



LIVE BALL, DEAD BALL AND OUT OF BOUNDS RULE 4

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OUR MISSION

- ▶ Go over key parts of rule 4



KEY CONCEPTS

- ▶ Every down in the game is either a free kick down or a scrimmage down
- ▶ 4-1: Free kicks consist of:
 - Kickoffs
 - To start each half
 - After a field goal
 - After a try
 - After a safety
 - When a free-kick down is repeated
- ▶ Every other down is a scrimmage down
- ▶ Every free kick or snap must be made from between the hash marks



BALL LIVE & DEAD 2-1

READY FOR
PLAY



SNAP OR
FREE KICK



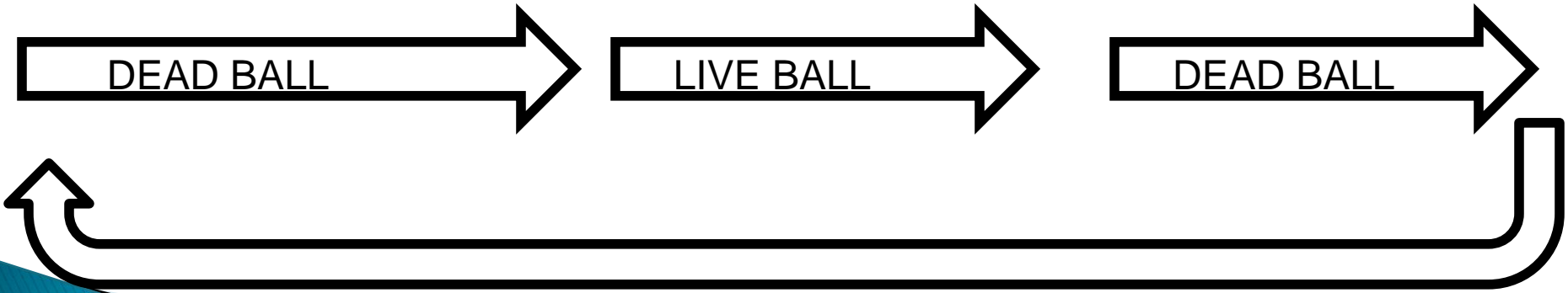
END OF
DOWN



DEAD BALL

LIVE BALL

DEAD BALL





4-1-6 EFFECT OF A DEAD BALL FOUL (DBF)

READY FOR PLAY



BLOW WHISTLE FOR DBF

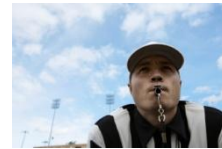


BALL REMAINS DEAD

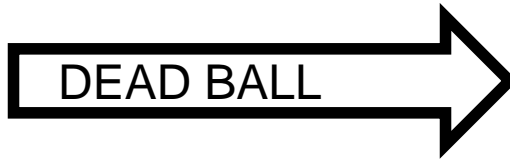


RFP

SNAP OR FREE KICK



END OF DOWN





4-2-2 BALL BECOMES DEAD

- ▶ The ball or runner goes out of bounds (OOB)
- ▶ The runner's forward progress is stopped
- ▶ The runner's ball carrier's helmet comes completely off
- ▶ Any part of the runner's body, other than his hands or feet, touches the ground
- ▶ 2-32-13: A runner is any player in possess of the ball, so, if there were no exceptions to the above, when a place kick holder, who normally has his knee on the ground, caught the snap, the ball would become dead



4-2-2A EXCEPTION

- ▶ A place kick holder, even though he has a knee on the ground, can catch or recover the snap while his knee is on the ground. The holder can then:
 - Place the ball for the kick
 - Rise up and then advance, hand the ball, or pass the ball
- ▶ A place kick holder can also:
 - Rise up from the ground and catch or recover an errant snap if he immediately returns to his knee. He can then do everything listed in the first section
- ▶ A place kick holder cannot:
 - Muff the snap, or fumble the snap, then get off his knee, and then put his knee down again. If he does that, the ball is dead
 - Pass or hand the ball while he has his knee on the ground. If he does that, the ball is dead.



