

2020 IHSAA Football Officiating Clinic



IOWA
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SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION

Football Adaptations for 2020

Registration

- Football game officials that have registered to work this fall but elect not to work as a result of COVID-19 need to contact Laura Brooker prior to August 27th regarding refunds.
- You will not receive the entire registration fee back. Of the single sport fee of \$50, you will receive \$33. The \$17 will go the NFHS as part of your comprehensive insurance protection package.

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Day of the Contest

- If you do not feel well and COVID-19 symptoms are present, notify the contracted school, your crew members, your assigner and stay at home.
- Regardless of symptoms, take your temperature in the morning and then again prior to leaving for the contest.
- “Vulnerable individuals” are defined by the CDC as people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Officials fitting this description may wish to seek medical advice prior to returning to officiating.
- Communicate with the school athletic administrator about school contest expectations.

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- Travel- Consider whether all crew members will drive separately or together. Do not expect the contracted school to reimburse all crew members for mileage.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel and equipment.
- Bring your own towels for showering and use on the field. Schools will not be providing you these items. (Schools will provide towels for use in inclement weather.)
- Bring your own beverages, food, etc.
- Masks are permitted to be worn, but are not required to be worn.

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Dressing Facilities

- If available, dressing facilities for game officials should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.

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Pregame

- Upon arrival at the site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- Do not wear your uniform to the contest and do not drive home in your uniform.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while in the locker room and while on the field.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Pregame Meeting with Coaches

- Referee and designated other official to meet with coach
- Maintain 6 feet between parties
 - Discuss sportsmanship. We will be talking with captains of both teams of this. I'm sure we won't have any issues, but we will still confirm with them.
 - Everyone legally equipped?
 - Strange and unusual plays or formations we should be aware?
 - Coach I will be coming to you on all fouls unless you would like the captains to handle this which is just fine.
 - If you're working with your players is there anyone else on the sidelines who can make these decisions?
 - Anything on film you have seen that you'd like us to be aware of?
 - Could we have look at the game balls?

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Pregame Meeting with Auxiliary Personnel

- No handshake prior to or after the meeting.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators and individuals handling the balls during the game.

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Meeting with Captains/Coin Toss

- Maintain social distancing between parties
 - No handshake prior to or after the meeting.
 - Take place off the field.
 - More than one representative from each team permitted.
 - Discuss sportsmanship.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Mock Coin Toss

- Maintain social distancing between parties
 - No handshake prior to or after the meeting.
 - Referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team should be involved.
 - Coin toss should take place in the center of the field
 - For the overtime procedure, same procedure as used at the start of the contest for the coin toss.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Player & Team Masks

- Per guidance from the IDPH and DE, masks are not required to be worn by players, game officials, coaches or spectators.
- If an individual would like to wear a mask on the field of play or sideline, he/she may do so.
- For once, you are not the fashion police, so you are not to be concerned about what a mask looks like.
- It is recommended that if worn, players and coaches wear a mask that is a solid color.
- There is no prohibition on the color of the mask.
- It is optional for spectators, workers, and others to wear masks, but they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Sideline

- The Iowa High School Athletic Association will be expanding the team box for the 2020 season only to each respective 10 yard (both 8 player and 11 player fields), providing 30 additional yard for players and personnel to spread out.
- This adaptation is for players only.
- Coaches are still mandated to be inside the 25 yard lines.
- “Get Back” coaches may enter the expanded team box area for supervision purposes only.
- Inappropriate interactions with game officials outside the 25 yard lines is subject to unsportsmanlike penalties against the head coach.
- Only essential personnel are permitted on the field of play. The field of play is defined as the area within the boundary lines and the goal lines.
- Essential personnel are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials. All others, i.e., ball attendants, managers, video people, media photographers, etc. are considered non-essential personnel and are to be on the sideline, maintaining social distance of 6 feet apart.
- During time outs, managers are permitted on the field of play to provide water to players.

Football Adaptations for 2020

Officials Timeouts

- The Iowa High School Athletic Association is mandating that an officials' timeout be taken approximately every 4 minutes of game clock time in order for teams to properly sanitize and hydrate during the contest.
- This timeout is to be two minutes in length.
- In addition, the intermission between the 1st and 2nd quarter and the 3rd and 4th quarter should also be two minutes in length in order to allow for proper sanitizing and hydration.
- Similar to previous years, this timeout should be taken at the discretion of the referee and is not be taken while a team is in the middle of a drive.
- Preferably, the timeout should be taken at the conclusion of the offensive team's possession. Approximately 20-30 seconds each side of the 8 minute mark and 4 minute mark is acceptable for the timeout to be taken.
- When we come out of the timeout, the play clock should be set to 25 seconds.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Officials Timeouts

- The authorized conference for the game officials' time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes.
- We will be extremely flexible with Rule 2-6-2(a &b) regarding the outside the 9-yard mark conferences and between the 9-yard mark conferences.
- (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used along with managers providing water to players using their individual water bottles.) This is to clarify that during a time-out that takes place in the middle of the field, only one coach is permitted to attend that conference and no technology is to be used.
- Coaching staffs should focus on having their authorized conference with only those players directly related to the play to avoid massive player huddles.

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Team Timeouts

- Teams will still be permitted three team timeouts per half.
- These team timeouts will continue to be one minute in length.

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Team/Officials Timeouts

- It is not the responsibility of the officiating crew to make sure that the schools are maintaining social distancing guidelines during timeouts.
- However, it is the responsibility of the officiating crew to make sure that they as crew members maintain social distancing guidelines during timeouts.
- During this time, officials should do their proper sanitization as well, sanitizing exposed skin along with shoes and other equipment.
- Feel free to have a small bottle of sanitizer in your pocket during the contest.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Rotation of Footballs

- The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest using sanitizing solutions recommended by the ball manufacturer. That information from ball manufacturers will be shared to schools upon receiving it.
- Similar to baseball, the goal is to try and make sure that each team handles their own football only and that different footballs are rotated in so that sweat and other fluids that may get on the ball can be sanitized.
- During games, it is recommended that prior to **fourth** down, a new football be brought into play.
- Rationale for 4th down? Initially, we determined to rotate footballs in every first down, but the up tempo nature that some teams play at, we could be rotating a ball in every play, which could be a disadvantage to an up tempo team, so we switched it to 4th down.
- If the team punts on 4th down or turns it over on downs, we will make a football switch and the opposing team will use their football.
- Similar to baseball, we are willing to evaluate this process and see if any changes or elimination of this protocol is needed.

Football Adaptations for 2020

Rotation of Footballs

- At this time, we do not plan on rotating a football out prior to the play to be sanitized if a player goes to his mouth prior to the snap of the ball.
- I can support rotating that ball out after the play, but it is not required.
- It is recommended that each team provide at least two reliable, knowledgeable ball attendants for each contest and that they maintain the appropriate social distancing guidelines throughout the contest.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Social Distancing on the Field

- There are no plans to move the umpire to the offensive backfield and it is prohibited for this to occur during any IHSAA football contest.
- Umpire- Your normal position is 4-7 yards behind the line of scrimmage. Feel free to back up an additional yard to two yards.
- Line Judge & Linesman- It will be acceptable for you to start off the sideline onto the field of play to try and maintain some social distancing. Just do not get caught on the inside of play toward your side.
- Also, at this time there are no plans to move the chain crew from the visiting side to the home side.

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Football Adaptations for 2020

Postgame

- Game officials, similar to the players, should not wear the clothing they wore on the field home.
- Similarly, flags, whistles, shoes, etc., should be wiped down with sanitizing wipes prior to leaving the facility.
- Additionally, sanitizing the equipment at half-time would be preferred.
- Officials are responsible for bringing their own sanitizing wipes.

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No Argument: Managing In-Game Exchanges



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How to Listen-How to Respond

The Fans: Obviously, this group is the most maddening. If you spend any time listening to or giving significant credibility to what fans say, you are bound to hurt your game. Keep in mind, few fans know much about the rules or mechanics you are applying. Let their comments fall to the ground with no reaction.

The Players: The key to communication with players is what they say and how they say it. If players bring something to your attention in a respectful manner, give it a listen and reassure them you'll take a look. However, if the comment is disrespectful or personal, it is time to act more forcefully. Engaging with the head coach is important at this time.

