



FREE KICK FORMATION REQUIREMENTS

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OUR MISSION

- ▶ Go over the requirements for free kick formations
- ▶ Show that we understand these requirements by answering the case book situations correctly



PREVIOUSLY

- ▶ 2-14-3 listed the requirements
- ▶ Until the ball was kicked:
 - No K players, other than the kicker or holder, could be beyond K's free kick line
 - All R players must be behind their free kick line



ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN 2014

- ▶ 6-1-3: From the time the ball is marked ready for play, and until the ball is kicked,
K must:
 - Have no players, other than the kicker or holder, beyond K's free kick line, and
 - At least 4 K players must be on each side of the kicker, and
 - No K players, except for the kicker, may be more than 5 yards behind K's free kick line



PROBLEMS WITH THE WORDING

- ▶ We know that a kicker is defined 2-32-8 as a player who legally place kicks
- ▶ So, we don't know who the kicker is until that player actually kicks the ball



WHAT WE WILL DO

- ▶ Per *6.1.3B, we are going to assume that the player we hand the ball to is going to be the kicker, or, as the case book refers to him, the “potential” kicker
- ▶ If the “potential kicker” turns out not to be the kicker, we could or could not have a problem



“POTENTIAL KICKER”

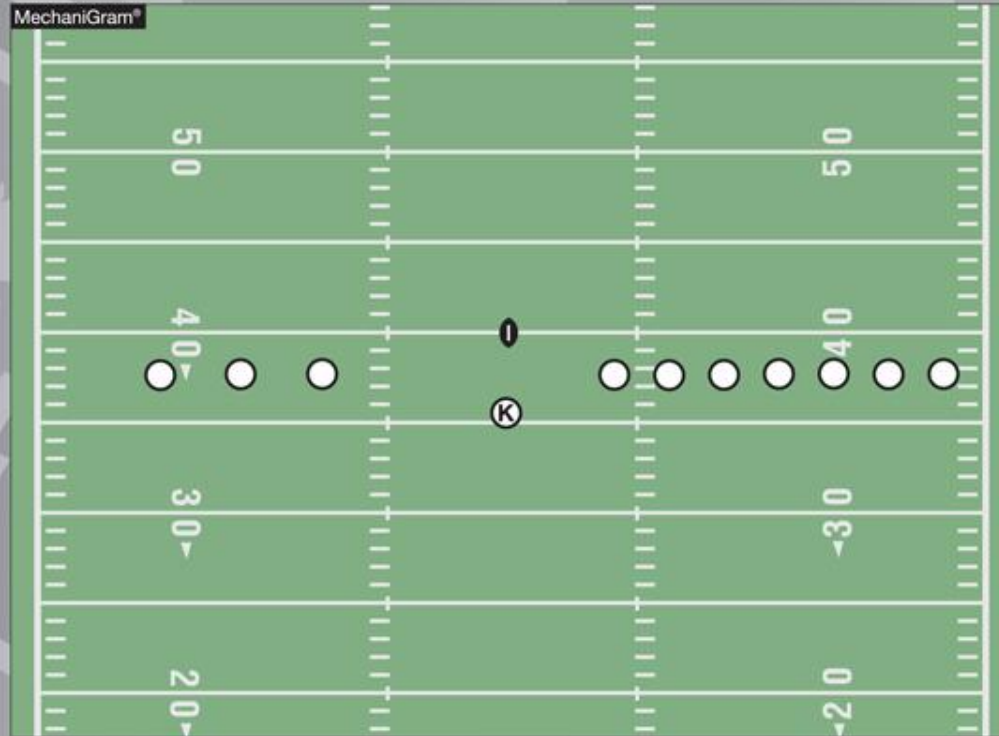
- ▶ If the potential kicker is lined up more than 5 yards behind the ball, and another player kicks the ball, we have a dead ball foul for encroachment, per *6.1.3B
- ▶ If the potential kicker is lined up within 5 yards behind the ball, and another player kicks the ball, as long as there are 4 players on either side of the actual kicker, we are good to go



Free-Kick Formation

Rules 6-1-3b (NEW); 6-1-3c (NEW)

