

4th Annual SNOA Football Summer Clinic



May 18th, 2025

Agenda

- ✂ Introductions
- ✂ Expectations of Officials
- ✂ Game Management & Communication
- ✂ Pre-Snap Keys & Routine
- ✂ Football Philosophies
- ✂ Fouls & Judgment
- ✂ Closing Comments & Questions



Welcome



Crew Guidelines/Expectations

1. Register for the current football season in Arbiter.
2. Prior to receiving any assignments, take the NFHS football test with a passing score of 70%, on field officials only. 80% needed for all Varsity assignments. The test must be completed before any games are assigned. Auxiliary only officials do not need to take the test.
3. Actively participate in SNOA general meetings at CSN, SNOA clinics, SNOA and/or Crew Zoom calls, and your crew meetings.
4. Actively participate in youth assignments, middle school flag, and NYS.

Crew Guidelines/Expectations Cont.

5. Maintain up to date Arbiter availability (set blocks).
6. Accept Arbiter assignments in a timely manner. Check your email daily.
7. Review your games and your crew games in HUDL.
8. Be a great Crew Member (on and off the field)!



Playoff Consideration

The SNOA Football Board will receive all playoff official's recommendations from the Crew Chiefs for consideration. There is no guarantee for being submitted or receiving a playoff assignment.

1. Take the NFHS football test with a passing score of 80%+
2. Work a minimum of 5 Varsity assignments with a minimum of 3 at the recommended position.
3. Actively participate in Youth assignments, MS Flag and/or NYS. Minimum 2 assignments required.
4. 3 or more years of football officiating experience.
5. Veteran transfers are not eligible during their first season with SNOA.
6. Attend a minimum of 4 SNOA sanctioned in person and/or Zoom meetings (NIAA requirement). Off season SNOA clinics/calls may count toward the requirement.
7. If possible, Officials for State final assignments at any level will not be assigned if they worked State the previous year.

Repetition

Repetitive training is a key component. It allows officials to practice and refine their skills throughout the season.

Reputation

The reputation of an official can be tarnished by negative criticism and lack of appreciation for their role.

The NFHS, NIAA and SNOA are working to address these challenges and improve the experience of officiating high school football.

WHAT IS YOUR REPUTATION?

30 Basics of Officiating - Pregame

1. Arrive at the game site early. Never rush to a game. Allow ample time to get there well in advance of game time.
2. Park your car in a well-lit area near the building in which you dress. Try to leave sufficient space to avoid being boxed in.
3. Hold a thorough pregame conference. Do it even if you've worked with your partners before.
4. Attend to administrative duties early. Allow enough time to fix problems.
5. Dress in proper, clean uniform. Look sharp and you're off on the right foot.

30 Basics - Pregame

6. Inspect the playing area. Correct potential hazards before the game.
7. Conduct a brief meeting with team captains or coaches. Tell the captains that they are the leaders of the team and may be called on to fulfill that role. Keep it brief.
8. Observe players during pregame practice. Opponents occasionally try to intimidate each other before a game. Nip that in the bud.
9. Examine your equipment. Blow your whistle, etc., to make sure it is in working order.
10. Relax. If you appear tense and nervous, the players will recognize it.

30 Basics – In-game

11. Hustle, but don't over hustle. Over hustling can be counterproductive.
12. Talk to your crewmates. Let each other know who's got what, etc.
13. Talk to the players as appropriate. Develop a good rapport by being cordial, but not overly friendly. Use your voice to make players aware that you are in the area.
14. Talk to the coaches. Keep conversations brief and to the point.
15. Keep the game moving. If you need to confer with a partner, do so, but be brief.

30 Basics – In-game

16. Make clear signals. All movements should be crisp and sharp without personal adaptations.
17. Never give medical aid or advice to a player. That job belongs to properly trained medical personnel.
18. Stop the game if hazardous weather approaches. Rule of thumb: If you err, err on the side of safety.
19. Keep track of major penalties, ejections. It might be helpful if a lawsuit is filed and you are named as a defendant or a witness.
20. Know where the game administrator is located. In emergencies, he/she will need to be found quickly.

30 Basics – Postgame

- 21. Leave together and without delay. There's safety in numbers.
- 22. Don't talk with reporters. Refer all questions to your Commissioner.
- 23. Remove your whistle. When walking through crowds, it could be hooked accidentally or grabbed intentionally.
- 24. Limit comment to spectators. If a fan politely asks a reasonable question, answer it briefly, but be cautious.
- 25. Relax. Take a deep breath and gather your thoughts.

30 Basics – Postgame

26. Review the game. Talk about any strange plays or other situations.
27. Solicit constructive criticism. Good partners will tell you what you need to work on. If asked, provide them with the same honest assessment.
28. If appropriate, thank the game manager. If he/she took care of you, tell them you appreciate it.
29. Leave the locker room the same way you found it. Don't force someone else to clean up your mess.
30. Walk to your automobiles together. If problems appear imminent, return to the building. Find the game administrator or law enforcement.

Communication

How we communicate, the tone we use, and our body language, can and will have an effect on managing the game, coaches, and players. It will increase our efficiency as an Officiating crew keeping the game moving. Strong, Calm, Concise Communication helps establish credibility, diffuse conflicts, and maintain control of the game and your sidelines. Utilizing O2O's allow us to be more efficient, getting options, and communicating fouls if used properly. It allows us to make "Deposits because we will be making withdrawals"

VERBAL

The verbiage and tone we use when speaking. Understand the type of person you are and your style of communication.