The Coaches: Within these three groups, the coaches know the game better and as such, should be the people to whom we must give our greatest attention. If a coach asks what you saw on a play, give them an honest answer. Stay in charge. Hearing is physiological; we can't prevent sound waves from entering our ears during a game. Listening, on the other hand is a conscious choice. It requires our intent and attention.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

What are your triggers?

- Recognize what situations or people are your triggers?
- Ask yourself why those specific people or situations have become your triggers?
- When you react to others, what are you telling yourself? You cannot get mad unless you tell yourself something to make yourself mad.
- Are you trying to be too perfect? Do you expect too much from yourself and others?
- Are you making a “mountain out of a molehill”? When something minor happens, do you tend to perceive it as a catastrophe and act in desperation?
- Try to look at the situation differently and tell yourself that not all people and situations are the same.
- Don't be so hard on yourself. Know it is not the end of the world if you make a mistake.
- Monitor your feelings during the course of a game in which you know things will really set you off.
- When you recognize feelings of anger coming, take a moment to collect yourself, even if it means taking a deep breath, taking a short walk away from the source of your anger.

How to Listen-How to Respond

Don't try to win an argument. Your goal is to resolve a conflict.

- Permit the other person to talk without interrupting
- Limit discussion only to the immediate issue that is adversely affecting your relationship
- Choose an optimal time to bring up and discuss problems.
- Avoid the other person's vulnerabilities or emotional sensitivities
- Regularly touch base with the other person.
- Answer the emotion with empathy.
- Take the edge off the emotions.
- Let it trickle like water off your back.
- Finally, accept that sometimes things will still escalate.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

How to handle “The Chipper”

- Coach or player who won't confront you directly, but will make constant little sniping remarks throughout the game.
- Early in the game, firmly inform “the chipper” that you've heard his comments and you don't expect to keep hearing them.
- If they continue, use your proper officiating tools (unsportsmanlike foul flag, ejection) to defuse the problem decisively

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How to Listen-How to Respond

How to handle “The Intimidator”

- The player or coach who thinks he can win any argument just by being louder or more “in-your-face” than anyone else.
- When the intimidator comes at you, yelling and animated, assume the opposite demeanor.
- Focus on being calm.
- Place your hands behind your back and speak in soft tones, repeating the intimidator’s words back to him.
- If the situation continues and he crosses the line, take appropriate action.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

How to handle “The Clasher”

- The player or coach who just doesn’t like you.
- No matter what you do, “the clasher” is confrontational with you at all times.
- Prepare yourself mentally during your pregame.
- Accept that you are not going to be liked by everyone.
- Confrontations with “the clasher” will feel more like personal attacks, so keeping your emotions under control are vital.
- Your best tools are professionalism and courtesy.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

How to handle “The Legitimate Arguer”

- The player or coach who actually has a legitimate argument.
- Will give you the benefit of the doubt many times throughout the game.
- Only becomes argumentative when he truly believes there is a case to be made.
- Usually very professional in voicing their displeasure.
- Listen to their point of view and respond with “If it happened the way you described it, then I missed it.”
- Do not escalate the confrontation.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

COACH

You've got to call that. It is unbelievable that you would not call that.

DON'T SAY THIS

If you're going to complain about my officiating all night, I am going to complain about your coaching.

SAY THIS

Coach, if you have a question, I'll be glad to provide you with an answer.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

COACH

That's a foul. Where's the foul. Didn't you see that?

DON'T SAY THIS

No blood, no foul.

SAY THIS

I saw it and judged it not to be a foul.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

COACH

The penalties are uneven!

DON'T SAY THIS

Don't worry, coach, we'll get it evened up.

SAY THIS

If the same play happens for either team, we will call it.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

COACH

Your partner missed that.
Can't you help?

DON'T SAY THIS

That's not my call.

SAY THIS

Coach, my partner was in a
great position and had a
great look at the play.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

PLAYER

Hey refs, are you going to allow us to play tonight?

DON'T SAY THIS

Sure. We're going to let you beat the crap out of each other.

SAY THIS

We're going to call what we must to keep the game safe and fair.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

PLAYER

C'mon on ref, let us play.

DON'T SAY THIS

Play? This is just a real
bad game.

SAY THIS

We're going to let you play.
We won't let you foul.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

PLAYER

That's a penalty!!

DON'T SAY THIS

You need to shut up and
play.

SAY THIS

There's not enough there.
When there is, I'll call it.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

PLAYER

Hey ref, can you watch #68, he is holding me?

DON'T SAY THIS

You just need to worry about yourself.

SAY THIS

Thanks for the information. We'll keep an eye on it. What exactly is he doing?

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How to Listen-How to Respond

PLAYER

Your other officials won't call anything.

DON'T SAY THIS

My partners are not very good.

SAY THIS

I trust my partners, we each have our own areas of responsibility.

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How to Listen-How to Respond

PLAYER

You suck!!

DON'T SAY THIS

So do you and your
team.

SAY THIS

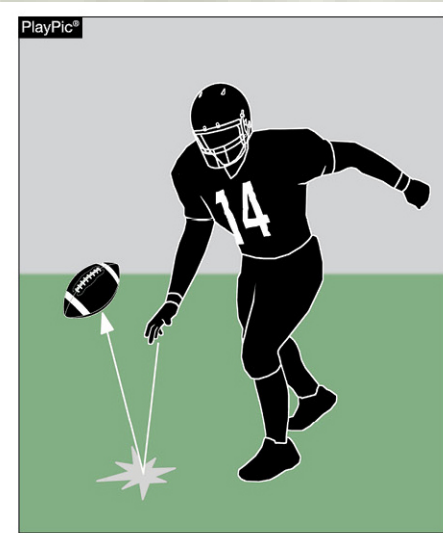
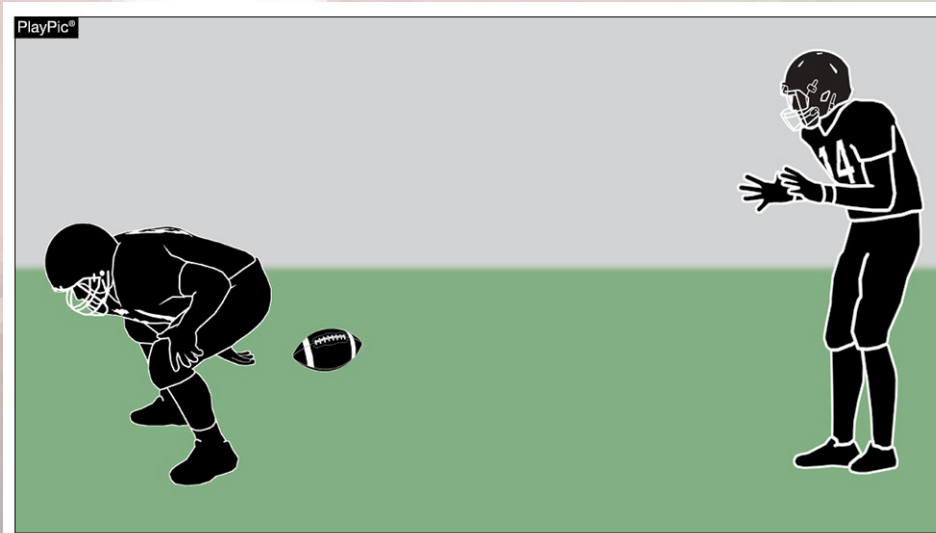
(Penalize immediately)

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Spiking The Ball To Conserve Time

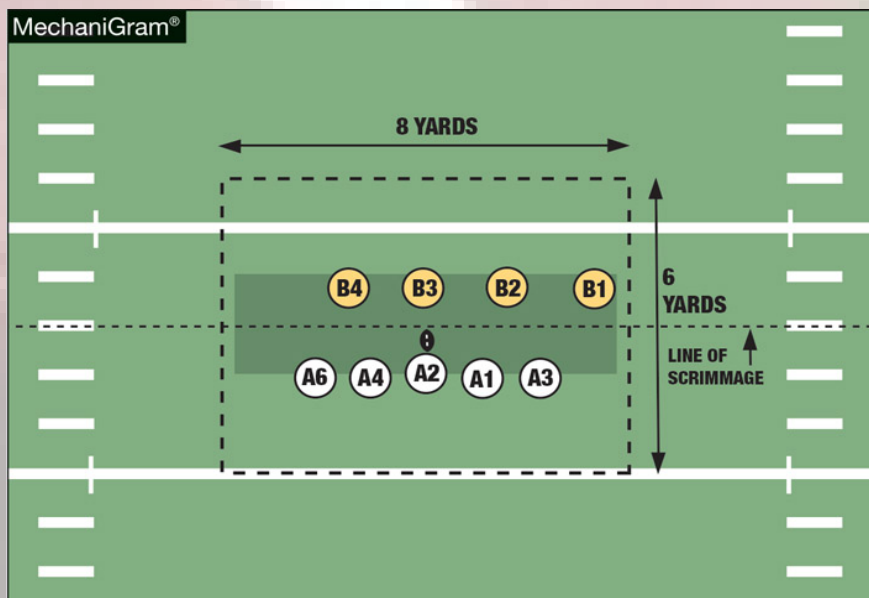
7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5-2e

EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5e EXCEPTION



It is legal for a player positioned directly behind the snapper to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving the snap that has neither been muffed nor touched the ground. It must be a “clean” catch in order for this to occur. Any bobble by the player negates the ability to spike the ball.

