

Alternate – Umpire Mechanics

5-Man Crew

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Presented by:
Sunshine Football Officials Association

Current Umpire Mechanics

- Variable according to the formations of both teams, avoiding a 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 yards but seldom more than 7 yards deep.
- Whenever possible, coordinate your position with the R for best coverage of the interior line play.
- NEVER have an initial position outside the inbound lines (hashmarks).
- Normal position is on side opposite the tight end.

Position Change Philosophy

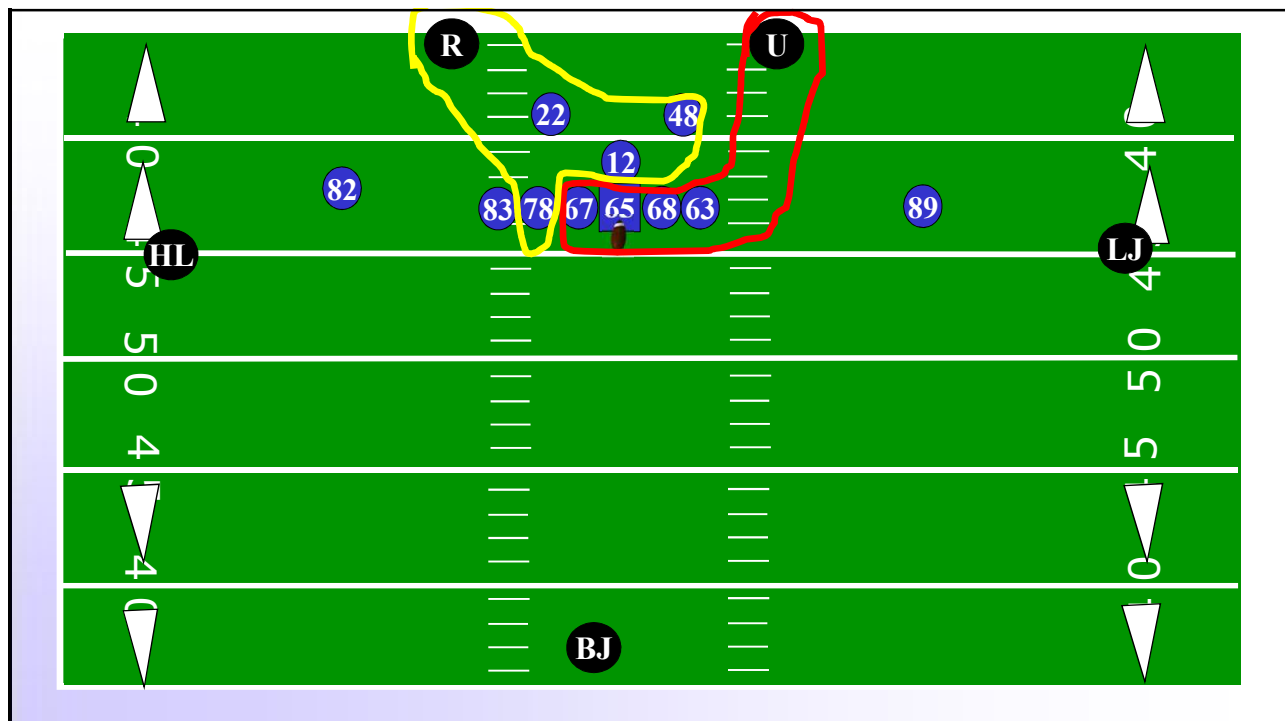
- To better provide the Umpire position a social distancing option, the Umpire has the option to move to the offensive backfield.
- This allows the umpire to maintain a distance of 6 feet from any player on the field at the snap and not interfere with a defensive player, nor take him/her out of position for pre-snap responsibilities.

The mechanics are a hybrid of current NFL Umpire and NCAA Center Judge Mechanics.