Are you an authoritarian/negotiator/k now it all? You will most likely need to change it.



NON-VERBAL

Our Body Language, How we blow our whistles or throw our flags, Mechanics- Our Movement/Signals/Posture/Positioning, Our uniforms squared away? All these convey our level of confidence, professionalism, and approach to the game.

Keys to being a great Communicator

- Be Clear and Concise- Speak Facts, Avoid debates
- Be Respectful and Professional
- Great Listeners- Acknowledge the coach but know when to walk away. Most times they want to be heard.
- Responding vs Reacting- Not everything requires a Response. Reacting can escalate issues
- Don't be Emotional/Confrontational- Rabbit Ears or Chest pushed out?
- Know To Read People and Understand How you Communicate. Be Flexible as you'll need to make adjustments



Speaking w/Coaches & Players

- Don't waste Coach's time. Find out all pertinent information. Who can call TO's, make decisions on penalty options, chain crew personnel, etc.
- Speak in Layman Terms Not Officiating Terms
- We talk to Coaches. Don't Be "I ONLY TALK TO THE HC"
- Understand Coaches have control over every aspect except these 3-3.5 hours for the game.
- Learn how to make "Deposits" with Coaches because we WILL make a "Withdrawal"
- Don't Make things up. We Lose Credibility. Get them the Information in a Timely Manner.

How Do We Apply This?

PREGAME

1. Our first impression - Be Cordial, Approachable & Professional.
But don't be their Friend
2. Preventive Officiating
3. Explain how you will communicate with the Coaches, where we want it to take place, and set expectations in a calm manner.
4. Instruct Auxiliary Personnel.
They're now part of the Crew.
5. Crew Communication- Facts only/Don't Muddy the water.
Avoid Excessive Huddling (Lose Credibility), Report the foul as if you're announcing it. O2O's make us more efficient if used properly.

IN-GAME

1. Communicate every play if needed to keep clear area.
2. Focus on the task at hand not just the Dialog.
3. Get the Coaches the information in a timely manner.
4. Mechanics/Signals/Positioning are Imperative in selling Tight Calls.
5. Game Awareness/Situational Awareness- Time and Score, Player/Coaches Intensity, Cues For Officials to Step it up!
6. Crew Communication- Get info to Partners, Penalty Enforcement Efficiency, Use of Whistles/ How we throw our flags, Avoid Prolonged Huddling.

POSTGAME

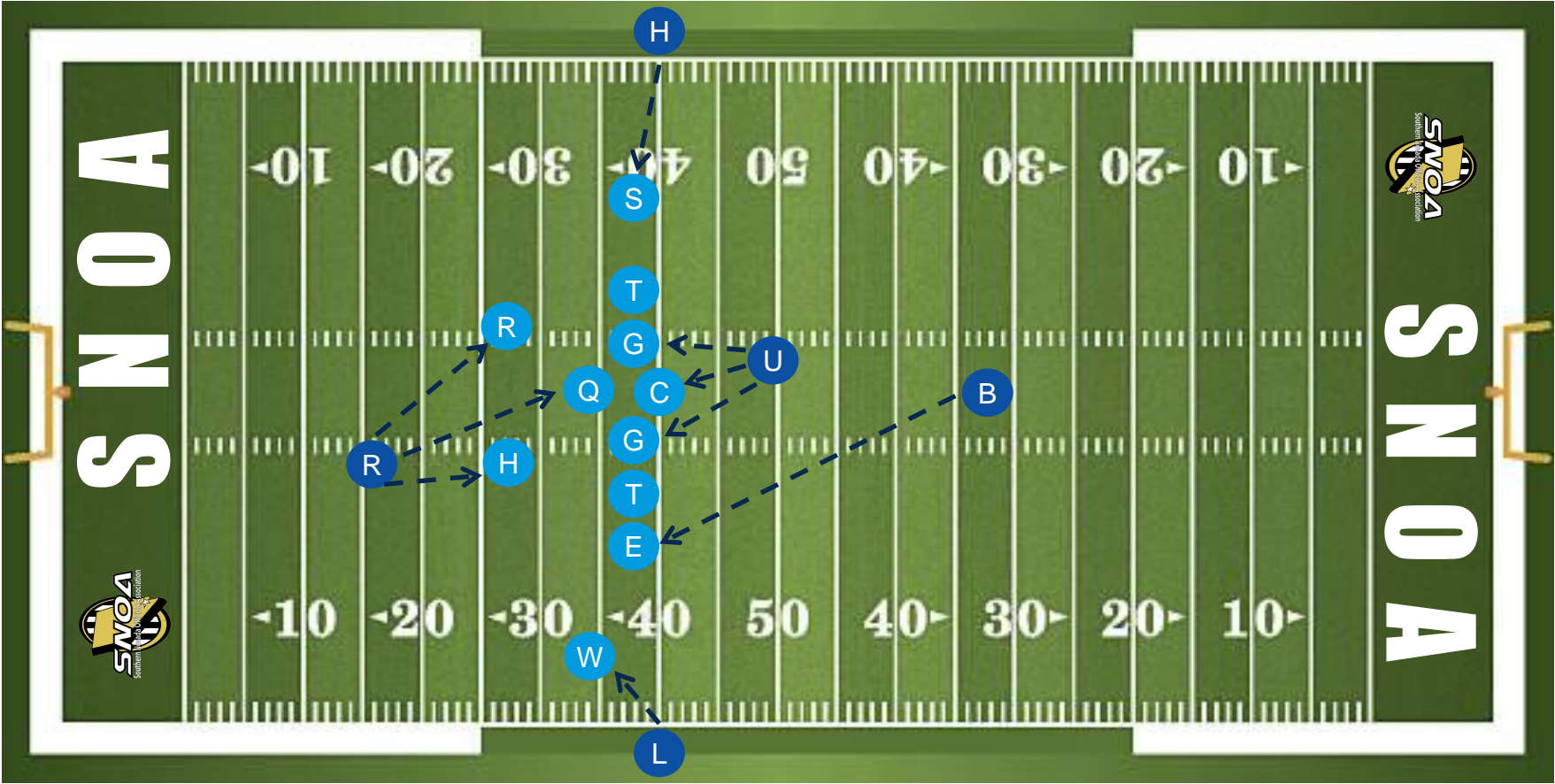
1. What worked, What needs adjustment, What was my part that led to issues. Control what you can Control.
2. If you must justify your reaction, then you were probably too emotional
3. Crew communication- Good, Bad, Be Honest and own your Mistakes
4. Film Review- Look at yourself and your Non-Verbal Communication