RULE CHANGE

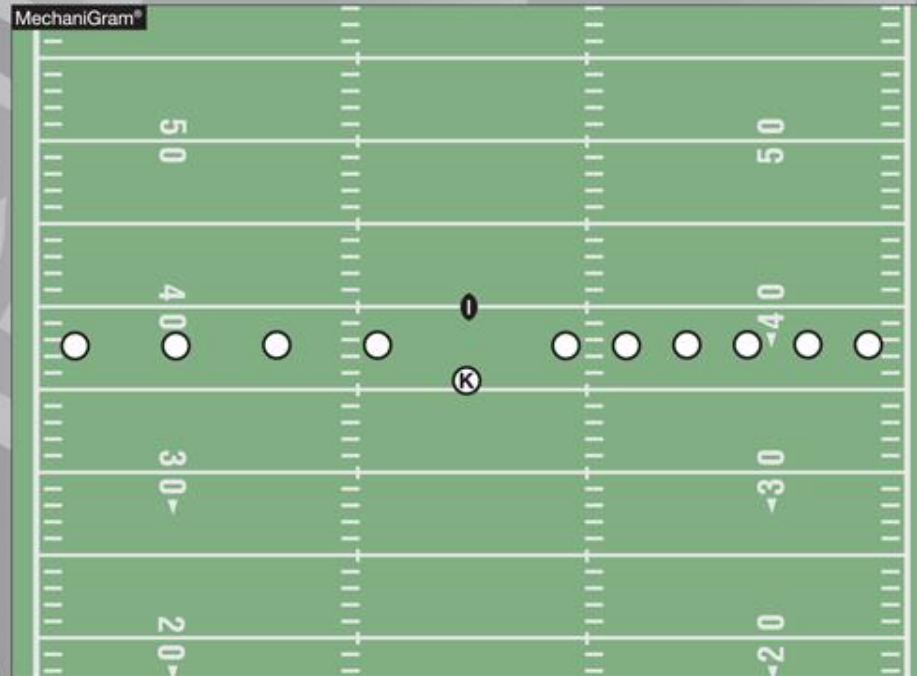


After the ready-for-play has been signaled and until the ball is kicked for a free kick, team K must have at least four players on either side of the kicker. As shown in the MechaniGram, K is guilty of a dead-ball foul.



Free-Kick Formation Rules 6-1-3b (NEW); 6-1-3c (NEW)

RULE CHANGE

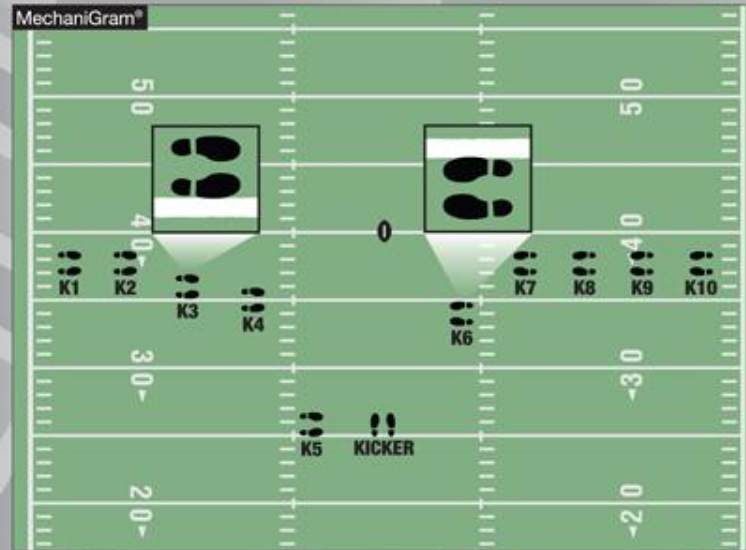


On a free kick, from the time the ready-for-play is signaled until the ball is kicked, no K player other than the kicker may be more than five yards from his free-kick line. The formation in the MechaniGram becomes legal when the ball has been declared ready-for-play.



Free-Kick Formation Rules 6-1-3b (NEW); 6-1-3c (NEW)

RULE CHANGE



The formation in the MechaniGram becomes illegal when the ball has been declared ready-for-play. K3, K4, K5 and K6 are all more than five yards from their free kick line. No K players, with the exception of the kicker may be more than five yards behind the kicking team's free kick line. A player satisfies this rule when no foot is on or beyond the line five yards behind K's free kick. If one player is more than five yards behind the restraining line and any other player kicks the ball, it is a foul.



FREE KICKS

- ▶ Up to now, we have been discussing kickoffs, but we have other types of free kicks
 - Free kick after a safety
 - Free kick following a fair catch or an awarded fair catch
 - Replays of free kicks
- ▶ The formation requirements apply to all free kicks



SITUATION #1 (*6.1.3A)

- ▶ After the ready for play and as the ball is being kicked, Team K has 3 players to the left of the kicker and 7 players to the right of the kicker.
- ▶ **RULING:** It is an encroachment foul by K. The ball shall be blown dead immediately and R given the option to accept the distance penalty of 5 yards for the dead-ball foul.



SITUATION 2 (*6.1.3B)

- ▶ After the ready for play and prior to the ball being kicked, Team K has 5 players to the left of the kicker and 5 players to the right of the kicker with the ball spotted @ K-40. The potential kicker, K1, is lined up @ K-32 to begin his kick and all other K players are clearly outside of the K-35. As K1 approaches the kick, he suddenly slows down and K2 then kicks an onside kick that is recovered by R1.
- ▶ **RULING:** K has committed a foul for encroachment and the ball shall be blown dead immediately. R is given the option to accept the distance penalty of 5 yards for the dead-ball foul.



SITUATION 3 (*6.1.3C)

- ▶ After the ready for play and prior to the ball being kicked, Team K has 5 players to the left of the kicker and 5 players to the right of the kicker with the ball spotted @ K-40. Prior to the ball being kicked, player K2:
 - ▶ (a) has both feet just beyond the K-35 (toward midfield);
 - ▶ (b) has a foot touching the K-35;
 - ▶ (c) has one foot touching beyond the K-35 toward the K-36 and one foot behind the K-35; or
 - ▶ (d) K has both feet clearly beyond the K-35 (toward midfield) but his hand is touching behind the K-35 (toward K's goal line).
- ▶ **RULING:** Legal in (a) and (d). Encroachment in (b) and (c). Fouls that occur during free kicks are loose-ball fouls



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