4-2-2 BALL BECOMES DEAD

- ▶ When any **forward** pass, legal or illegal, is incomplete or simultaneously caught
- ▶ When any legal kick that is not a scoring attempt (kickoff, free kick following a safety, or a punt) breaks the plane of R's goal line
- ▶ When any legal kick that is a scoring attempt:
 - Touches a K player in R's end zone
 - After breaking the plane of R's goal line has apparently failed
- ▶ When there is a score or touchback
- ▶ A loose ball comes to rest and no one attempts to secure it **[DANGER, DANGER!!]**
- ▶ A loose ball touches or is touched by anything inbounds other than a player, substitute, replaced player, an official, authorized equipment, or the ground



4-2-2 BALL BECOMES DEAD

- ▶ A kicking team player catches or recovers any free kick, or a scrimmage kick that is beyond the neutral zone
- ▶ A kicking team player touches a scrimmage kick which is beyond the neutral zone at rest and untouched by Team R
- ▶ A receiving team player catches or recovers a kick after he or a teammate makes a valid or invalid fair catch signal
- ▶ A simultaneous catch or recovery occurs
- ▶ During a try, B gains possession or it is otherwise apparent a kick will fail



4-2-3 INADVERTENT WHISTLES (IW)

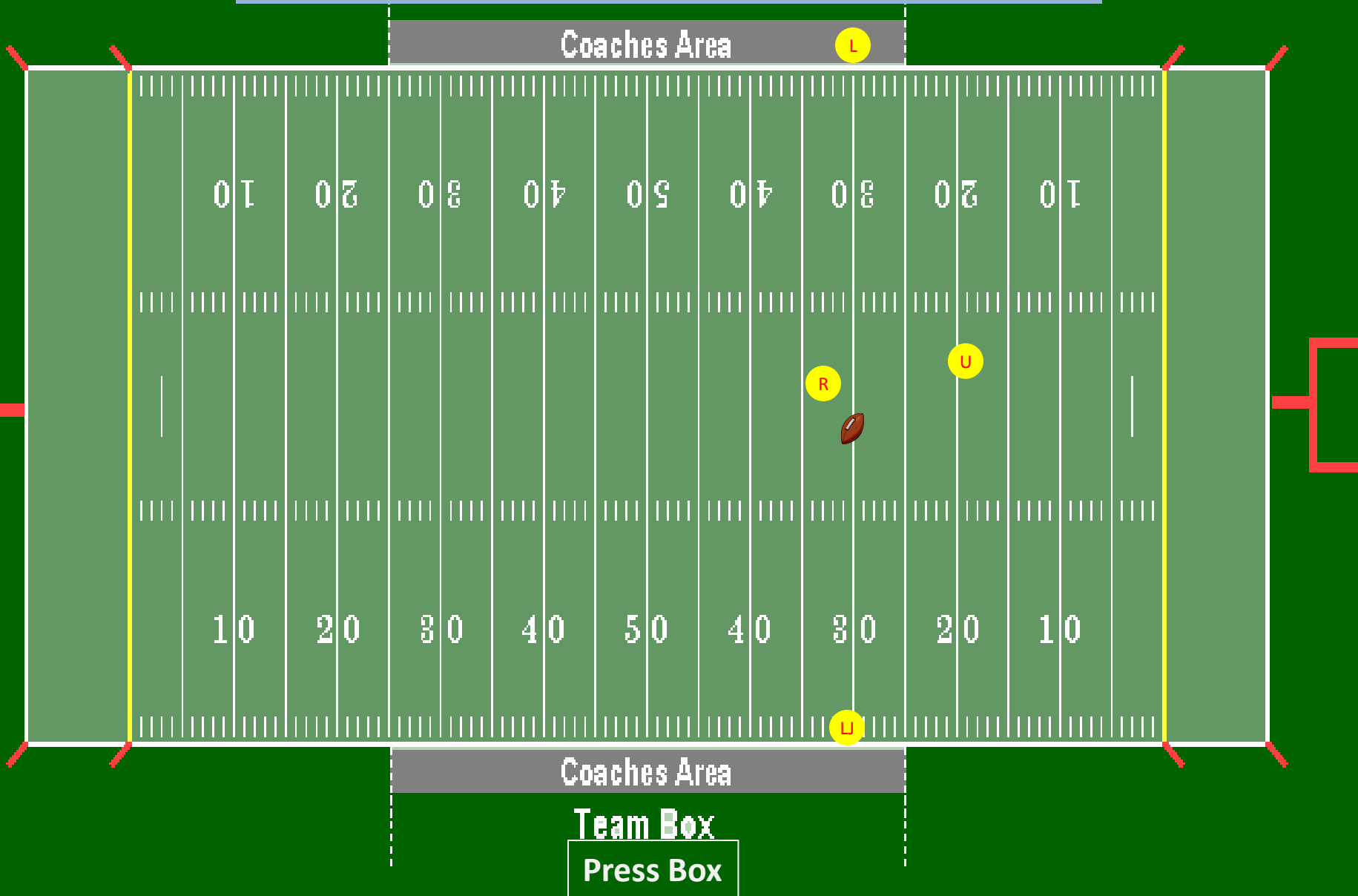
- ▶ We divide what we do into 3 categories—the IW took place while:
 - The ball is in player possession
 - The ball is loose following a backward pass, fumble, illegal forward pass or illegal kick
 - During a snap, legal forward pass or legal kick
- ▶ Ball in player possession
 - The play is dead immediately
 - Team in possession has 2 options:
 - Take the ball where it became dead;
 - Replay the down from the previous spot