Iowa High School Football Experiment (7-5-2 Exception)



Exception:

- It is legal for a passer to throw a forward pass so that it **crosses or lands beyond the neutral zone** if the passer:
 - a. Is the first player to possess the snap or loose ball following the snap and
 - b. Is the only player to possess the ball prior to the pass and
 - c. Has, before throwing the pass, left the area bounded by the defined Free Blocking Zone on either side of the center.
- Once the ball has left the Free Blocking Zone, the FBZ has disappeared for the play.
- **Error on the side of safety regarding in or out of the zone.**



We will ask each referee to provide data regarding how many times this exception was used each varsity game.

Mechanics Updates

Signals-

- The pumping motion of one arm overhead to reset the play clock to 25 seconds was added as signal 17. It is noted that both arms are used if the play clock must be reset to 40 seconds.
- Signal 23 was formerly used to indicate a foul for a player failing to wear required equipment. Due to a rule change, that is no longer a foul. Acts or words by the defense that disconcert the offense have been reclassified from an unsportsmanlike foul to a specific foul and the penalty changed from 15 yards to 5 yards. Signal 23 (right hand behind the head) will be used to indicate a disconcerting act foul.

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Mechanics Updates

Officials Uniforms-

- Shorts be worn only below the varsity level.
- Use of jackets are not recommended.
- Mandate that bean bags be either white or blue has been eliminated.

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Mechanics Updates

Communication with Coaches-

- The referee is notified of each team's designated representative who will make decisions regarding penalty acceptance and declination.
- It is recommended that the linesman and line judge obtain second-half choices from the head coaches as they leave the field at the conclusion of the first half. The choices are then communicated to the referee.

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Mechanics Updates

Chain Crew-

- It is strongly recommended that varsity line-to-gain crew be adults.
- Responsibility for fastening clip on the line-to-gain equipment at the back edge of the yard line closest to the rear line-to-gain rod shifted from the linesman to a chain crew member.

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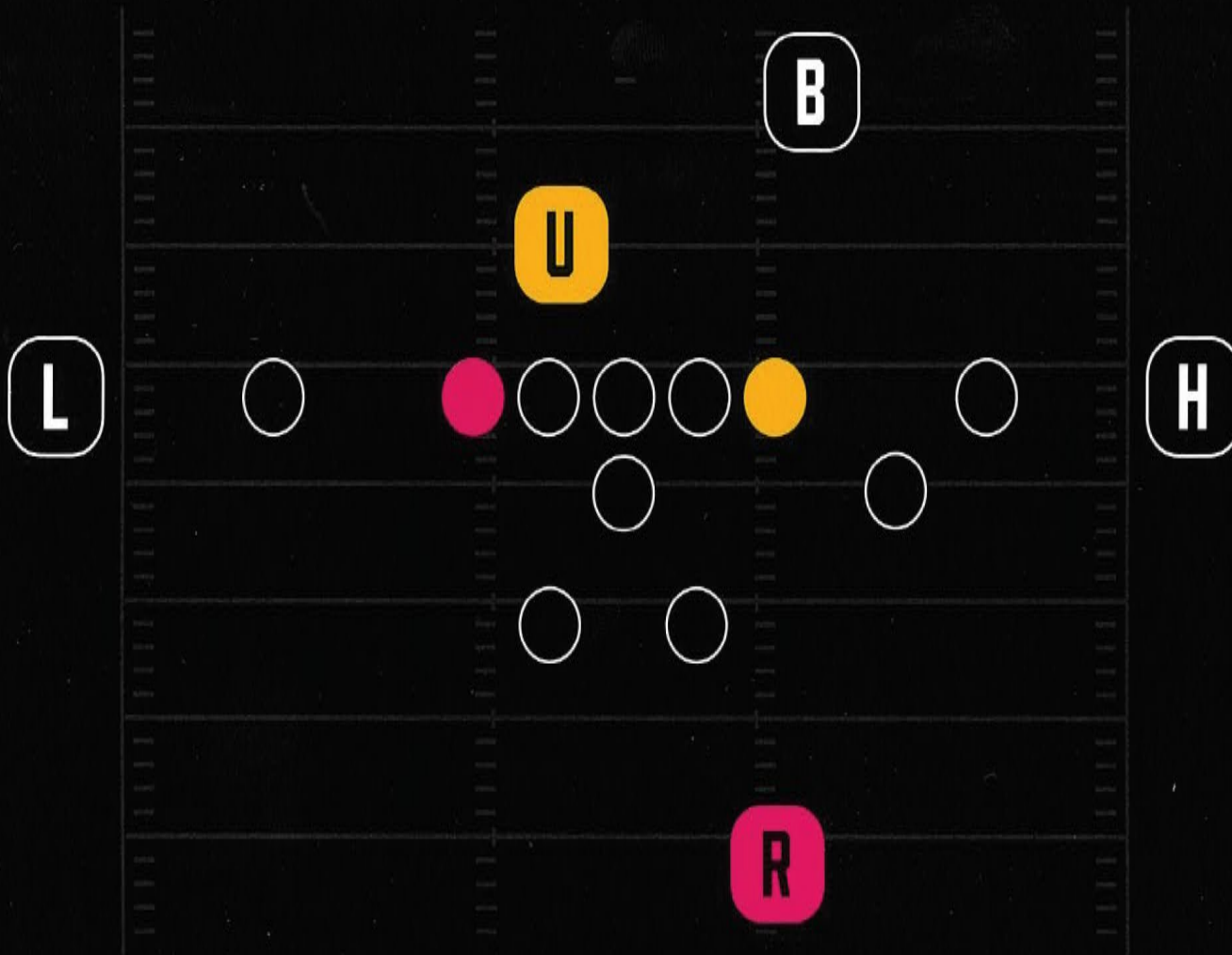
Mechanics Updates

Game Related-

- The referee indicated the team taking a charged timeout with two “chucks” of the arm in the direction of that team’s goal line. It was previously three such motions.
- Responsibility for checking numbering requirements of offensive linemen now falls on the referee as well as the umpire.
- When the beanbag is needed, such as to mark the spot of a fumble or the spot where a kick ends, it is to be dropped, not thrown.
- Previously, the manual determined the referee should have the ball marked ready for play in three seconds. The new dictate is three to five seconds following the placement of the ball.
- In crews of 5, the line judge now times the game. That responsibility was formerly held by the back judge. But the committee does not want one official handling both clocks.

