

***2008 FOOTBALL  
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
- 2<sup>ND</sup> 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.

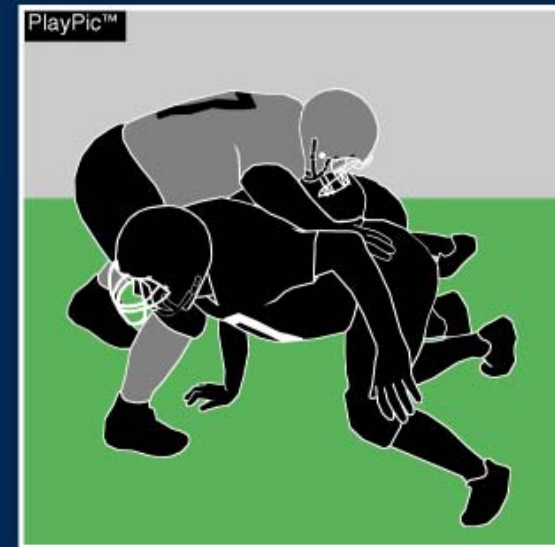
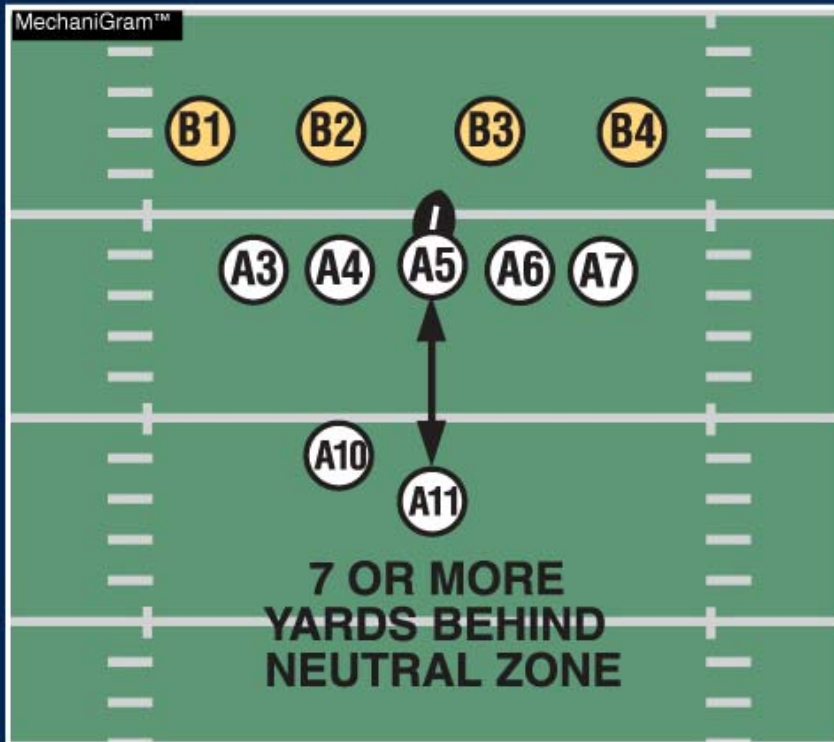
# Acts by the Defense