Pre-Snap Keys

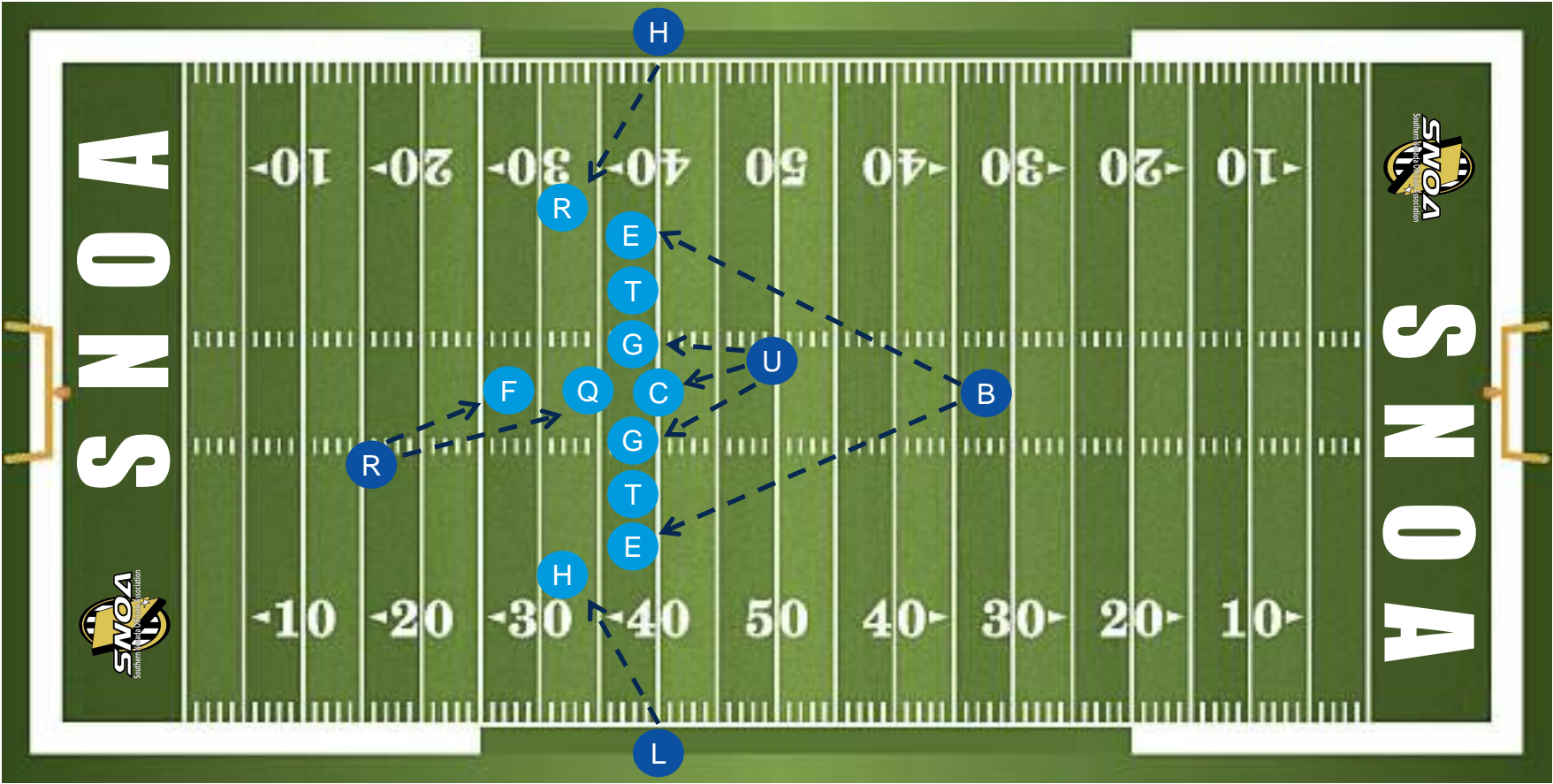
- Not everything in this presentation is prescriptive. Allow the play and association specific mechanics dictate your responsibilities.
- Keys are a “*snapshot*” at the snap
- Keys are your responsibility at the snap but continue to officiate the play that presents itself.
- Short wings have all / primary ENC, ILF, ILS & ILM responsibilities
- Short wings have FST responsibilities from the Guards* out on their side of the ball.
- Umpire is primary on FST for interior offensive lineman.
- Referee is primary on FST / ILM for QB and offensive backs between the tackles.
- Back Judge may have multiple keys at the snap