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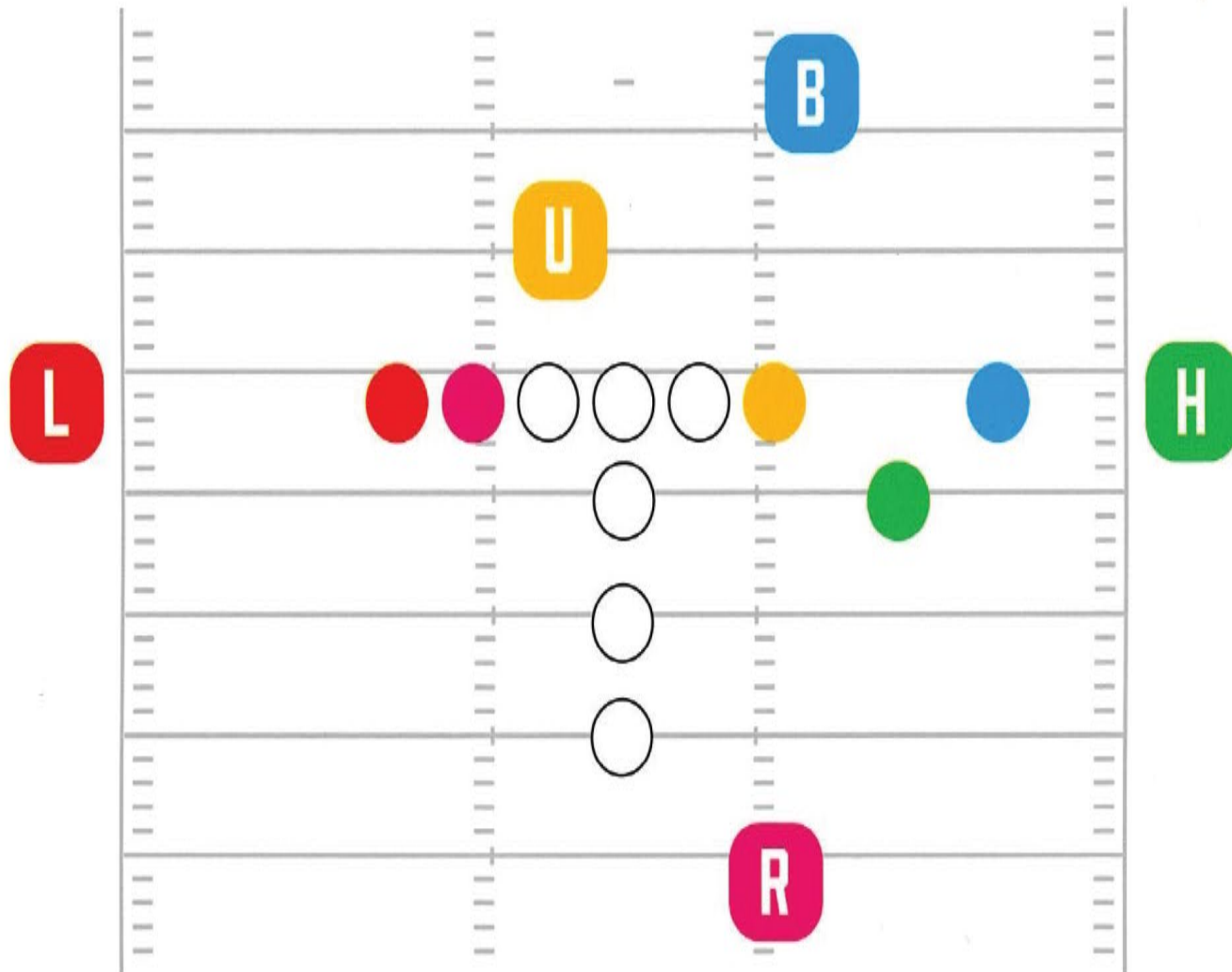
5 Man Mechanics Keys



REFEREE-UMPIRE

Referee's initial position is 10-15 yards off the line and at least as wide as the tackle. At the snap referee reads the block of opposite-side tackle. Umpire starts 4-7 yards off the line and between the tackles. Umpire will initially observe legality of the snap, then key on the opposite tackle. He can then transition to any two adjacent linemen. He should randomly vary which pair of linemen he views. Note: Actual position of officials not to scale.

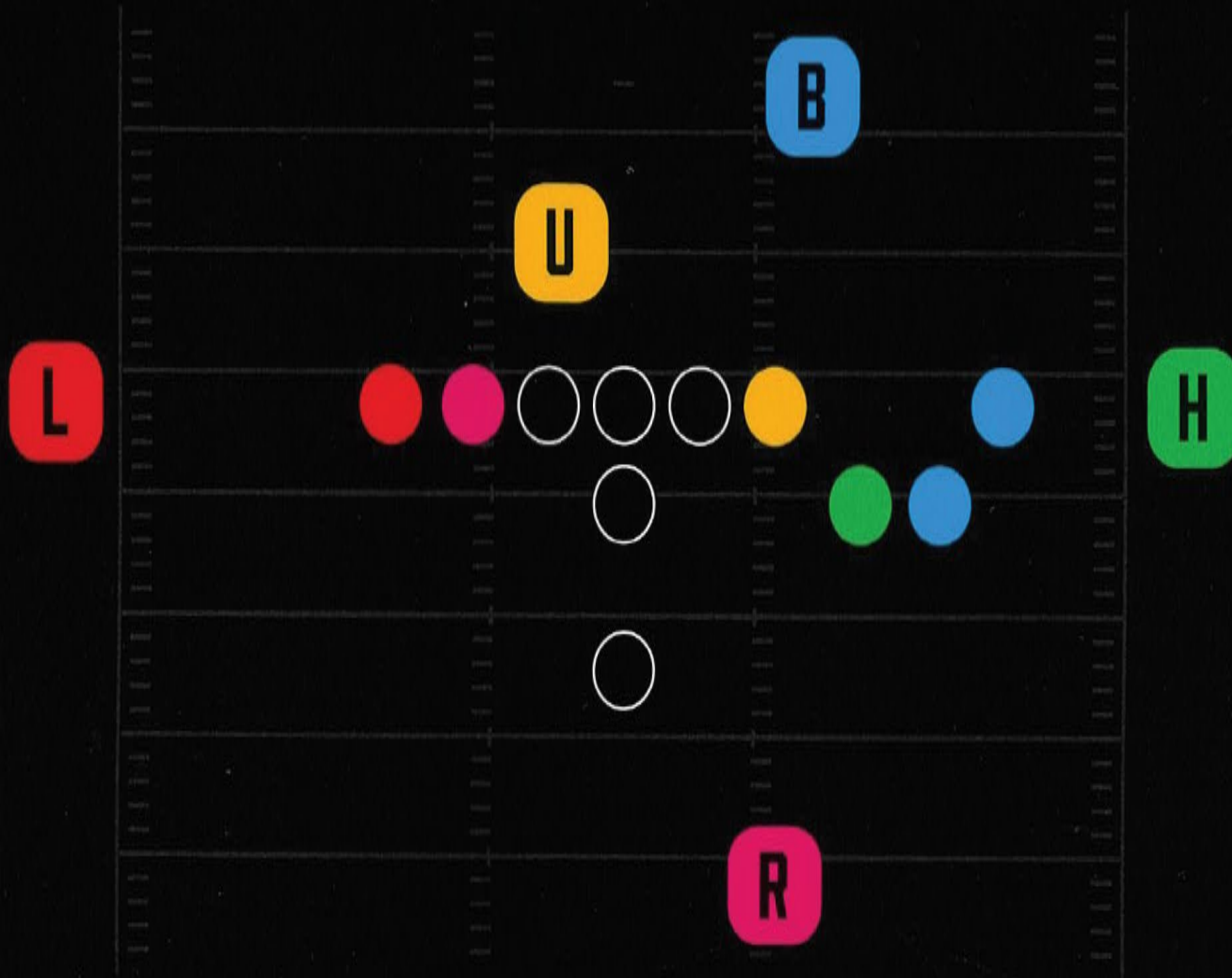
5 Man Mechanics Keys



STRENGTH TO LINESMAN'S SIDE, WEAK SIDE TIGHT END

The back judge keys on the split end and the linesman keys on the flanker. The line judge keys the tight end. The fullback will likely stay in the backfield for pass protection, but the tailback may run a pass route. If the route is to the line judge's side, the line judge takes him.