- 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



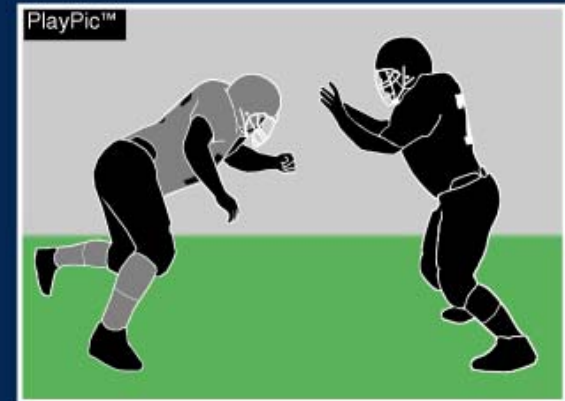
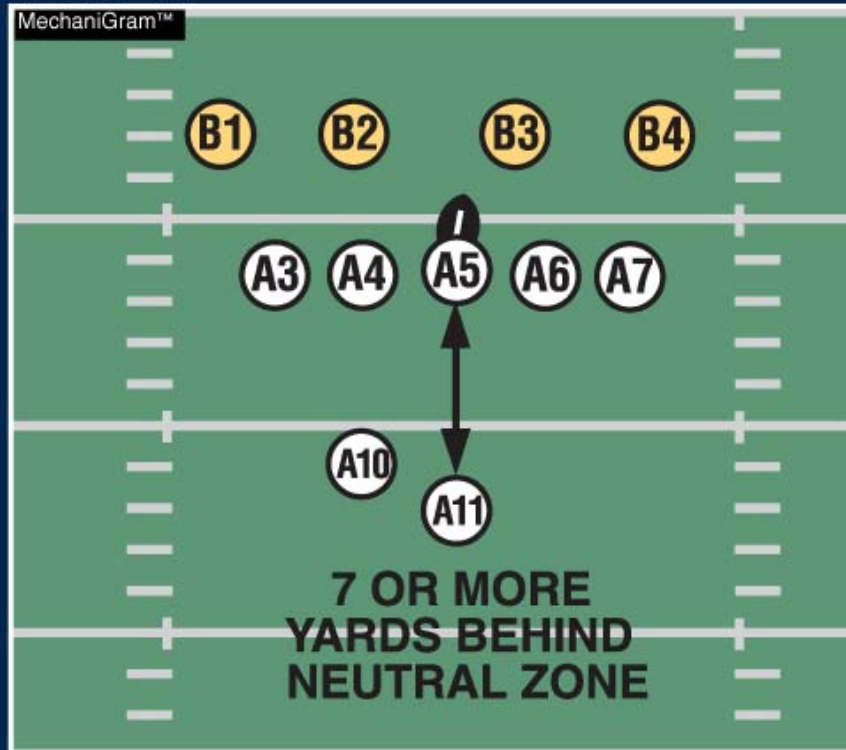
**BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST LEGAL IF:**