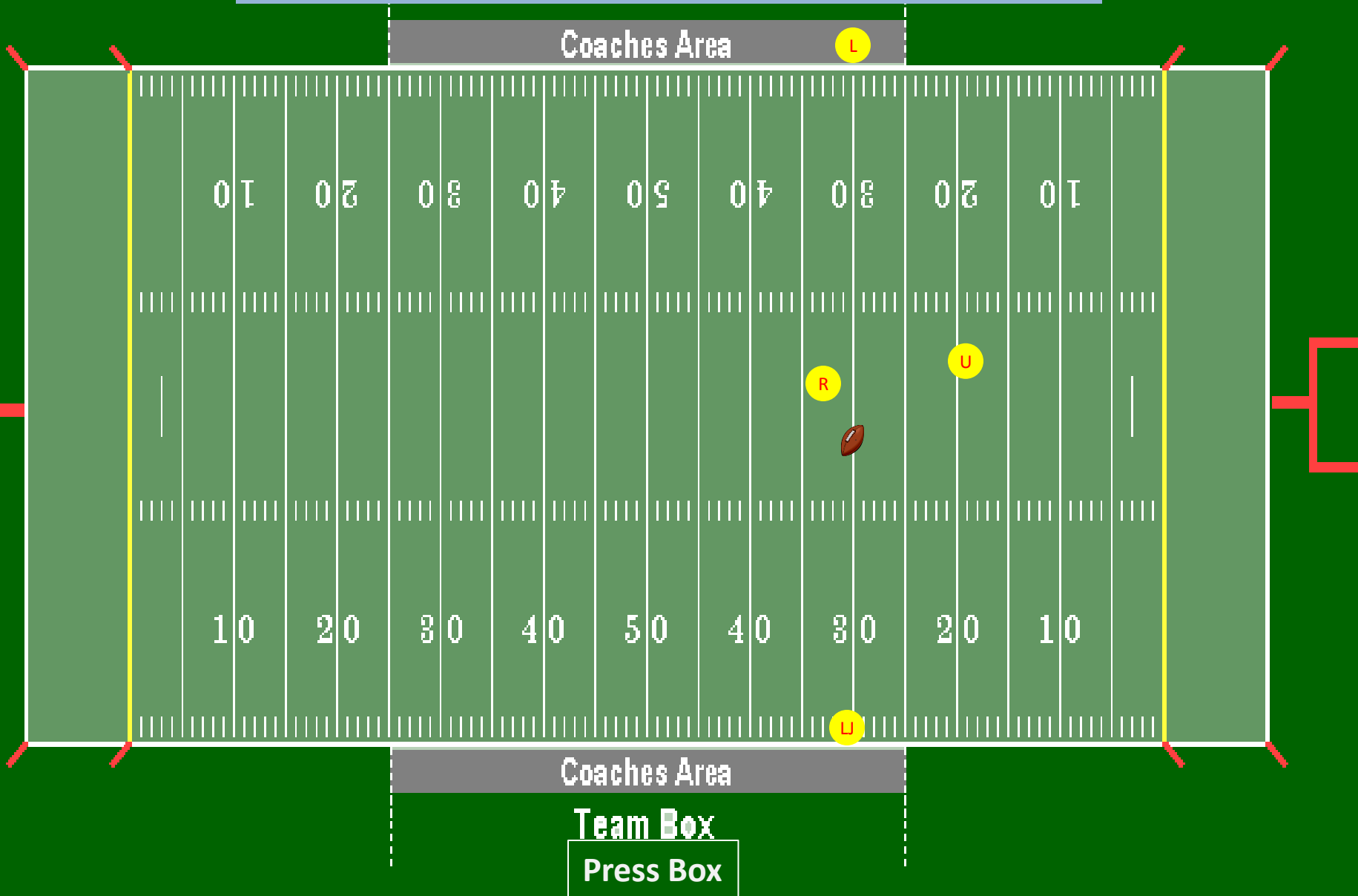
4-2-3 INADVERTENT WHISTLES (IW)