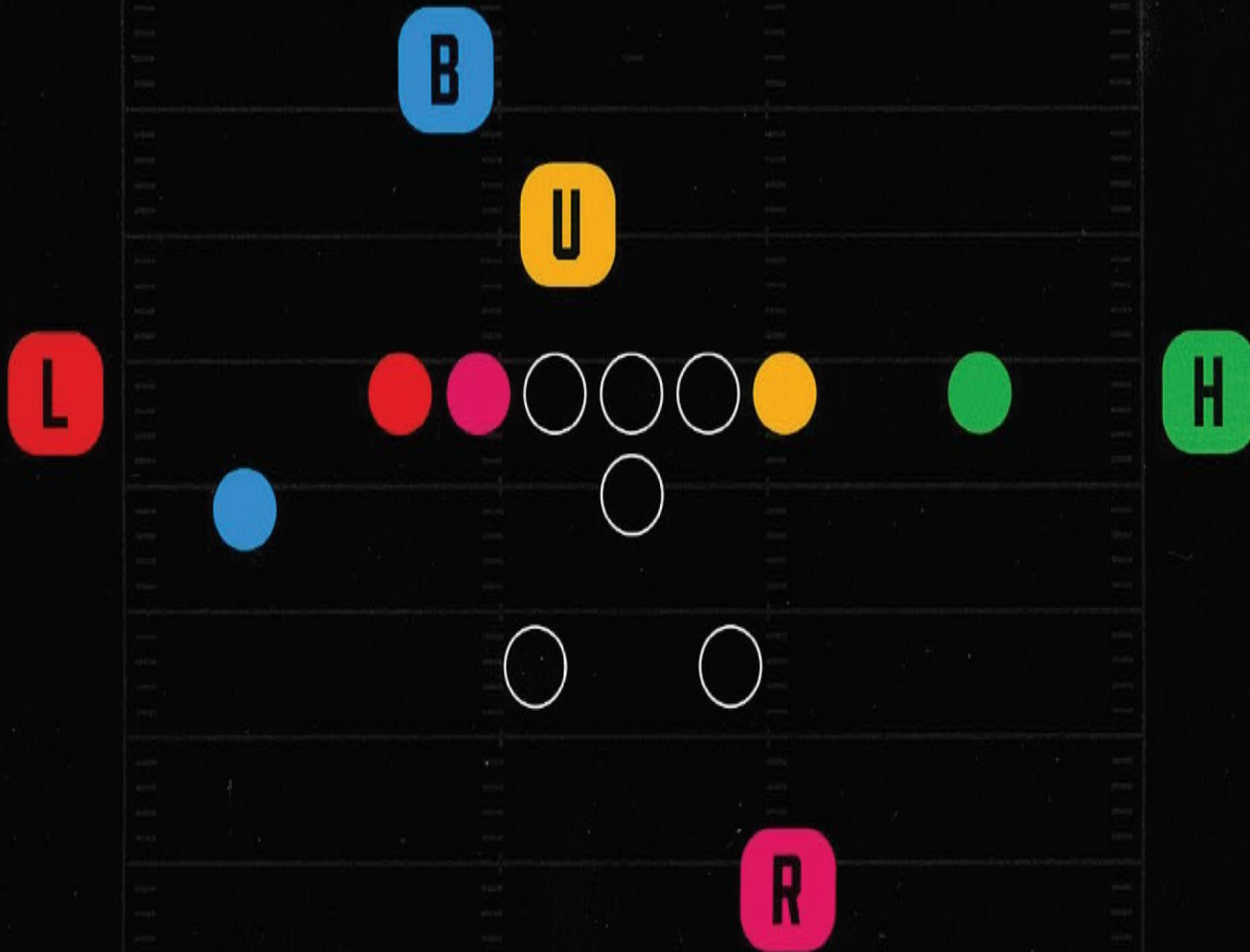
5 Man Mechanics Keys



TRIPS TO LINESMAN'S SIDE

The back judge keys on the two widest receivers and the linesman keys on the inside receiver. The line judge keys on the end nearest him. Either wing official may also have the back if he runs a pass route. If the same formation were strong to the line judge's side, the line judge would key on the inside receiver and the back judge on the two widest receivers.

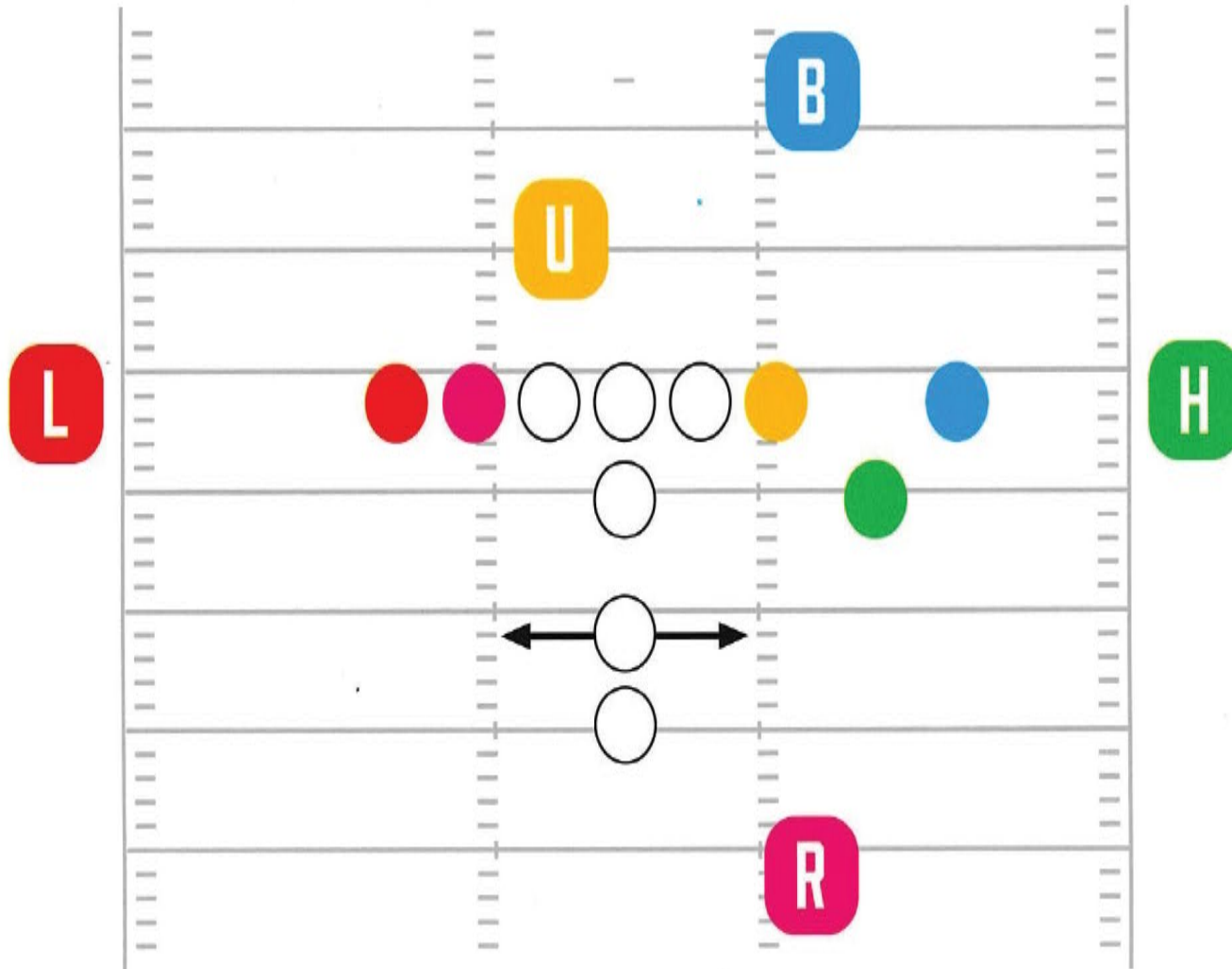
5 Man Mechanics Keys



**UNBALANCED
FORMATION,
STRENGTH TO
LINE JUDGE'S SIDE**

The back judge keys on the flanker and the line judge keys on the tight end. The linesman keys on the split end on his side. Either wing official may also have a back running a pass route.

