



Contra Costa County Football Officials Association

Training Session # 4

Passing



PASSING

Rule 2-31 (page 34)
Rule 7-5 (pages 61-64)
Rule 9-2-3 (page 69)
Rule 9-4-4 (page 71)

- Types of Passes
- Illegal Passes
- Eligible Receivers
- Pass Interference
- Illegal Touching
- Ineligible Downfield

Mechanics Book

- Pages 66-72 - four man
- Pages 40-47 – five man



Types of Passes

- Forward Pass – A pass with its initial direction towards the opponent's goal line
- Backward Pass – A pass with its initial direction parallel with or towards the goal of the passing team
 - A pass not clearly backward is forward
 - If flank sees any pass in backfield as forward and incomplete – signal as such
 - Flank rules on backward – punch if backward and pass coming toward you
- A forward pass can be thrown overhand, underhand, one handed or two handed (*football myth debunked: there is no such thing as a "forward lateral"*)
- Legal Forward Pass: Thrown from in or behind the neutral zone (only one forward pass may be thrown during a down)

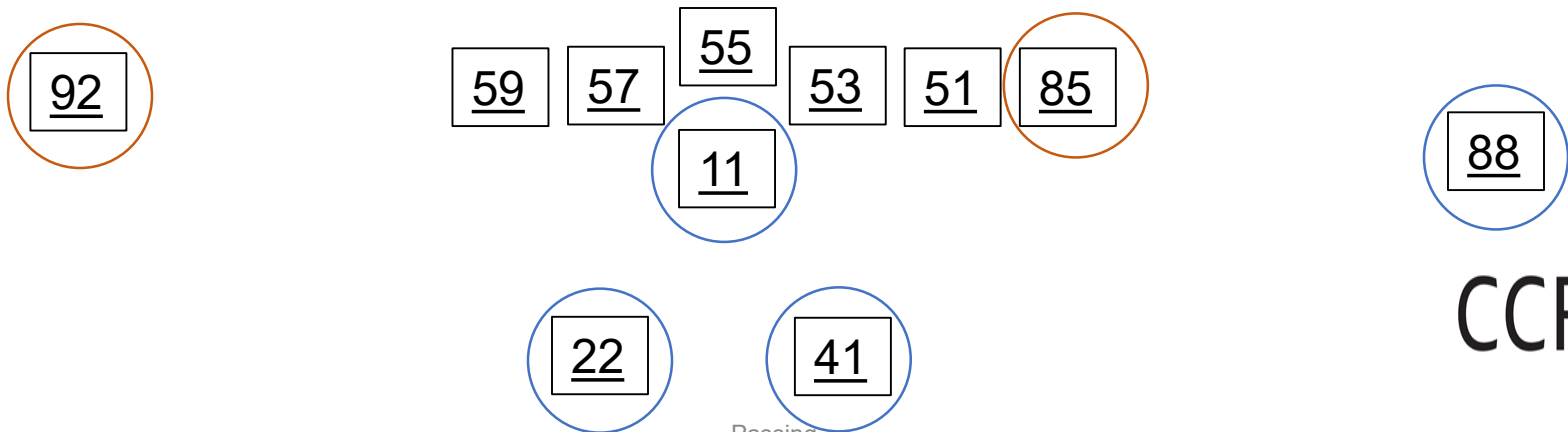
Illegal Forward Pass

1. After team possession has changed
2. From beyond the neutral zone (“one foot” interpretation)
3. Intentionally thrown incomplete into an area unoccupied by an eligible receiver (Referee call but may need help)
4. A pass intentionally incomplete to save time or save loss of yards (Referee call)
 - Exception – a pass intentionally incomplete if thrown to ground immediately after a snap that has not been muffed or touched the ground is legal
5. A second or subsequent forward pass in a down
 - *Umpire to step up to line when read pass*
 - **Note: An Illegal forward pass can be incomplete**



Eligible Pass Receivers

- For A: Numbering **AND** position must be met
 - 1 through 49 and 80 through 99 are eligible numbers
 - End of Line **OR** in backfield at time of snap
 - Maximum of 6
- All A players become eligible when B touches a forward pass
- For B: All players eligible



Eligible Pass Receivers

59

83 57 55 53 51 85
11

88

66

41

22 41

59 57 55 53 51

85 55 92

11

Pass Interference

- Only applies for actions beyond the line of scrimmage and only if ball crosses the neutral zone
 1. Interferes with an eligible player's opportunity to move toward or catch a pass – requires contact
(Note did not say just A players)
 2. Not PI if unavoidable contact occurs when both players making bona fide effort to move toward or catch the ball
 3. No such thing as “un-catchable”however.....
- *99.99% time the LJ or HL call (4 man crew)*
- *Back Judge involved with 5 man crew*
- *Flag, no whistle, continue to officiate*

