, etc, the U will get the ball or may get it from the B and spot it. It's not complicated, just flow.....**

Ball Spotting Mechanics (cont)

- **The Referee will make all roughing the passer calls. The U can help with facemask calls or even targeting, but let the R have roughing the passer. If the QB drops straight back to pass and scrambles out of the pocket to the U's side, the R will follow him into the side zone and the U will step back and watch blocking around QB and let the R go with the QB. (I know some of you will be quicker than others with this mechanic.) If the R makes it into the side zone in this instance, he or the B will relay the ball to the U to spot the ball. If the QB is rolling out or optioning, the U will go to the sideline on his side just as any other running play outside the hash to his side. R still has the roughing the passer, but the U could have a late hit out of bounds.**
- **If we are in a no huddle situation, hurry up, etc., the U will stay in the "A" (between guard and center) until R waves him off and then marks it ready for play. This will prevent the ball from being snapped before the ready.**

Penalties

- **The U will mark off all penalties as before with the Linesman walking with him from his position on the side. The U will face the Linesman and make eye contact to insure that they are in agreement with the enforcement. The Line Judge will remain at the enforcement spot and then follow up with his own “walk off” on his sideline.**

Exceptions to Offensive Backfield Positioning

- 1. The U will assume the “traditional” positioning in the defensive backfield on all scrimmage kicks, (i.e. punts, pat, field goals)**
- 2. The Umpire will be in the traditional position when the ball touches the **PLUS** 10 yard line or closer when it is goal to go. He will help the wings on runner crossing goal line on quick dive plays, etc.**
- 3. In 4 man private school games, the U goes to his traditional spot behind the defensive line. In all 5 man crews, the U will adhere to these mechanics.**

Keys

- **The U will key the interior linemen. If it's a quick dive play, this is not an issue. On sweeps, he will release his keys and follow action that is pertinent around the ball carrier. Things he should be aware of, are low blocks on defensive end or linebacker and conversely, linebacker blocking low to take out the blocking interference.**
- **The U can help with ineligibles downfield, but the Linesman and Line Judge should share in this responsibility also. Wings should not release the line of scrimmage until the ball is released on a pass to help with this responsibility. By doing this, the wings also give us added coverage on quick passes over the middle when we would have to rule on a trap or catch.**



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