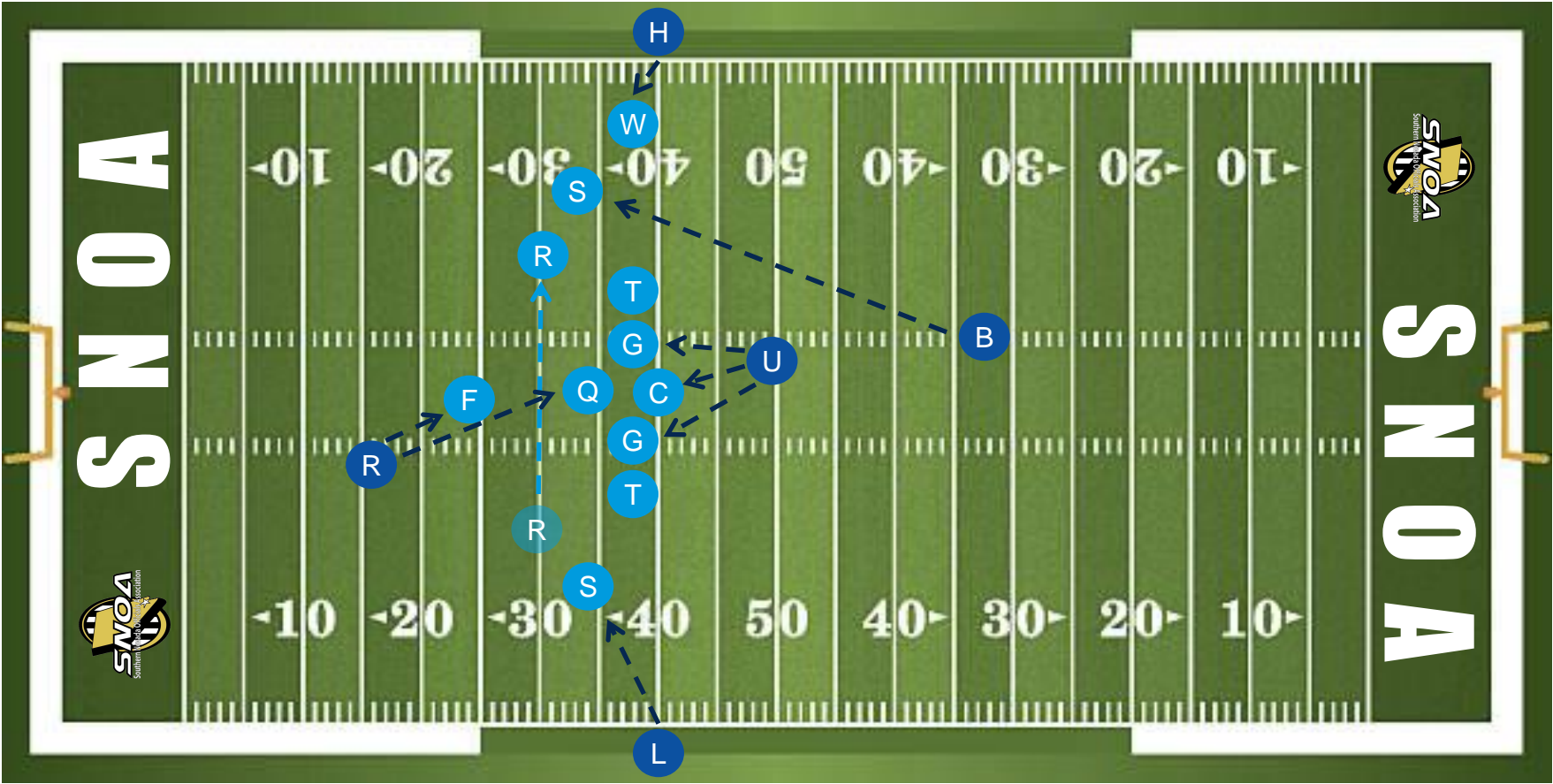
Pro Set



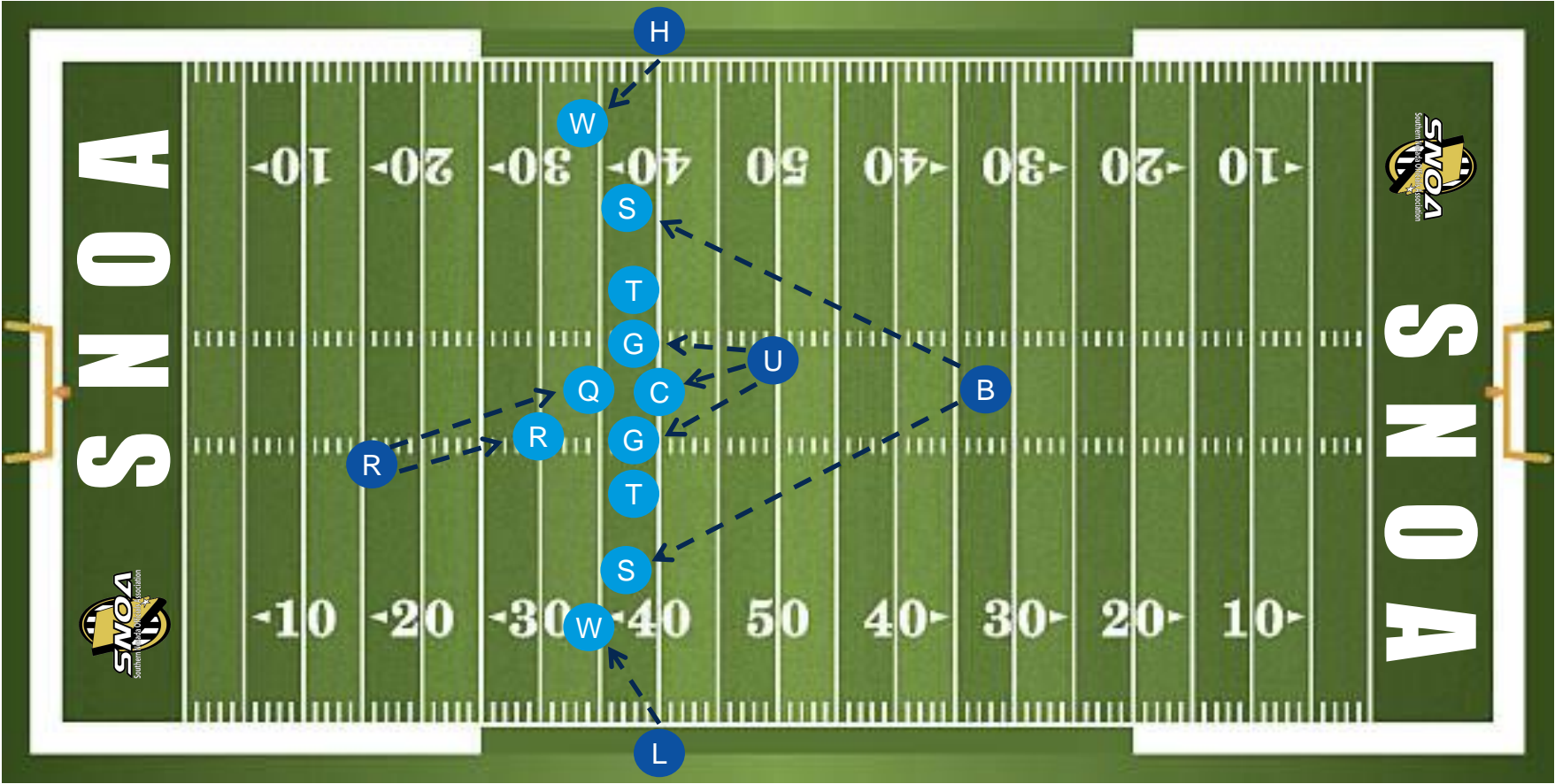
Double Wing



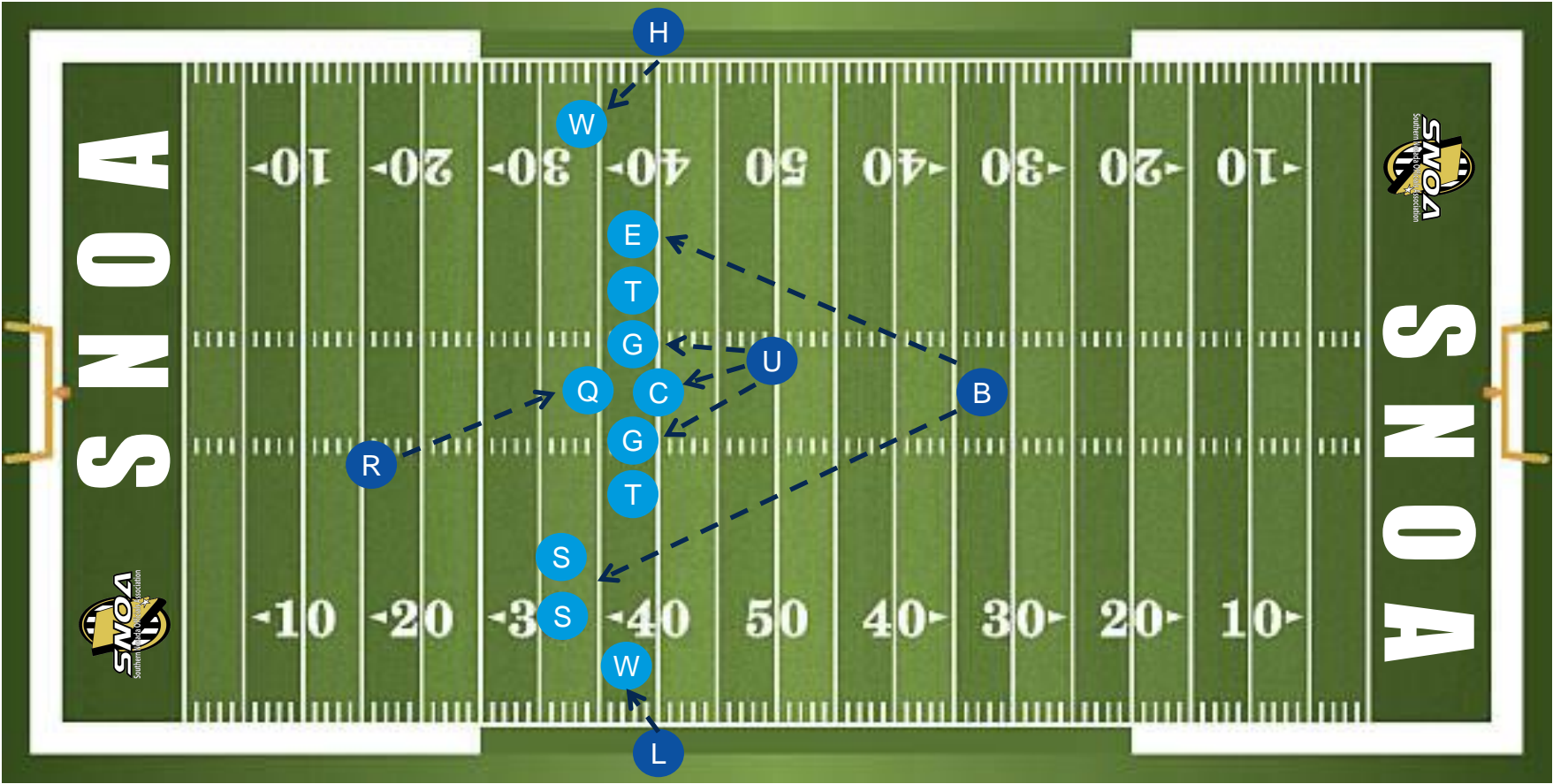
Motion



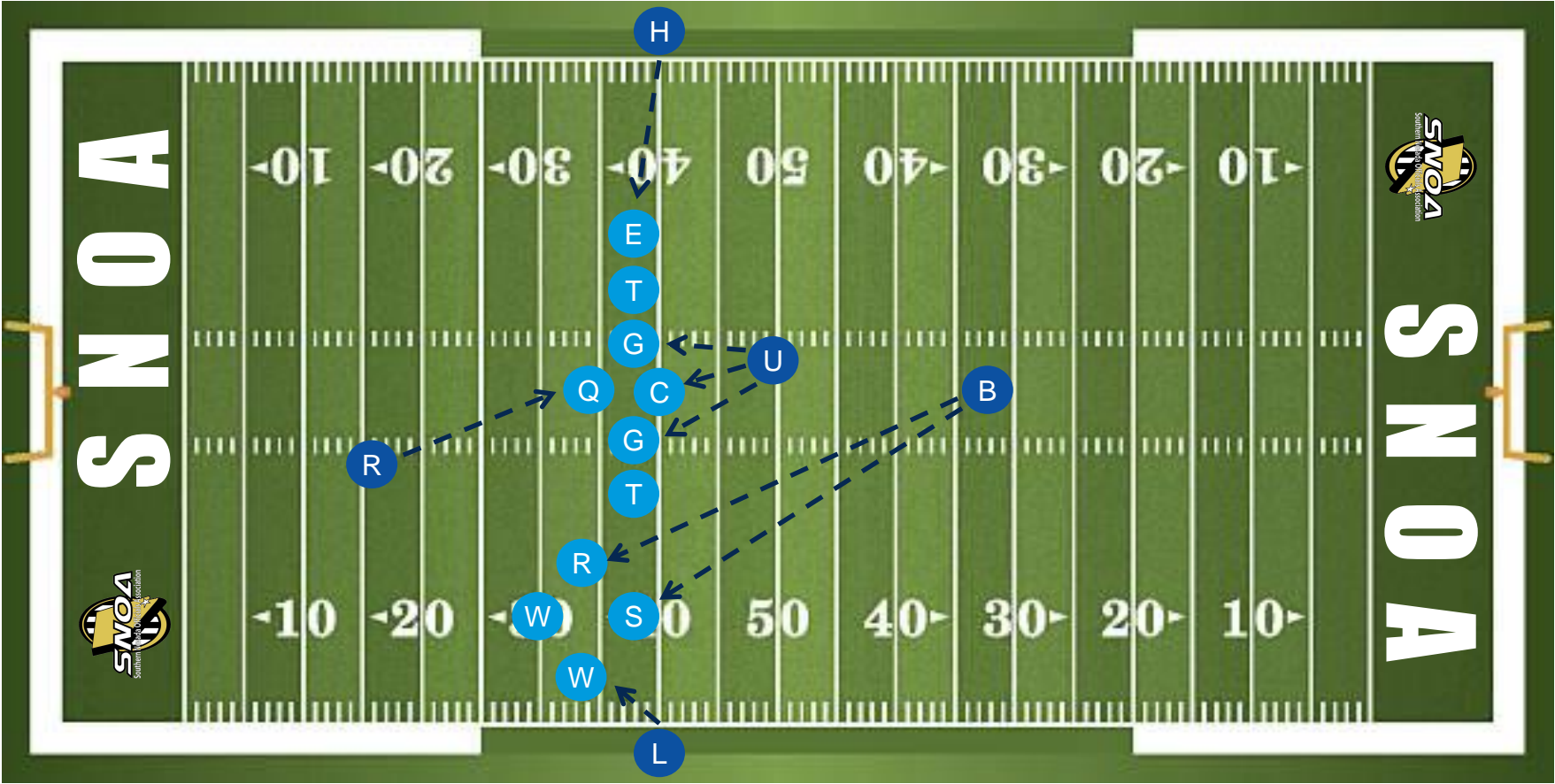
Double Doubles



Trips



Bunch



Pre-Snap Routine

- Football is a mentally demanding game to officiate
- Average play count for a Prep Football game is 175+
- The only way to be prepared for every snap is to master a pre snap routine
- Most common reason mistakes are made on the field is a lack of focus
- Routine begins when you mark the previous plays spot or signal a dead ball.



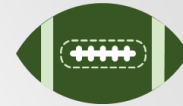
Find your Focus



Routine begins when the previous play ends (mark spot, signal dead ball, etc.)



Allow colors to separate. Continue to officiate. Watch for dead ball actions.



