

2008 RULE CHANGES

Blocking Emphasis for Officials

- Six different areas identified as trouble spots:
 - Low Blocks by the Defense
 - Legal Initial Contact with the Hands
 - Holding, discerning legal from illegal
 - Chop and Cut Blocking
 - Acts in the Free Blocking Zone
 - Snapper Protection

CHOP BLOCK / CUT BLOCK

- CHOP BLOCK IS ALWAYS ILLEGAL
- INVOLVES TWO TEAMMATES
- 2ND BLOCK IS DELAYED AND IS MADE AT THE KNEES OR BELOW

- CUT BLOCK *MAY* BE LEGAL IF IT OCCURS IN THE FREE BLOCKING ZONE

FREE BLOCKING ZONE

- It is a 6 yard by 8 yard rectangle centered on the football
- This is the only area of the field where it is LEGAL to Block Below the Waist, Clip, or Block From Behind.
- The ball MUST NOT have left the Zone and the block must happen in the Zone.
- Are there OTHER requirements ??

FREE BLOCKING ZONE

- BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST
- BOTH PLAYERS MUST BE ON THE LINE AND IN THE ZONE AT THE SNAP
- BLOCK MUST OCCUR IN THE ZONE
- BALL MUST STILL BE IN THE ZONE

FREE BLOCKING ZONE

- LEGAL CLIPPING
- BOTH PLAYERS MUST BE ON THE LINE AND IN THE ZONE AT THE SNAP
- BLOCK MUST OCCUR IN THE ZONE
- BALL MUST STILL BE IN THE ZONE
- CAN ONLY BE DONE BY THE OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

FREE BLOCKING ZONE

- LEGAL BLOCK IN THE BACK
- BLOCK MUST OCCUR IN THE ZONE
- BALL MUST STILL BE IN THE ZONE
- CAN ONLY BE DONE BY THE OFFENSIVE LINEMAN AGAINST DEFENSIVE PLAYERS IN THE ZONE

FREE BLOCKING ZONE

- Key points-
 - Regardless of formation, rules are same.
 - If in shotgun (QB behind line more than 3 yards), then ball is out of zone almost immediately.
 - If in shotgun, only legal low blocks by linemen are those initiated at the snap.
 - Any delay almost certainly make the block illegal.

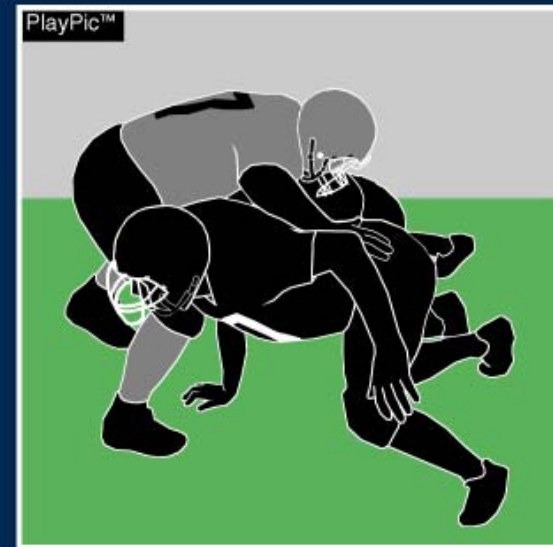
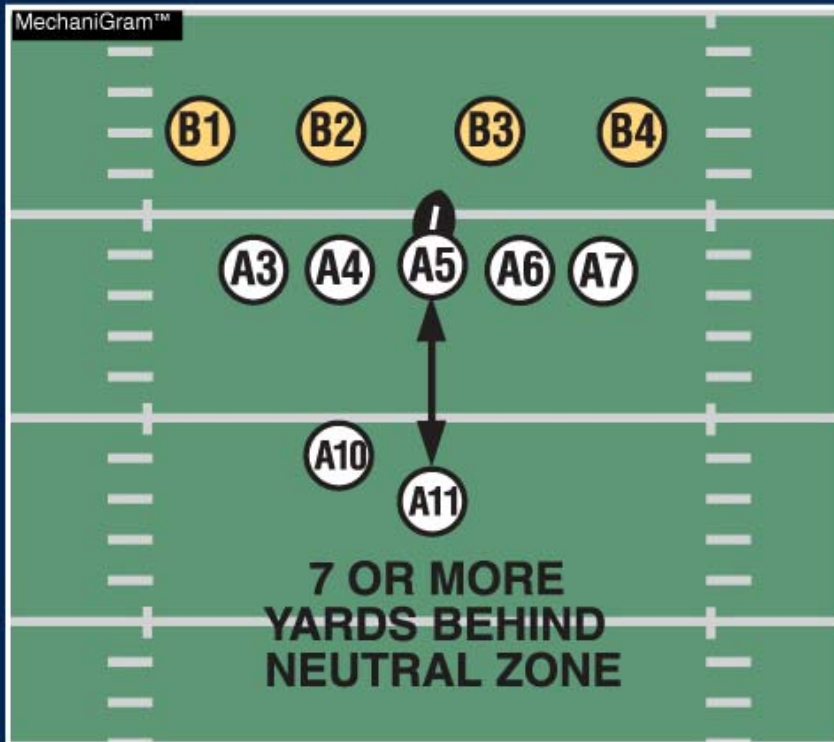
Acts by the Defense