Recommended Mechanics Changes

Initial Positioning & Pre-Snap Responsibilities

- R is positioned on the right side of the QB (no matter if the QB is right or left-handed)
- U is positioned on the left side of the QB equal depth as the R
- U has the Snap, Center, Two Guards, and Left Tackle
- R has QB, Back(s) and the Right Tackle
- R and U still responsible for pre-snap count of offensive players (Team A)



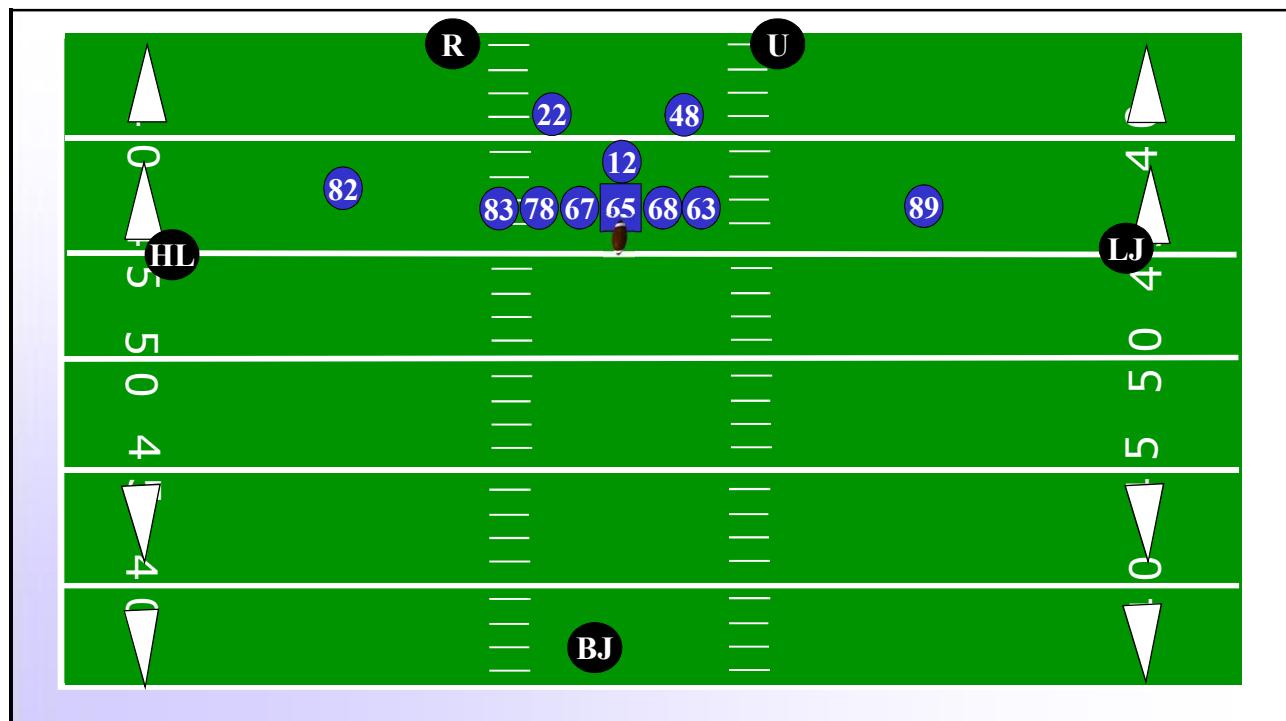
All Running Plays

R, U and LJ/HL have adjusted zone coverage and zones remain relative as play advances if run is to left or right.

- R will trail the runner to the right side of the field
- U will trail the runner to the left side of the field
- R/U will have backside coverage depending on which direction the ball goes
 - Exception – R will take QB on all scrambles to either side