Pass Interference

– when it starts, when it ends

- For B Players
 - Starts when ball is thrown
 - Ends when the ball has been touched by any player
- For A Players
 - Starts when the ball is snapped
 - Ends:
 - For eligible A players - when the ball is touched by any player
 - For ineligible A players – when B touches the ball

Illegal Touching

- Occurs if an ineligible A player bats, muffs or catches a legal forward pass (must be an intentional act)
- Applies anywhere on field
- *Flag to spot of foul, no whistle, continue to officiate*
 - If it results in an incomplete pass – then blow whistle

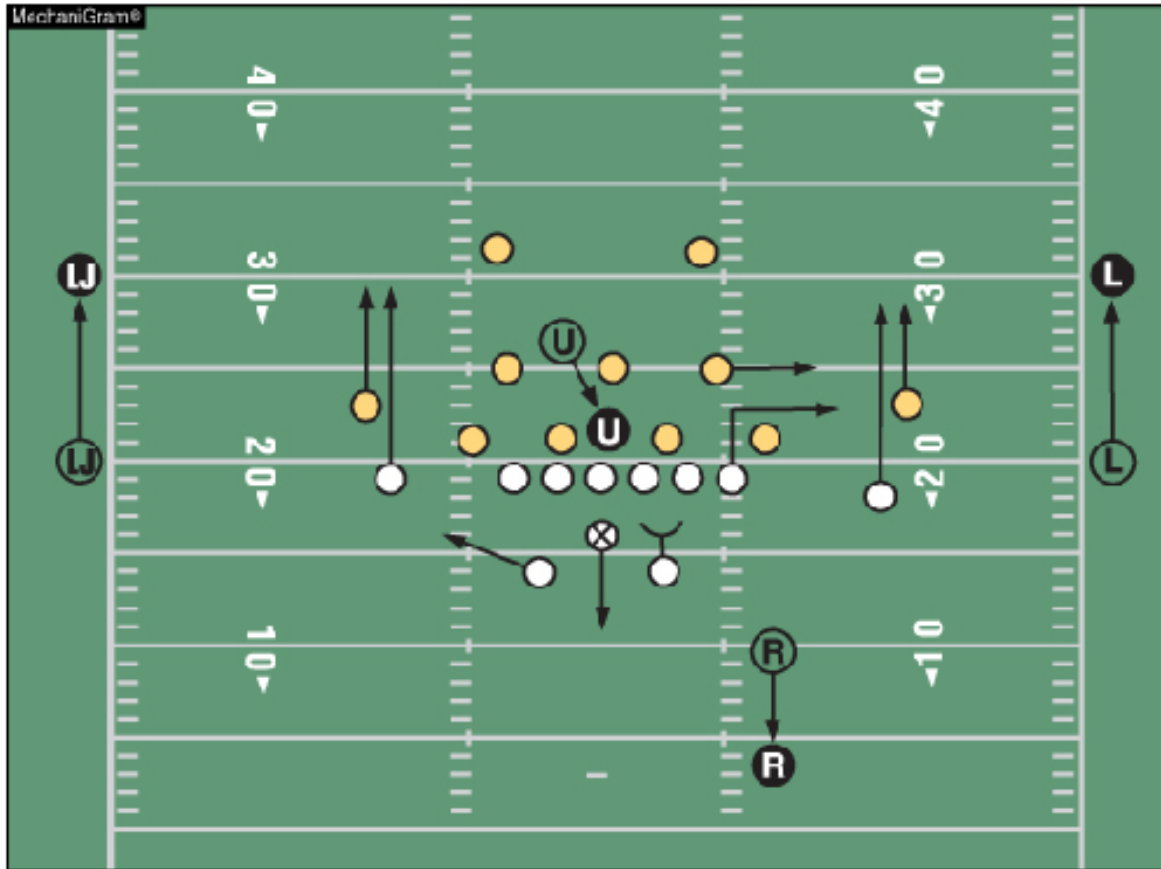
Ineligible Downfield

- Ineligible A players may not advance beyond neutral zone before a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone is in flight
- If B touches the pass restriction is terminated
- *Flag, no whistle, continue to officiate*
 - *Can be seen by umpire if interior lineman*
 - *This is part of why you are moving to the line of scrimmage*
 - *Can be seen by flank if tackles or “covered” tight end*
 - *Part of your “pre snap” reads – who is eligible?*
 - *Throw flag when seen – we can “pick it up” if pass does not occur or cross NZ*
 - *Can be seen by anyone if No 78 catches a pass e.g.*

COVERAGE

DEEP PASS PART 1

[p.89]



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CF(A)