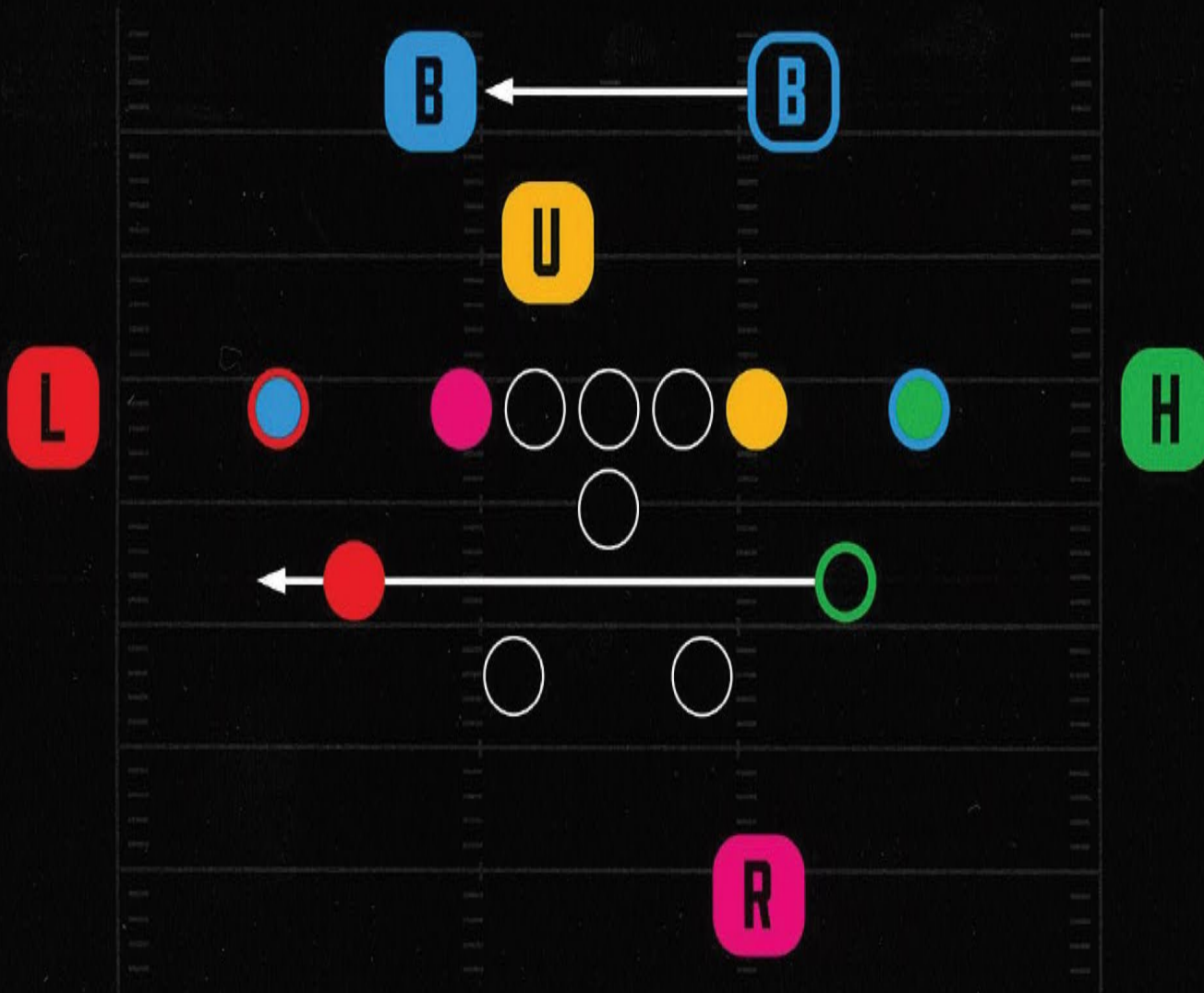
5 Man Mechanics Keys



MOTION DOESN'T CHANGE STRENGTH

Strength is to the linesman's side. Even if the back goes in motion to the line judge's side, strength is not considered to have changed. The back judge keys the split end and the linesman keys on the flanker. The line judge keys on the split end. Either wing official may also have the back if he runs a pass route.

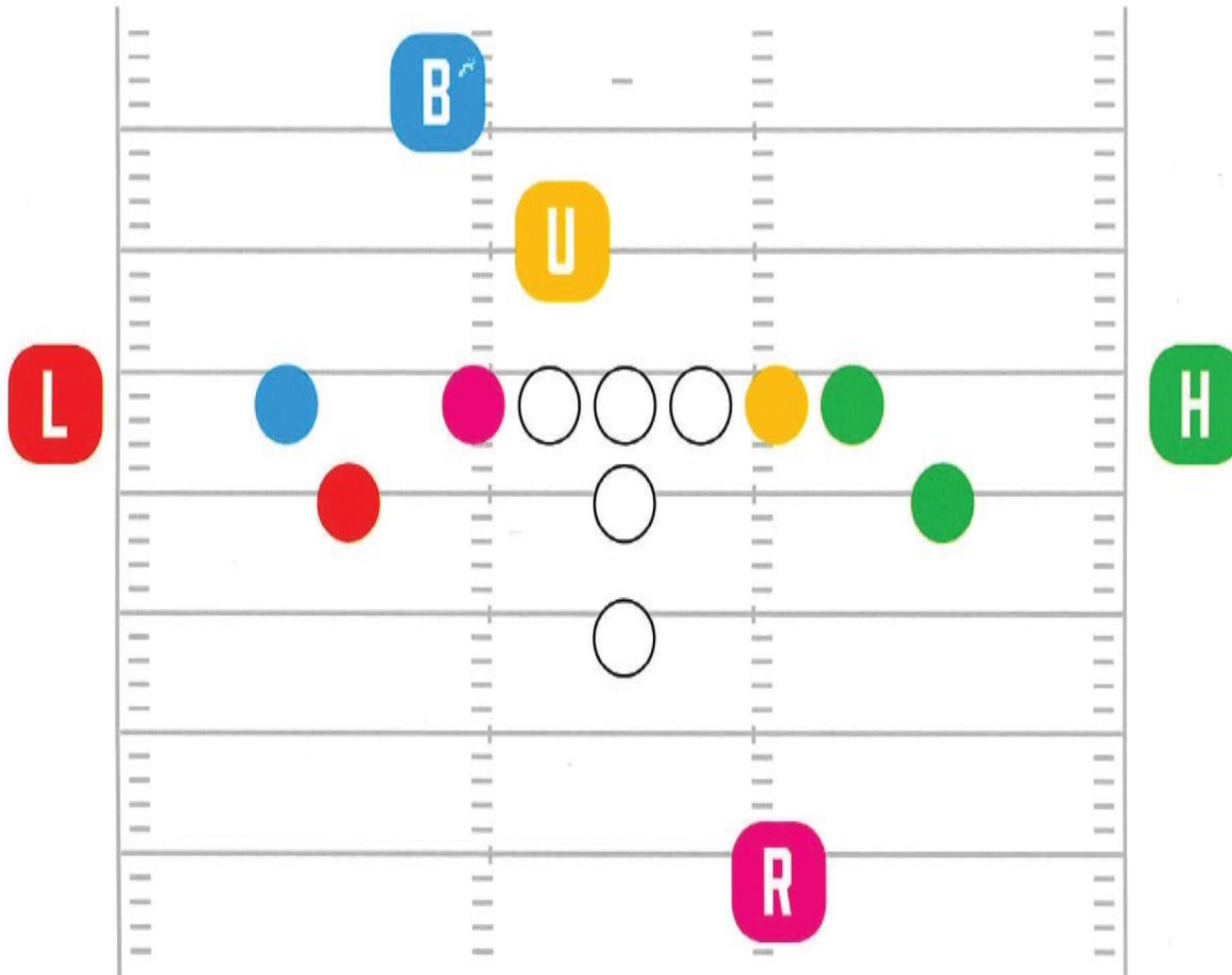
5 Man Mechanics Keys



MOTION CHANGES STRENGTH

Strength was to the linesman's side, but motion changed the strength. The back judge shifts position and keys the strong side split end. The line judge keys on the flanker and the linesman keys on the split end on his side. Although the line judge is keying on the motion man's action after the snap, the linesman is responsible for watching to ensure the motion man does not cut upfield before the snap.

