

# BASIC SCRIMMAGE DOWN RESPONSIBILITIES

Side Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Line Judge \_\_\_\_\_

(S)

(L)

## Linesman and Line Judge:

- Take original position on or near sideline and adjust to the spot of the snap. Read the offensive formation and know your eligible receiver responsibilities.
- Watch for illegal formations, including encroachment prior to the snap.
- Watch for false starts by offensive players.
- Indicate the offensive line of scrimmage by extended foot, then take final position straddling the neutral zone.
- Cover man in motion going away from you for illegal motion. This man continues to be your responsibility, even though he changes direction. (Does not relieve opposite official from making obvious call).

## Side Judge and Field Judge

- Take original position no less than 15 yds deep on or near sideline.
- Be aware of your position as game progresses. Do not allow yourself to get too deep.
- Officiate from the outside-in. DO NOT LET A PLAYER get between you and the sideline.
- Know your eligible receiver responsibilities
- Be aware of violations of the restricted team area.
- Responsible for counting defensive team. Confirm count with each other using an extended fist; once in agreement, drop hand. Observe that replaced players leave the field immediately.

Back Judge \_\_\_\_\_

(B)

(U)

(R)

## Umpire -

- Position variable according to the formations of both teams, avoid position which will interfere with linebackers. Adjust distance behind the defensive line according to the width of Team A's formation and (except on goal line or try situations) be at least 5, but seldom more than 7 yards deep. Whenever possible, coordinate your position with the R for best coverage of the interior line play. Normal position is on side opposite the tight end.
- Read offensive alignment and know 5 ineligible.
- Count offensive players. Signal to Referee with closed fist if the offense has 11 players.
- Rule on illegal movement by restricted linemen prior to the snap.

## Back Judge

Back Judge has ultimate responsibility for the end line. Take original position 20-25 yards deep favoring the tight end side of the field. Must always be in position to cover from the inside (looking out). Must be aware of motion back, who is BJ's responsibility at the snap. Will place his arm straight overhead with palm open to signify that 20 seconds have elapsed in the 25 second play clock.

## Referee -

- Be in a position where you may be comfortable to see the ball and backs and tackle on your side, except flankers, or a man in motion toward you. Usual position is behind and about 5-7 yards outside the deepest back or backs. Work on the throwing arm side of the quarterback.
- Check the offensive formation and count the offensive players. Signal to Umpire with closed fist to confirm that the offense has 11 players. Observe that replaced players leave the field immediately.
- Check the setbacks and quarterback for illegal motion, the ball at the snap, and assist the Umpire if there is movement of restricted lineman.

Field Judge \_\_\_\_\_

(F)

120yards  
109.7m

(H)

Head Linesman \_\_\_\_\_

Umpire \_\_\_\_\_

Referee \_\_\_\_\_

## BASIC SCRIMMAGE MECHANICS

**ALL: The general rule is not to key the same player as another official.**

In determining keys, the following definitions are needed for clarification purposes:

Strength of the formation is determined by the number of eligible receivers on a particular side of the offensive formation. It has nothing to do with the number of linemen on each side of the center but rather the number of eligible receivers outside the tackles.

Tight End - the end man on the line of scrimmage lined up no more than four yards from the nearest offensive lineman.

Back In Backfield - a player in the backfield between the tackles at the snap.

Trips - three or more receivers outside an offensive tackle.

The Priority of keys to determine initial assignments for each group of officials is as follows:

Field Judge and Back Judge.

Back Judge.

Line Judge and Linesman.

The general rule is not to key the same player as the official ahead of you priority-wise. The Line Judge and Linesman should not key the same player as the Back Judge.

Referee	_____
Umpire	_____
Field Judge	_____
Back Judge	_____
Head Linesman	_____
Side Judge	_____