- ▶ During a fumble, backward pass or illegal forward pass
 - The ball is dead immediately
 - Fumbling/passing team has 2 options:
 - Take the ball where the player lost possession;
 - Replay the down from the previous spot
- ▶ During a legal forward pass or kick
 - The ball is dead immediately
 - There are no options: the ball is returned to the previous spot and the down is replayed

**4-3-1: Out of Bounds Spot: Snapped from B-30, Runner
OOB @ B-25, Spotted @B-25 on the hashmark**



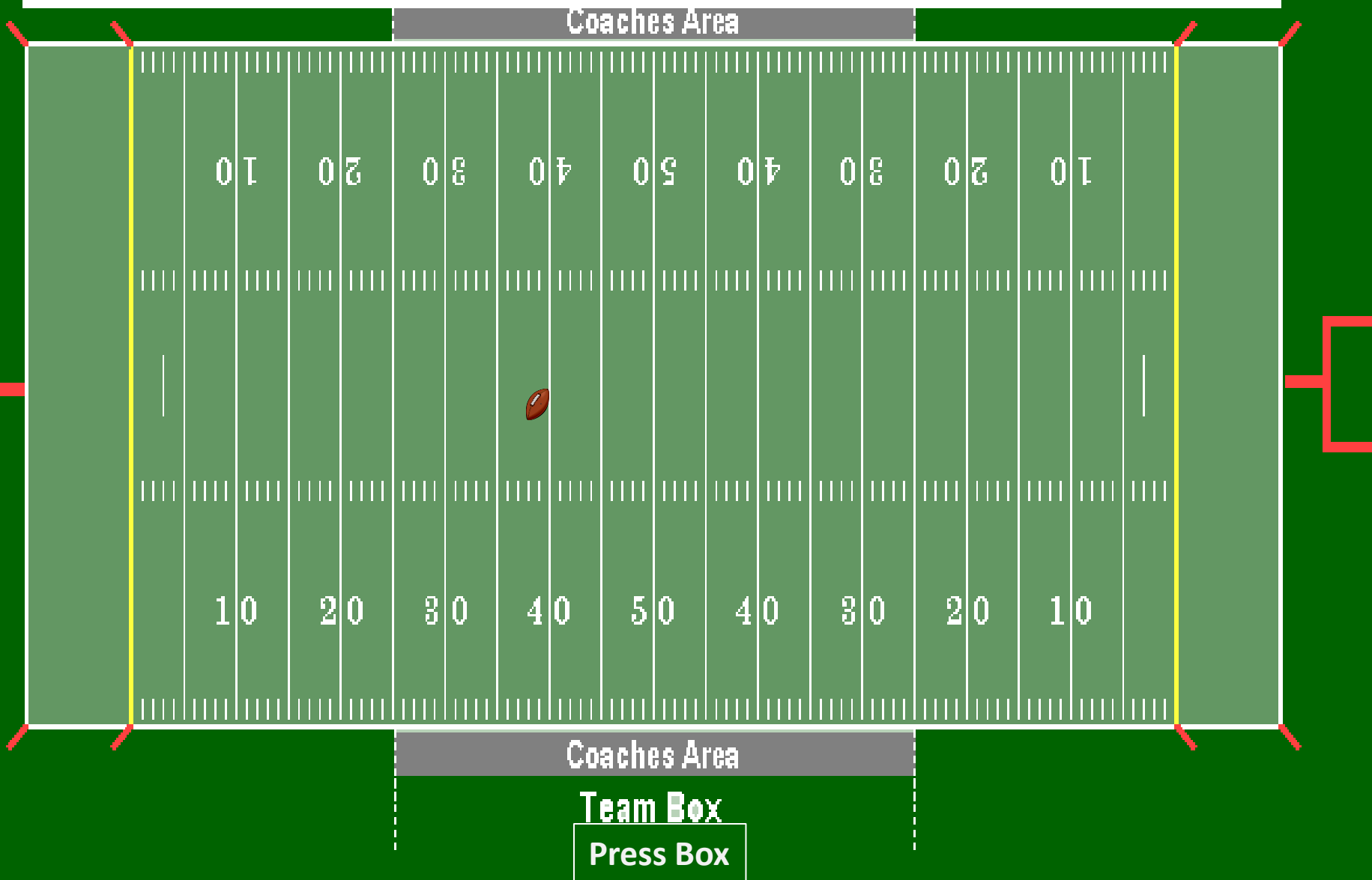
4-3-4: Incomplete forward pass-ball is spotted at the previous spot