Change down indicator. Be sure previous play is over. No penalties need to be administered.



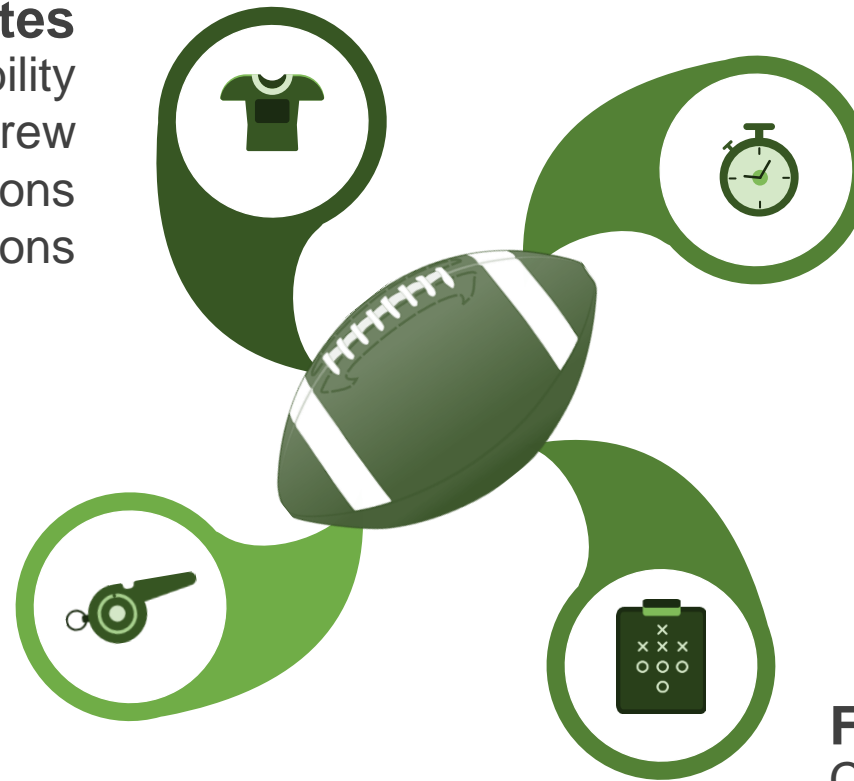
Find your position on the field for the next play. Continue your pre snap routine.

Find Your Routine



Count Players / Substitutes

Count Responsibility
Punch off with crew
Be aware of substitutions
Numbering Exceptions



