



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

INTERPRETATION

BLOCKING BELOW THE WAIST: ADJACENT SIDELINE

Player Stationary At The Snap

The **adjacent sideline** is the sideline to the player's outside. This is the case no matter where the ball is located when it is snapped.

- For a player on the left side of the formation, this will be the sideline to the left.
- For a player on the right side of the formation, this will be the sideline to the right.

EXAMPLE 1 The ball is at the right hash mark. Back A22 is one foot outside the tackle box to the left of the formation and he is stationary when the ball is snapped.

RULING: The left sideline is to A22's outside so it is his adjacent sideline, even though technically he is closer to the sideline to his right, which is "across the formation" from him. A22 is 25 yards and one foot from the right sideline and is slightly more than 28 yards from the left sideline. The clear intent of the rule is for the adjacent sideline to be to his left, i. e., to his outside.

Player In Motion At The Snap

For a player who is moving at the snap, the **adjacent sideline** is determined the same as for a player who is stationary at the snap. That is, it is the sideline to the outside of his position at the snap. Note that his adjacent sideline will "flip" if his motion takes him beyond the snapper before the ball is snapped.

EXAMPLE 2 The ball is at the left hash mark. Back A33 is split far to the right. After all eleven Team A players have been set for at least one second A33 starts in motion to his left. When the ball is snapped he is just behind the *right tackle* and still moving laterally to the left.

RULING: The adjacent sideline for A33 is the right sideline, since he started from that side and is still to the right of the snapper when the ball is snapped. Thus he may legally block below the waist north-and-south or toward his right sideline.

EXAMPLE 3 The ball is at the left hash mark. Back A33 is split far to the right. After all eleven Team A players have been set for at least one second A33 starts in motion to his left. He continues beyond the snapper, and when the ball is snapped he is just behind the *left guard* and is “running in place” rather than moving laterally.

RULING: The adjacent sideline for A33 is the left sideline; that is now the sideline to his outside since his motion has taken him behind the snapper and to the opposite side of the formation from which he started. Thus he may legally block below the waist north-and-south or toward his left sideline.

Player in Motion Directly Behind the Snapper

When a back in motion is almost directly behind the snapper when the ball is snapped, it may be difficult to determine which side of the formation he is on to establish his adjacent sideline. In this case, the adjacent sideline is interpreted to be the sideline toward which he is moving. Thus he will be able to block below the waist legally north-and-south or toward the sideline in front of him.

EXAMPLE 4 Back A44 lines up to the left of the formation, either inside or outside the tackle box. He starts in motion laterally to his right. At the snap he appears to be directly behind the snapper as he continues moving laterally to the right.

RULING: The adjacent sideline for A44 is the sideline to the right. Thus he may legally block below the waist north-and-south or toward the sideline to the right of the formation.

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