

# WORKING THE WINGS

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# Five Things to Know

## **Start at the sideline or wider**

- **If a receiver is at the numbers on your side, you can widen your “cone of vision” by thanking a few steps back**
- **Start with a cushion and maintain it throughout the play**
- **Stake your claim on the Three-yard belt and treat it like your office. That is where you are working**
- **When coaches start creeping up, move back and politely ask them to do the same**
- **Stepping back makes sure you are not part of the play**

# Five Things to Know

## Keep your distance

- As the play progresses, maintain your distance and shuffle step downfield
- Shuffling keeps your chest directed to the field and facing the runner/blockers
- Remain off the field and slightly behind the runner
- Once the runner breaks well beyond the line of scrimmage, turn and follow behind
- Until the runner is contacted by opponents, watch the players around the ball for illegal acts
- If the runner is forced out of bounds, stop and let him pass. Then turn toward the players while giving the stop clock signal
- Keep your eyes on the players and bring them back if necessary
- Wait for the players to clear the sidelines before you do anything else

# Five Things to Know

## Understand forward progress

- Happens on the majority of scrimmage plays
- Move downfield to the forward progress spot as soon as you can
- Never jump over players
- If it's your "hard spot", mark with downfield foot for fellow wing
- Mirror slightly behind the line if it's your "soft spot"

# Five Things to Know

## Get to the goal line

- Try to meet the runner at goal line when threatened
- When ball snapped at 5yd line or closer, first move is toward the goal line
- Stop just short of the goal line, but close enough to see down the line
- Do not step into end zone unless the ball crosses
- Crash hard if the runner is down close, in or out (signal)
- Only one official should signal Touchdown
- Don't signal unless you are sure the ball crossed in A's possession
- Nothing matters after the ball breaks the plane (fumbles, progress, etc). Touchdown

# Five Things to Know

- Be decisive in short yardage situations**
- Know where the line to gain is**
- Be aware of “short 5” situations**
- Treat the line to gain like the goal line when critical**
- Hard crash when runner is down close**
- If it’s your spot, ask for the ball and place on your downfield foot**
- Verbally inform Referee “First down” or “short” while giving signal (stop clock or next down)**

# Unusual Situations

## **Airborne receiver**

- **Forward progress for an airborne receiver is the spot where he gains possession and maintains control of the ball**
- **On a bobble, progress is the spot where he last gains possession**
- **If carried, not pushed, out of bounds, spot is where he crosses the plane of the sideline**

# Unusual Situations

## Plays at the sideline

- **Runner contacted by opponent and crossing sideline moving forward has been forced out of bounds and the clock is stopped**
- **Runner contacted by opponent and crossing sideline moving backward is deemed stopped in the field of play and the clock continues. The spot is where the runner reached before being driven back**



# Unusual Situations

## Plays at the pylon

- For a runner who is still touching the ground inbounds, the goal line plane is extended out of bounds. Therefore, the ball can score when the ball crosses goal line extended, outside the pylon
- For a runner in possession of the ball, airborne, is out of bounds where the ball crosses the sideline, even if he crosses the goal line extended

# Unusual Situations

## Sliding Runner

- Spot is where hip, elbow, knee, forearm, or shoulder contacts the ground
- There is no rule to protect a QB who scrambles beyond the line and slides to “give himself up.” The running QB is treated as a runner and loses passer status.
- Can still be protected from targeting

# Unusual Situations

## Free Kick after Fair Catch

- R and LJ under uprights
- HL on K line

# Communication

- Communicate more than any other official
- Coaches, chain crew, players, sideline personnel, ball boys, officials
- Coaches say communication is the indication of a great official
- Be non-confrontational; stand to the side of the coach (45 degree), not face to face

# Communication

- Head Coach (only) is entitled to an explanation of all unusual rulings or situations
- Keep all communications brief and professional; no personal commentary