Down and Distance

Clock / Play Clock Status
Threatened Stake (LTG)
Goal Line

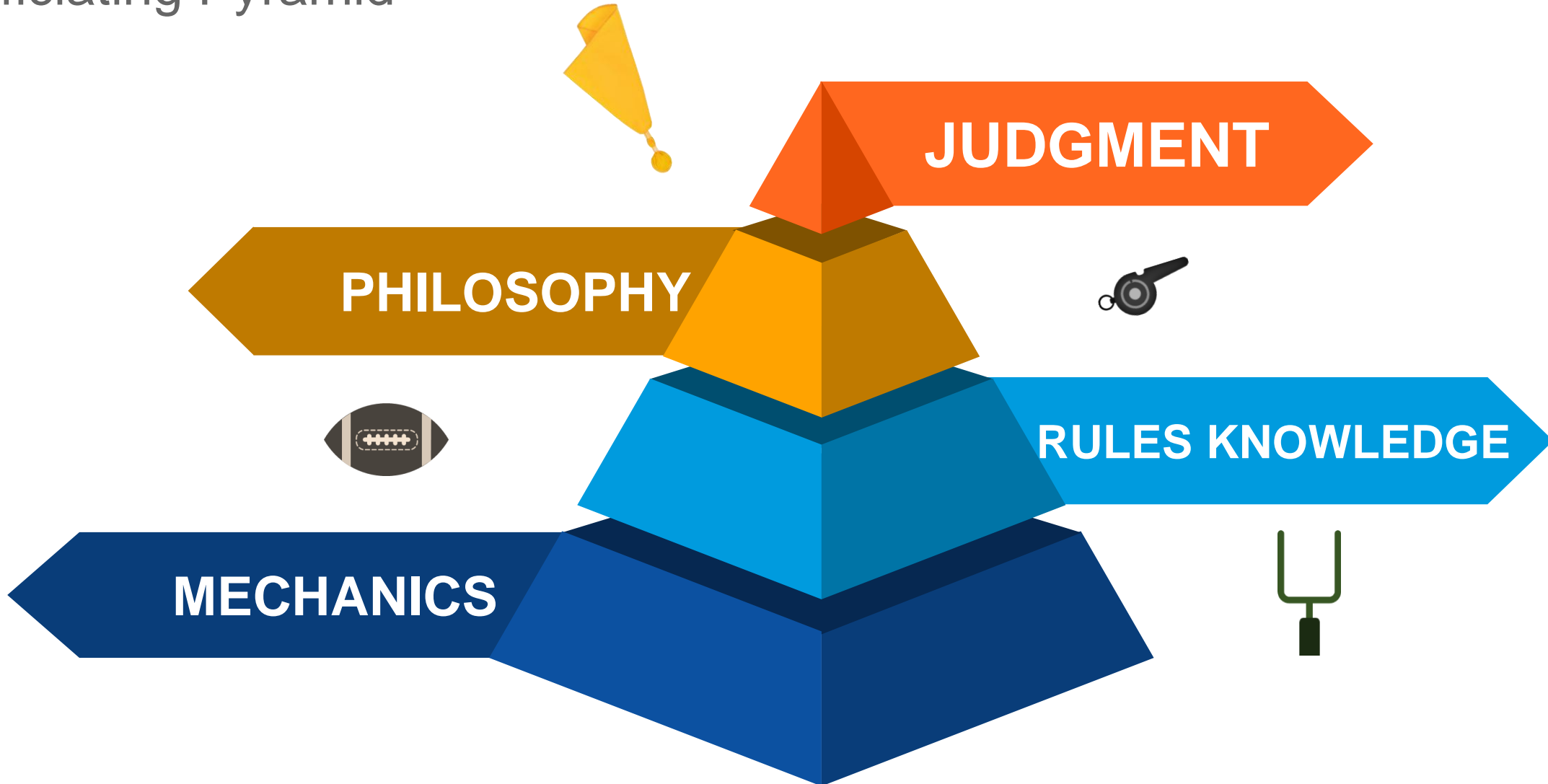
SNAP TACKLE BACK

Every scrimmage play starts with a legal Snap. The Tackle's action signals run or pass. Officiate the play that presents itself.

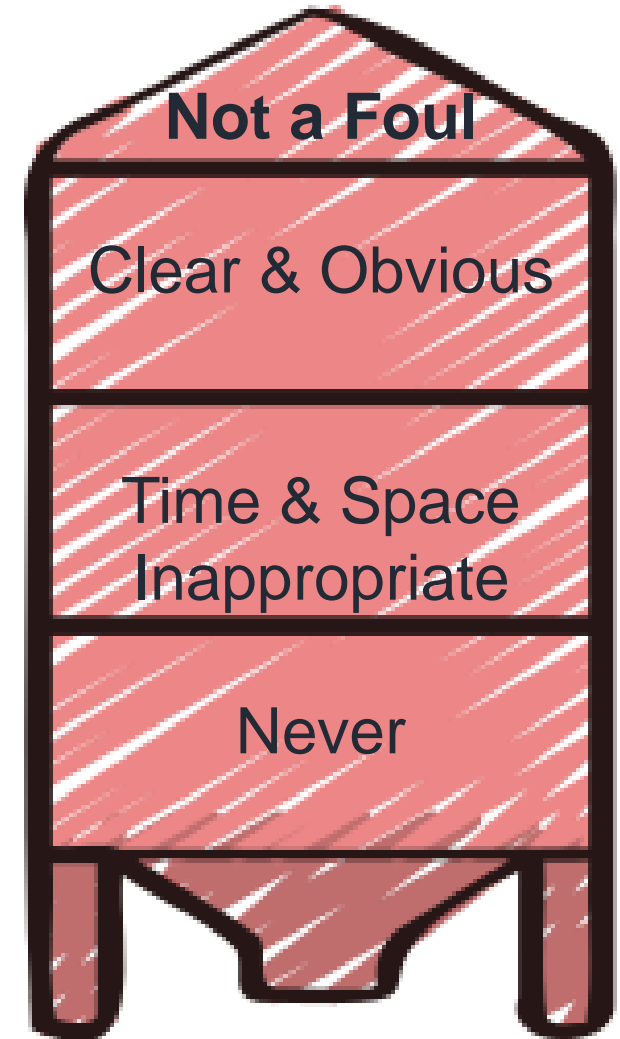
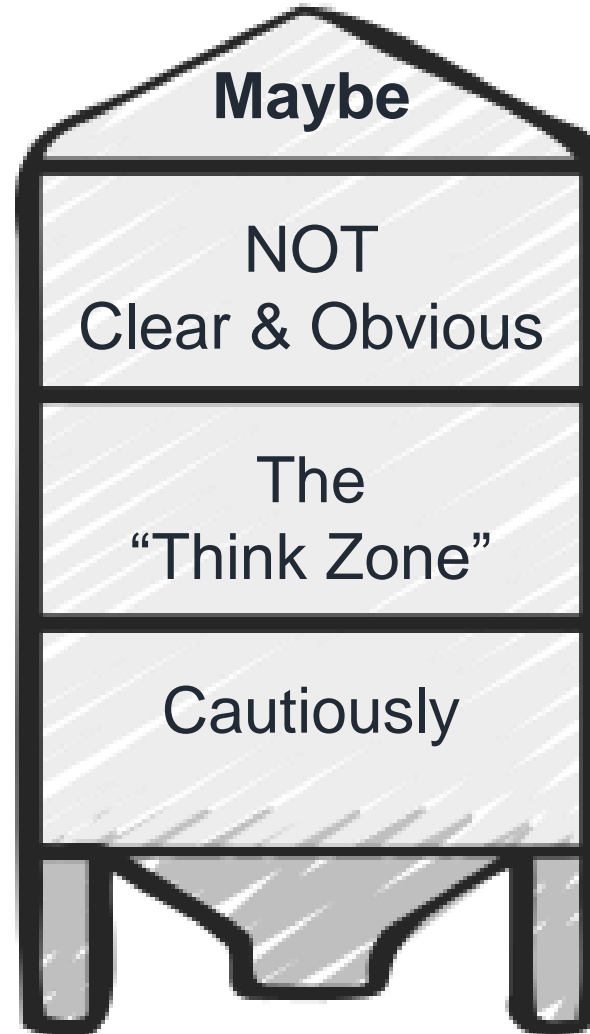
Formation / Keys

Count Backs
Recognize Eligibles
Identify Formation / Keys

Officiating Pyramid



Foul Silos





Thank you