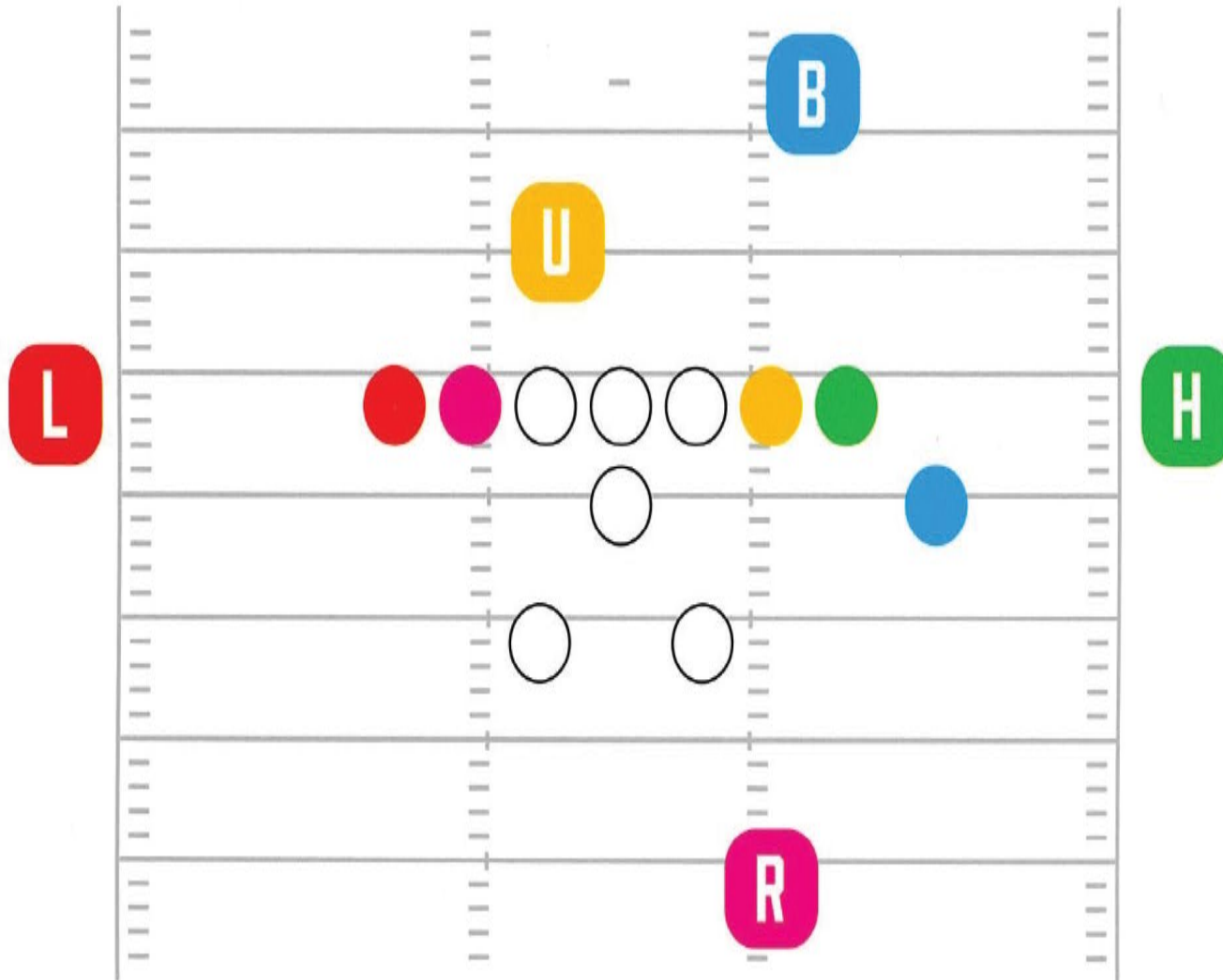
5 Man Mechanics Keys



BALANCED FORMATION, STRENGTH DECLARED TO LINE JUDGE'S SIDE

Strength is considered to be on the line judge's side. The back judge keys on the widest receiver. The line judge keys on the flanker while the linesman has both the split end and flanker on his side. Either wing official may also have the back if he runs a pass route.

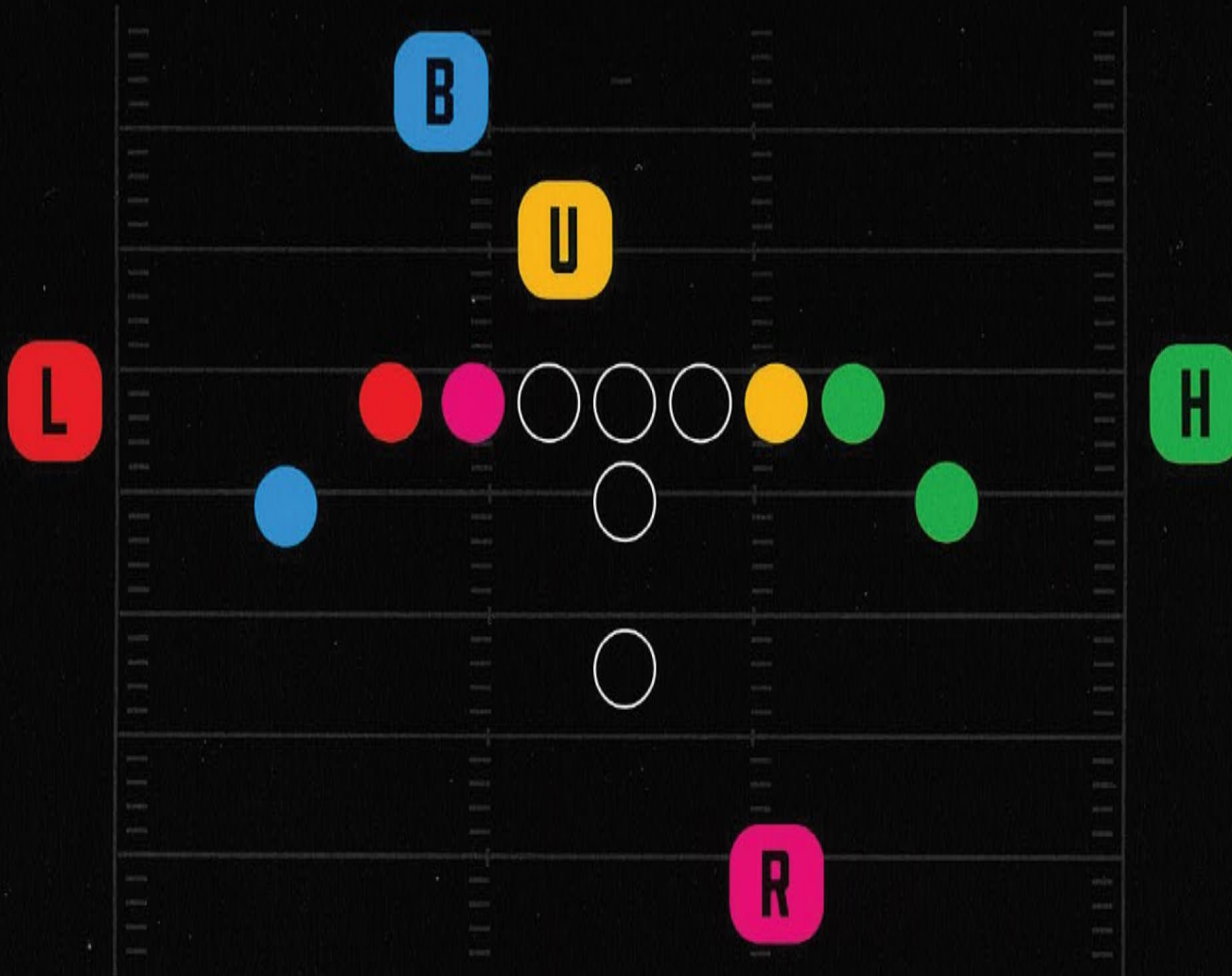
5 Man Mechanics Keys



DOUBLE TIGHT ENDS, STRENGTH TO LINESMAN'S SIDE

Primarily a running formation used on short yardage, but teams sometimes throw quick passes out of this formation. The back judge keys on the widest receiver on the strong side. The linesman keys on the tight end. The line judge keys on the tight end on his side. Either wing may also have a back who runs a pass route.