Run Up the Middle

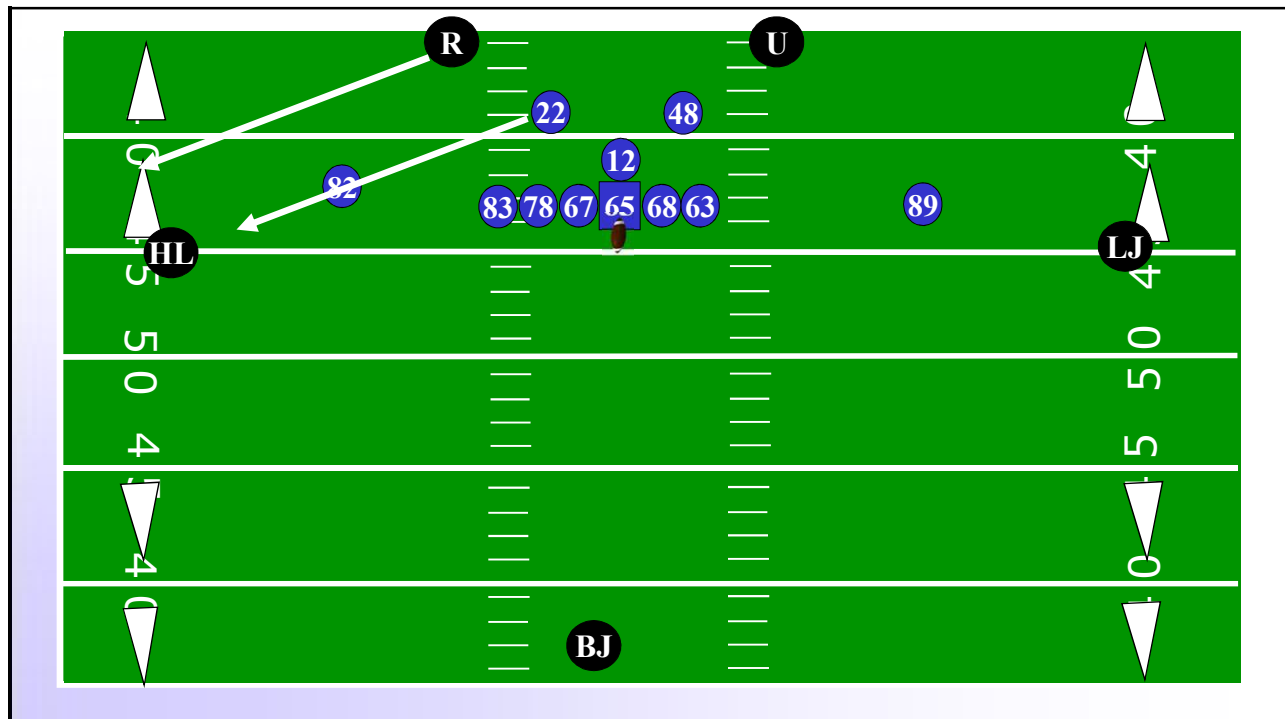
- R will focus on Center and Right Guard and work outward as play develops
- U will focus on Center and Left Guard and work outward as play develops
- LJ/HL will focus on Tackle and TE (if there is one) on their respective side.
- BJ will look in and focus on blocks by linemen at second level on linebackers



All Running Plays - Continued

Run to Right Side (Referee Side)