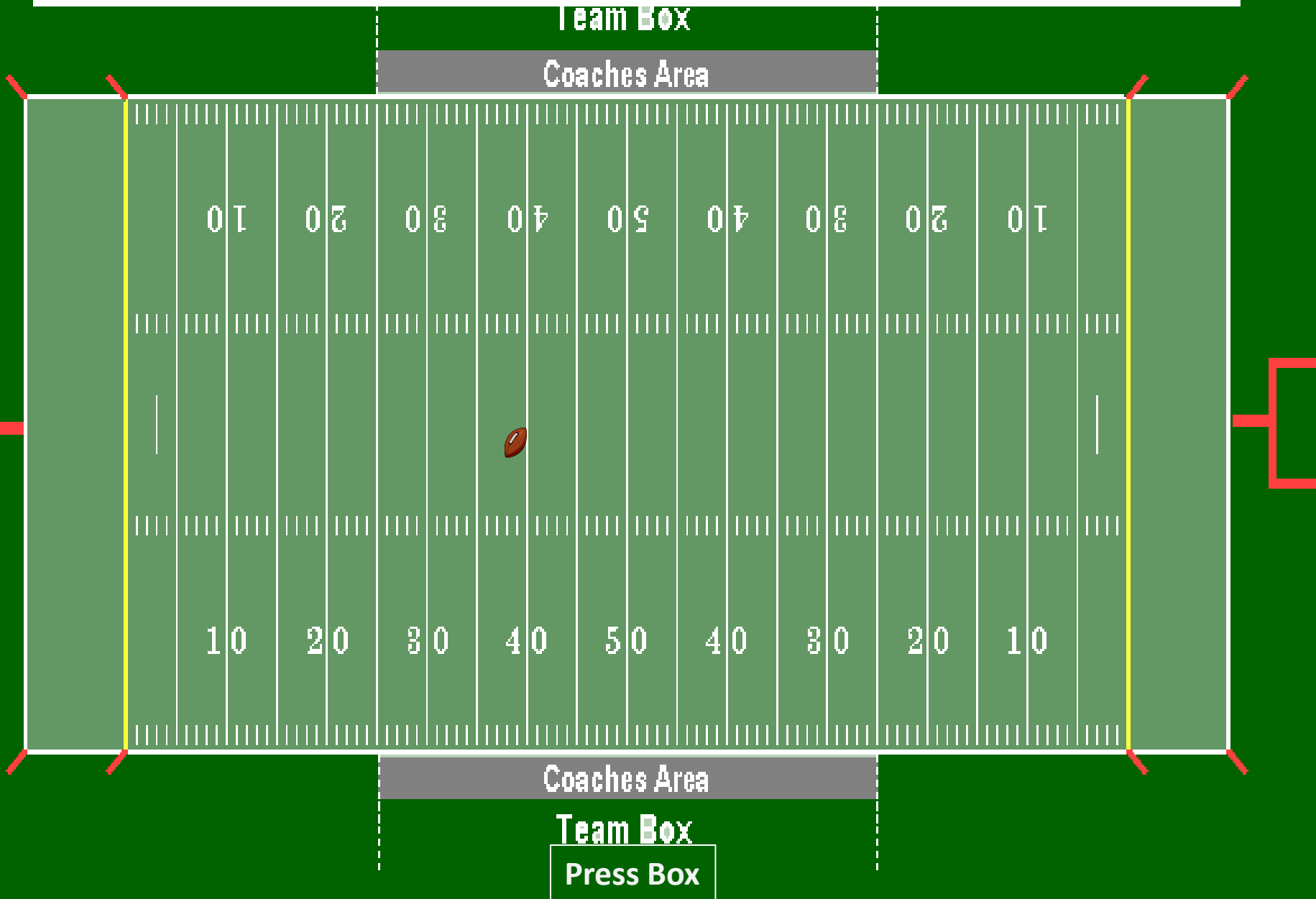
4-3-6 A MAY DESIGNATE THE SPOT

- For a try
- For a kickoff
- Following a:
 - Safety
 - Fair catch
 - Awarded fair catch
 - Touchback
- For the start of each series in overtime
- Note: this **does not** include following a free kick out of bounds-if R takes the ball at the OOB spot or 25 yards from the previous spot, the ball is placed at the hashmark on the side the kick went OOB.