- Blockers on both offense and defense subject to same rules.
- Only exceptions are with ball carrier and those pretending to be the ball carrier.
- Simply being in the path of the ball carrier doesn't make me pretend to be the ball carrier.



Blocking

Rules 2-14-2, 2-17-2, 9-3-2



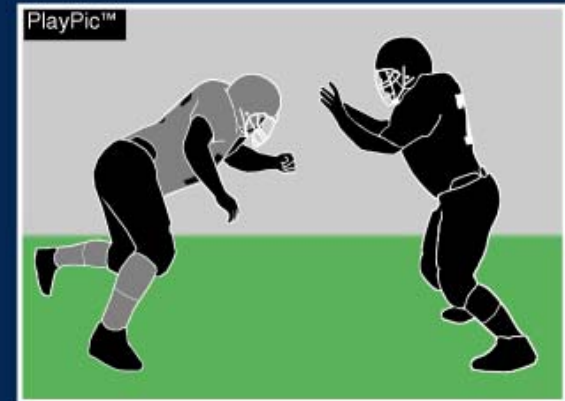
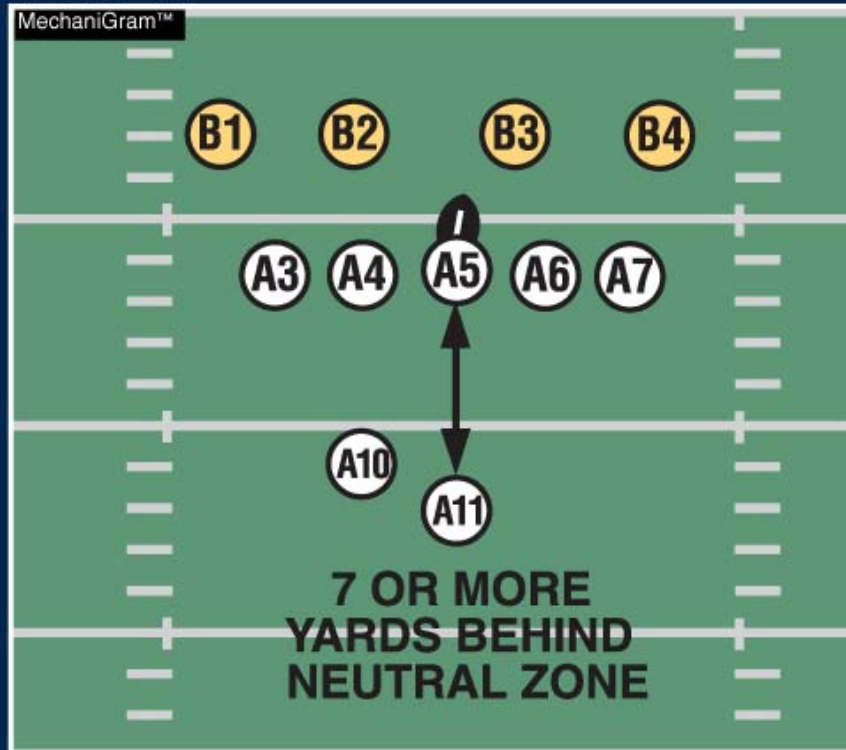
BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST LEGAL IF:

- BLOCK IS THROWN IMMEDIATELY AT THE SNAP
- ALL PLAYERS INVOLVED ARE ON LINE OF SCRIMMAGE AND IN FREE-BLOCKING ZONE AT THE SNAP
- CONTACT IS IN THE FREE-BLOCKING ZONE



Blocking

Rules 2-14-2, 2-17-2, 9-3-2



**BLOCKER RISES, RETREATS
OR HESITATES**



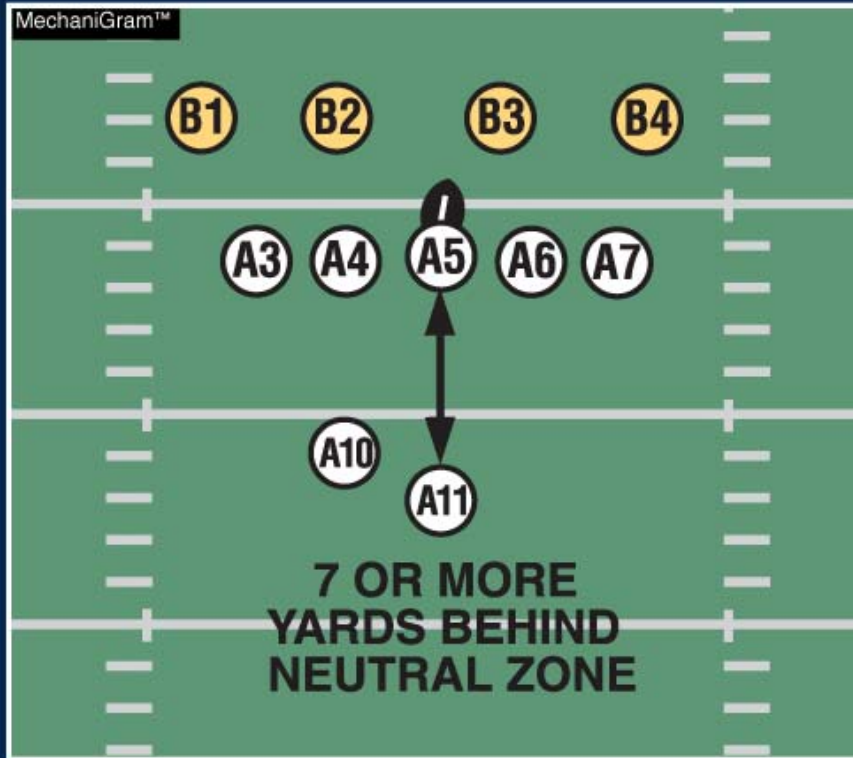
**BLOCKS BELOW WAIST
— ILLEGAL —**



Blocking Rules 2-14-2, 9-4-6



1ST DOWN

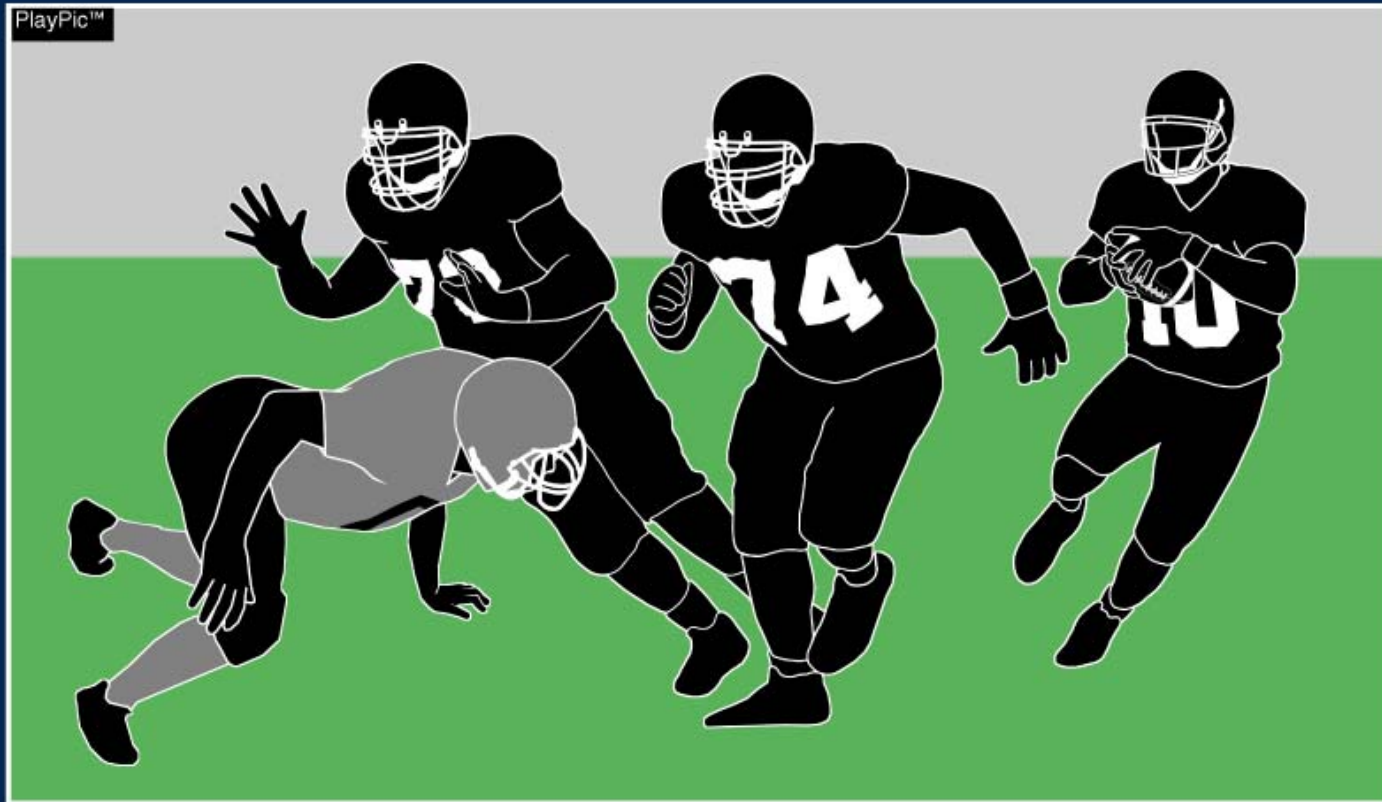


DEFENSE MAY NOT CHARGE DIRECTLY INTO SNAPPER UNTIL HE HAS HAD A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO REGAIN HIS BALANCE AND PROTECT HIMSELF OR UNTIL HE BLOCKS OR MOVES TO OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAY.

THIS IS ROUGHING THE SNAPPER.
(REGARDLESS OF DOWN)



Blocking Below the Waist Rules 2-3-7, 2-17-2



A RUNS SWEEP; B BLOCKS LEAD BLOCKER BELOW THE WAIST
OUTSIDE THE FREE-BLOCKING ZONE.

— ILLEGAL —

2008 RULE CHANGES

- 4 CHANGES DEAL WITH FOULS BY THE OPPONENTS OF THE TEAM SCORING A TOUCHDOWN
- ELIMINATED CARRY-OVER 2ND HALF TIMEOUTS INTO OVERTIME
- ALLOWING THE HEAD COACH TO DESIGNATE AN ASSISTANT TO CALL TIME OUTS FROM THE SIDELINE

2008 RULE CHANGES

- 6 CHANGES DEAL WITH EQUIPMENT AND FIELD MARKINGS
- USE OF AN ILLEGAL KICKING TEE WILL NOW BE PENALIZED AS AN UNFAIR ACT BY THE PLAYER