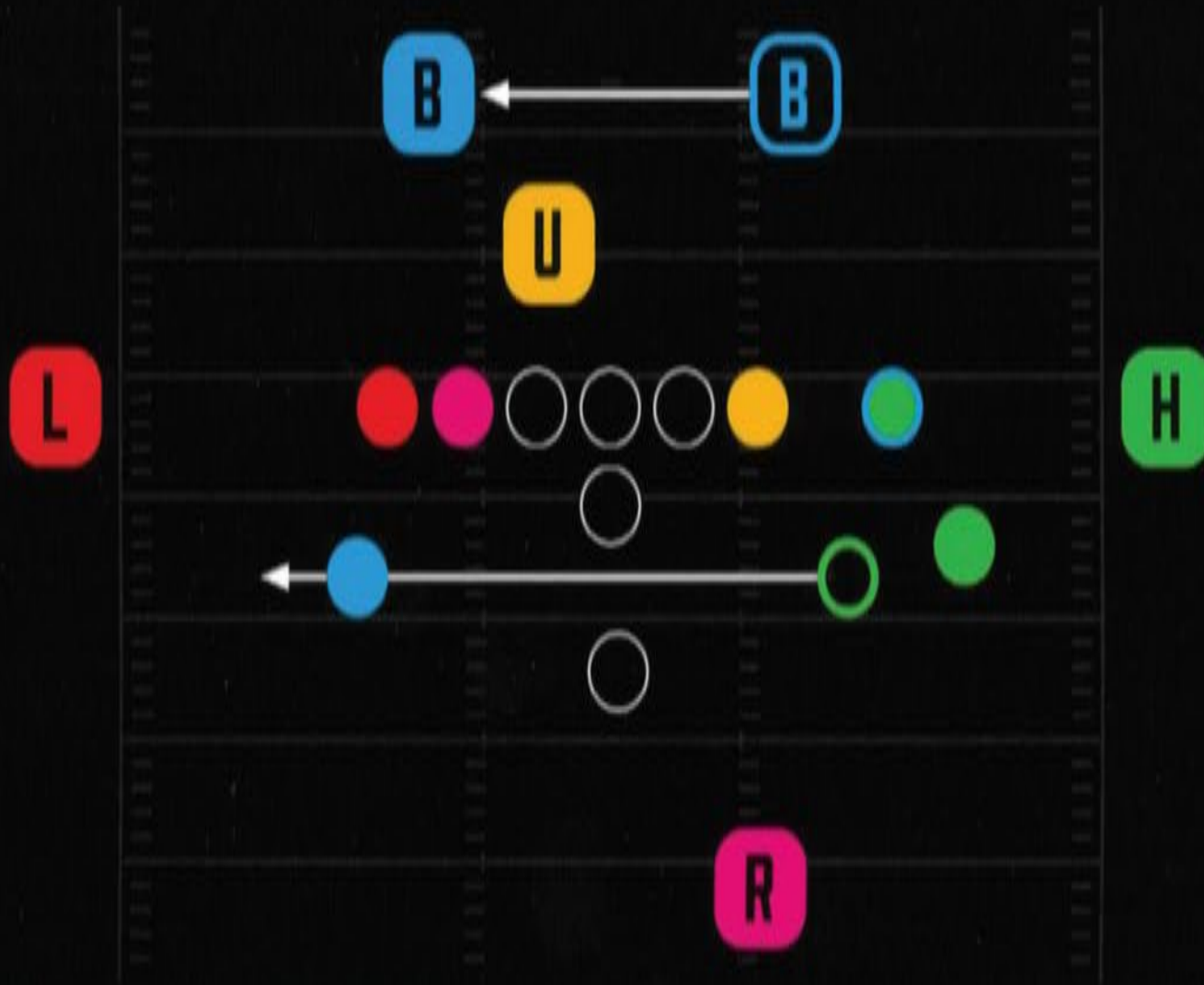
5 Man Mechanics Keys



DOUBLE WING, DOUBLE TIGHT ENDS

Strength is declared to the line judge's side. The back judge keys on the widest receiver on his side. The line judge keys on the tight end on his side. The linesman has the tight end and wingback on his side. Either wing official may also have the back if he runs a pass route.

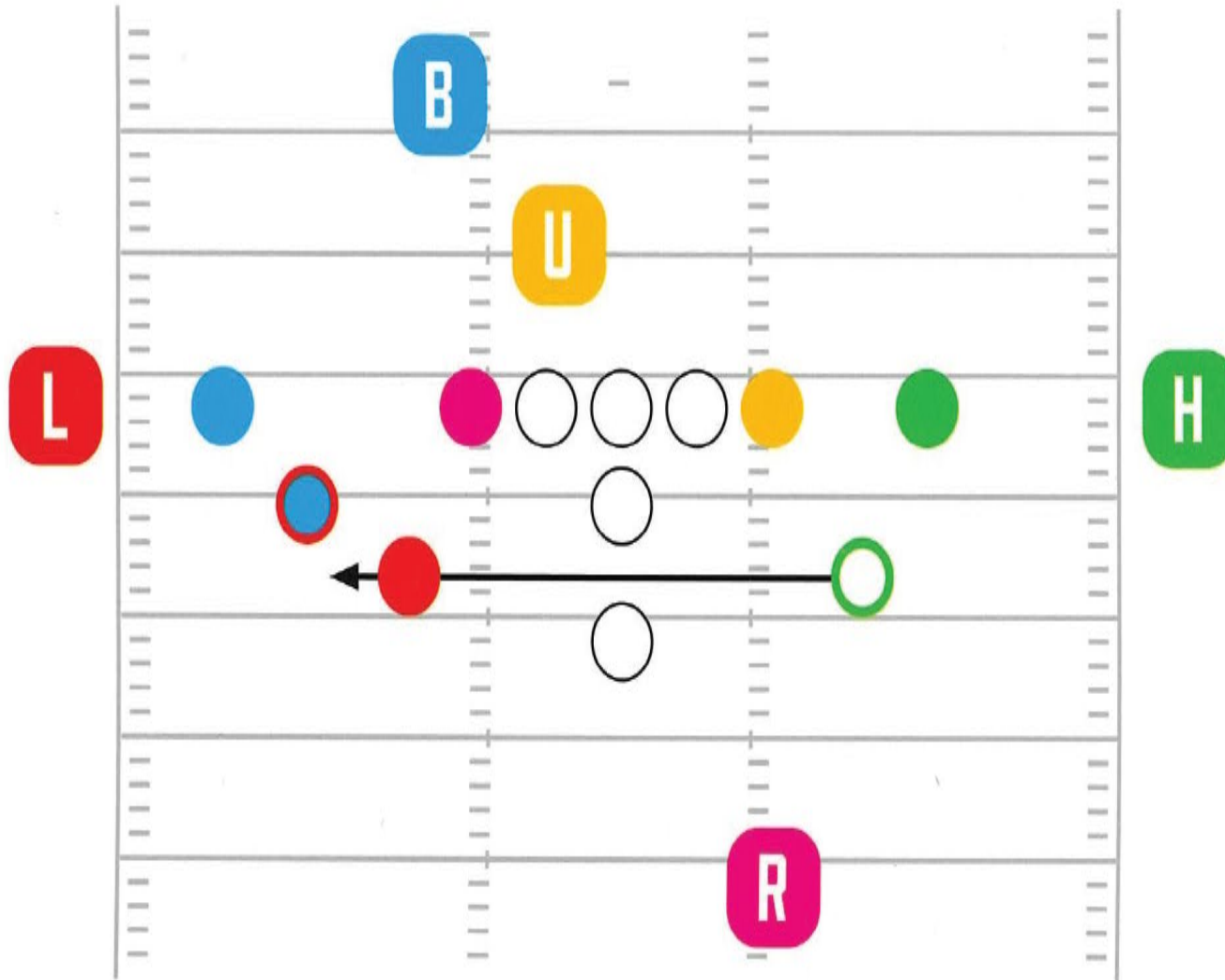
5 Man Mechanics Keys



MOTION CHANGES UNBALANCED TO BALANCED

Strength was to the linesman's side, but motion changed strength. The back judge shifts position and keys on the strong side flanker. The line judge keys on the tight end and the linesman keys on the split end and flanker on his side. The linesman is responsible for watching to ensure the motion man does not cut upfield before the snap.

5 Man Mechanics Keys



MOTION INTO TRIPS

Motion turned a balanced formation into trips formation to the line judge's side. The back judge keys the two outside receivers. The line judge keys on the motion receiver and the linesman keys the end on his side of the line. The linesman is responsible for watching to ensure the motion man does not cut upfield before the snap.

HUDL Officiating Crew Updates

Crew Chiefs-

- If you have any new personnel on your crew this year, please send me the name of the person and their e-mail address so that I can update your crew in HUDL. Additionally, please share with me who I should delete from your crew so they do not receive the game film.
- If you would like to view video of your previous game, please send me an e-mail the weekend after the game, sharing with me the opponents of that game.

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Post Season Requirements

Post Season Request Form & Schedule for Varsity Crews only –

All varsity officials desiring to be considered for the IHSAA tournament series must:

- All crew members must view the 2020 online rules meeting video.
- All crew members must take and pass the 2020 Football on-line exam.
- All crew members must have submitted the previous year's Varsity Sportsmanship Ratings by last year's due date.
- The crew (as a whole) must have qualified and received recommendations from schools.
- ***We ask that only the crew chief fill out the request form and schedule, not each member of the crew. The crew chief will complete the form for the entire crew.***
- The crew chief will have access to the request form once he/she has completed the online exam and online rules meeting.
- Each member of the crew must attend an IHSAA clinic within a 3-year period for as long as you are an official and want to be considered for playoffs.

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