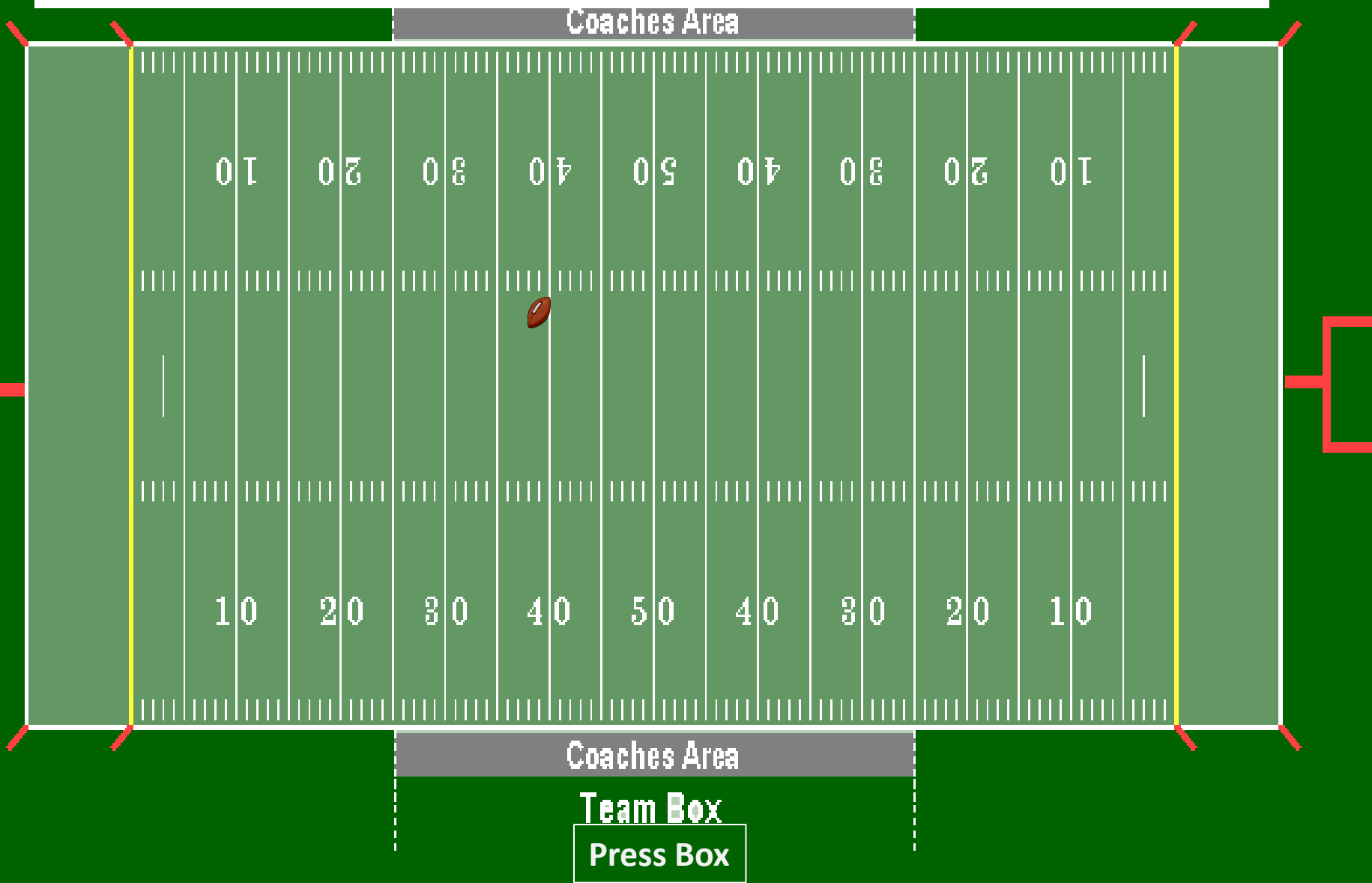
FREE KICK OOB: R CHOOSES TO TAKE IT 25 YARDS FROM THE PREVIOUS SPOT



FREE KICK OOB: R CHOOSES TO TAKE THE RESULT OF THE PLAY



FREE KICK OOB: R CHOOSES TO REPLAY, SO NOW K CAN PLACE THE BALL ANYWHERE BETWEEN THE HASH MARKS



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