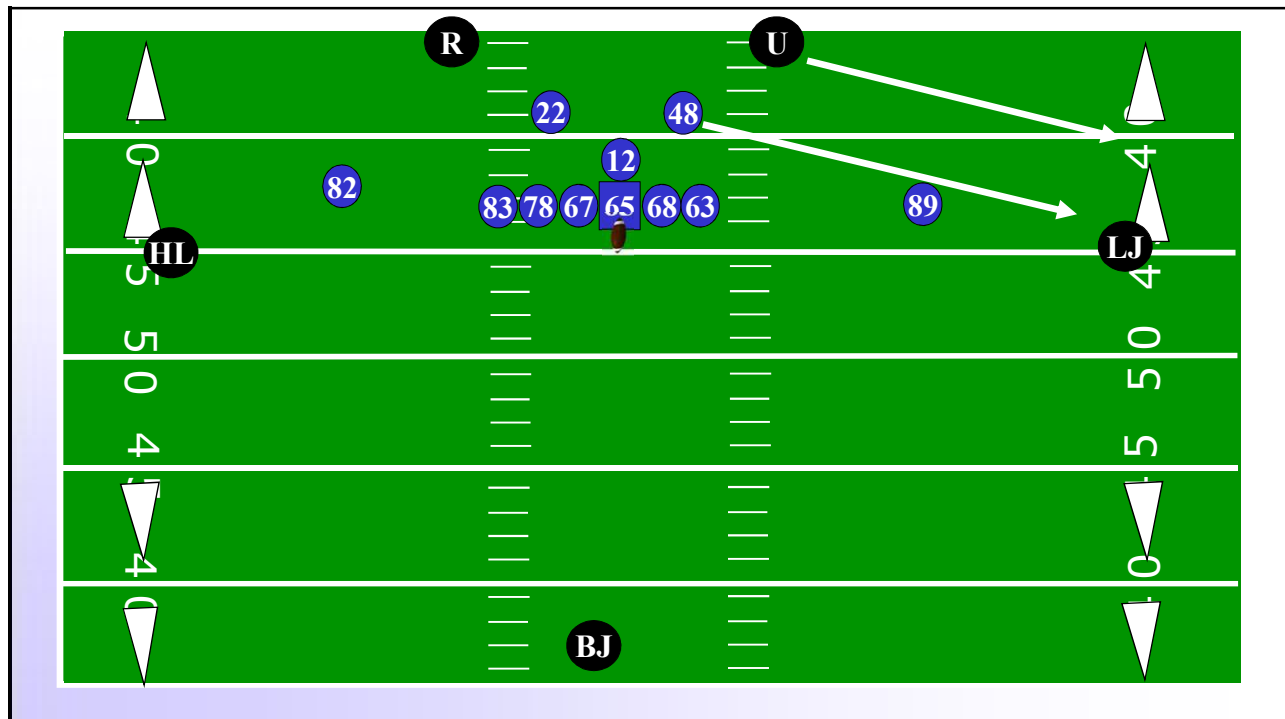
- R will focus on Center and Right Guard and work outward to blocks by Right Tackle and TE (if there is one)
- U will focus on Center and Left Guard and work to clean up blocks in the middle including blocks at second level.
- LJ will focus on Tackle and TE (if there is one). Continue to focus on blocks on the edge as run comes towards you, or work to clean up backside blocks at LOS and backside blocks at second level.
- HL will focus on Tackle and TE (if there is one). Continue to focus on blocks on the edge as run comes towards you, or work to clean up backside blocks at LOS and backside blocks at second level.
- BJ will focus initially inside on blocks at second level and then work outwards at blocks on the edge



All Running Plays - Continued

• Run to Left Side (Umpire Side)

- R will focus on Center and Right Guard and work to clean up blocks in the middle including blocks at second level
- U will focus on Center and Left Guard and work outward to blocks by Left Tackle and TE (if there is one)
- LJ will focus on Tackle and TE (if there is one). Continue to focus on blocks on the edge as run comes towards you, or work to clean up backside blocks at LOS and backside blocks at second level.
- HL will focus on Tackle and TE (if there is one). Continue to focus on blocks on the edge as run comes towards you, or work to clean up backside blocks at LOS and backside blocks at second level.
- BJ will focus initially inside on blocks at second level and then work outwards at blocks on the edge



Pass Coverage

- R has Right Guard and Tackle... Takes Center only if/when he overtly blocks toward the R's Guard & Tackle
- U has Center, Left Guard and Tackle... Yields Center when he overtly blocks toward R's Guard and Tackle
- Greater dependency on HL/LJ for Ineligible Player Downfield on passing plays
- R would have QB to either side on roll outs. R would have responsibility for Roughing the Passer, Illegal Forward Pass and Intentional Grounding

Goal Line (at or inside the 5-yard line)

- R is responsible for Illegal Forward Pass
- U is responsible for Ineligible Player Downfield
- H/L secondary responsibility for Ineligible Player Downfield

Reverse Mechanics

- R always has GL responsibility
- U will hold back and observe from inside out

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Field Goal and Try Attempts

- R always goes to the side of the Kicker, has Kicker, Holder and assists with coverage on Wing Backs
- R will always look into kicker and holder
- U lines up opposite the R and has all action on the Snapper, both Guards and Tackle on side opposite HL
- HL will take Tackle and TE on his side as well as assist on coverage on Wing Back to your side
- LJ will always go under for coverage with BJ