- 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**



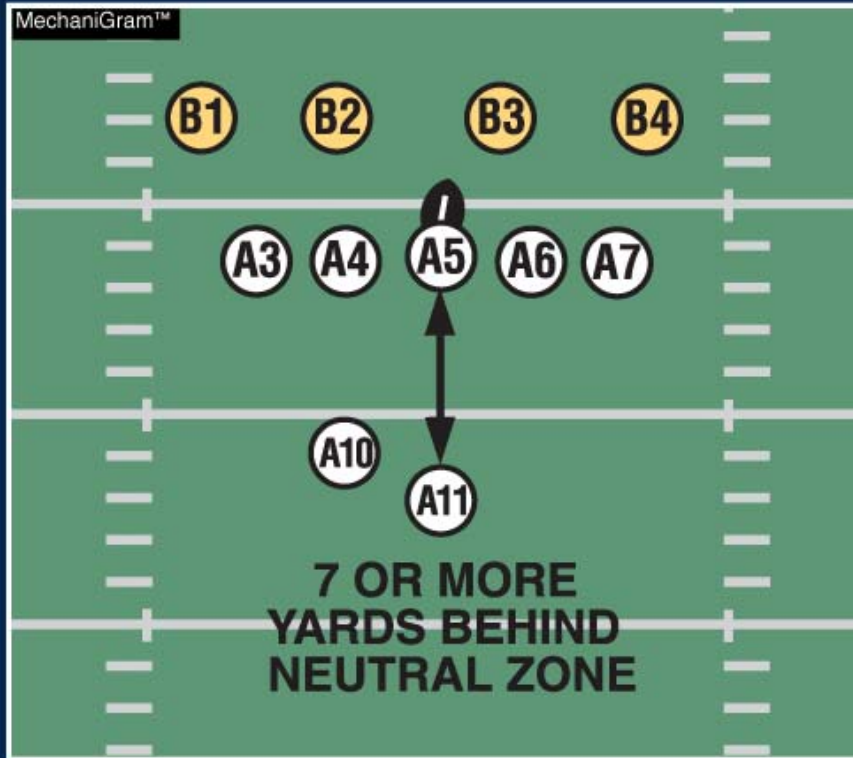
**BLOCKS BELOW WAIST  
— ILLEGAL —**



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



1ST DOWN

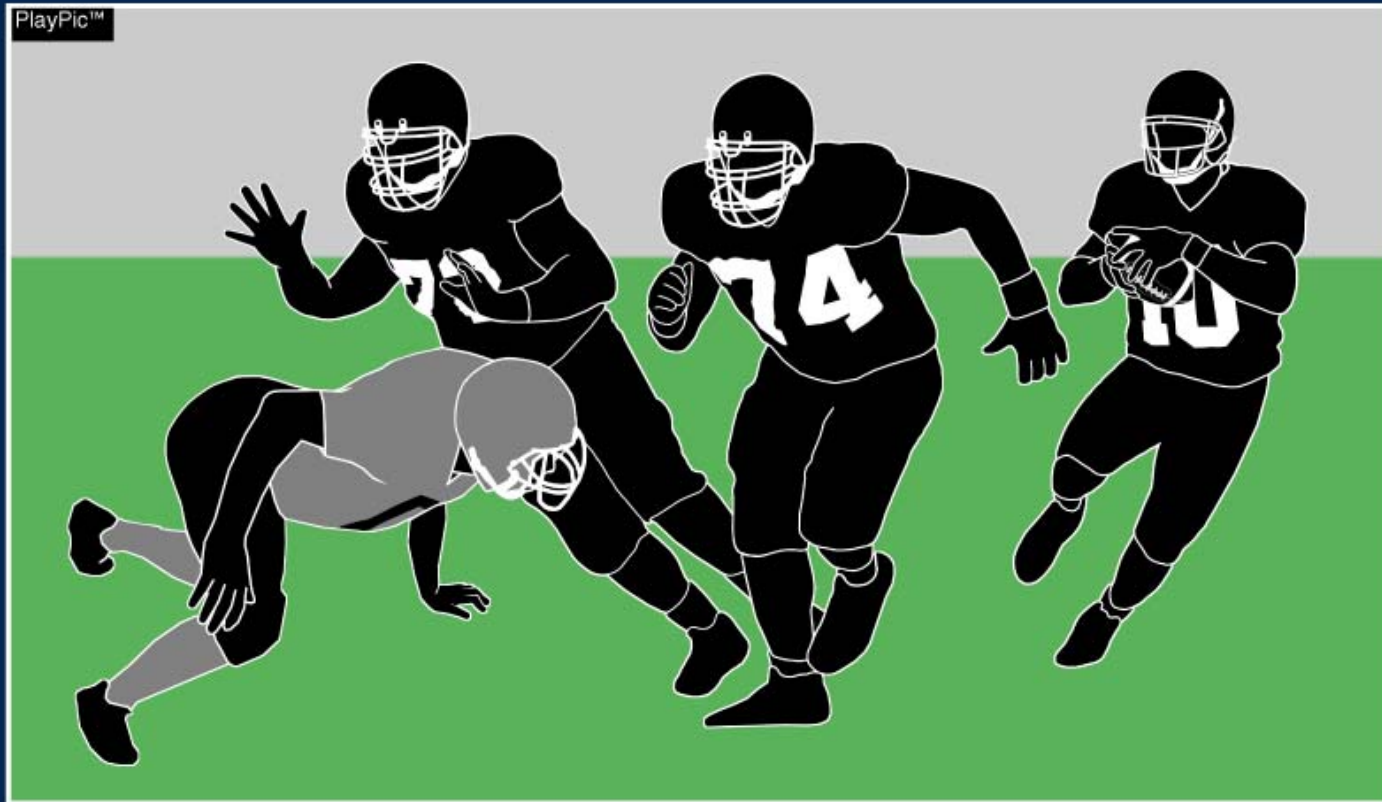


DEFENSE MAY NOT CHARGE DIRECTLY INTO SNAPPER UNTIL HE HAS HAD A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO REGAIN HIS BALANCE AND PROTECT HIMSELF OR UNTIL HE BLOCKS OR MOVES TO OTHERWISE PARTICIPATE IN THE PLAY.

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 2<sup>ND</sup> 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