

Common Fouls

What is the difference between clipping and blocking in the back (definitionally and penalty enforcement)?

Clipping - initial contact against an opponent other than a runner (or one pretending to be runner) from behind and **below** the waist (15 yards)

Block in the back - initial contact against an opponent other than a runner (or one pretending to be runner) from behind and **above** the waist (10 yards)

Note. Any player may push, pull or ward off an opponent in a bona fide attempt at possessing a fumble (2.3.4-5)

What is difference between defensive holding and illegal use of hands?

Defensive Holding - using hands/arms to restrain a non-runner (before pass is thrown if on on a passing play; 9.2.3c)

Defensive Illegal Use of Hands -
adding momentum to the charge of a teammate on the LOS (9.2.3b)
contacting an eligible receiver who is no longer a potential blocker (9.2.3d)

*penalties for both are 10 yards

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Conditions (Redding, 2025, p. 39):

- Legal forward pass that crosses the LOS
- Untouched by B
- Interference is beyond the LOS with an eligible receiver

Note. "Catchability" of a pass is not a factor for this foul.

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So...what types of actions constitute "interference?"

What foul (and penalty) has occurred if...

- An ineligible member of A catches, bats, or muffs a legal forward pass?

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No foul

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B55's helmet comes off due to a facemask foul by A74...

B55 does NOT have to exit for 1 play

What have we got?

On a sweep to the right, B36 (strong safety) comes up from 6 yards off the LOS to take out the legs of lead-blocker A65.

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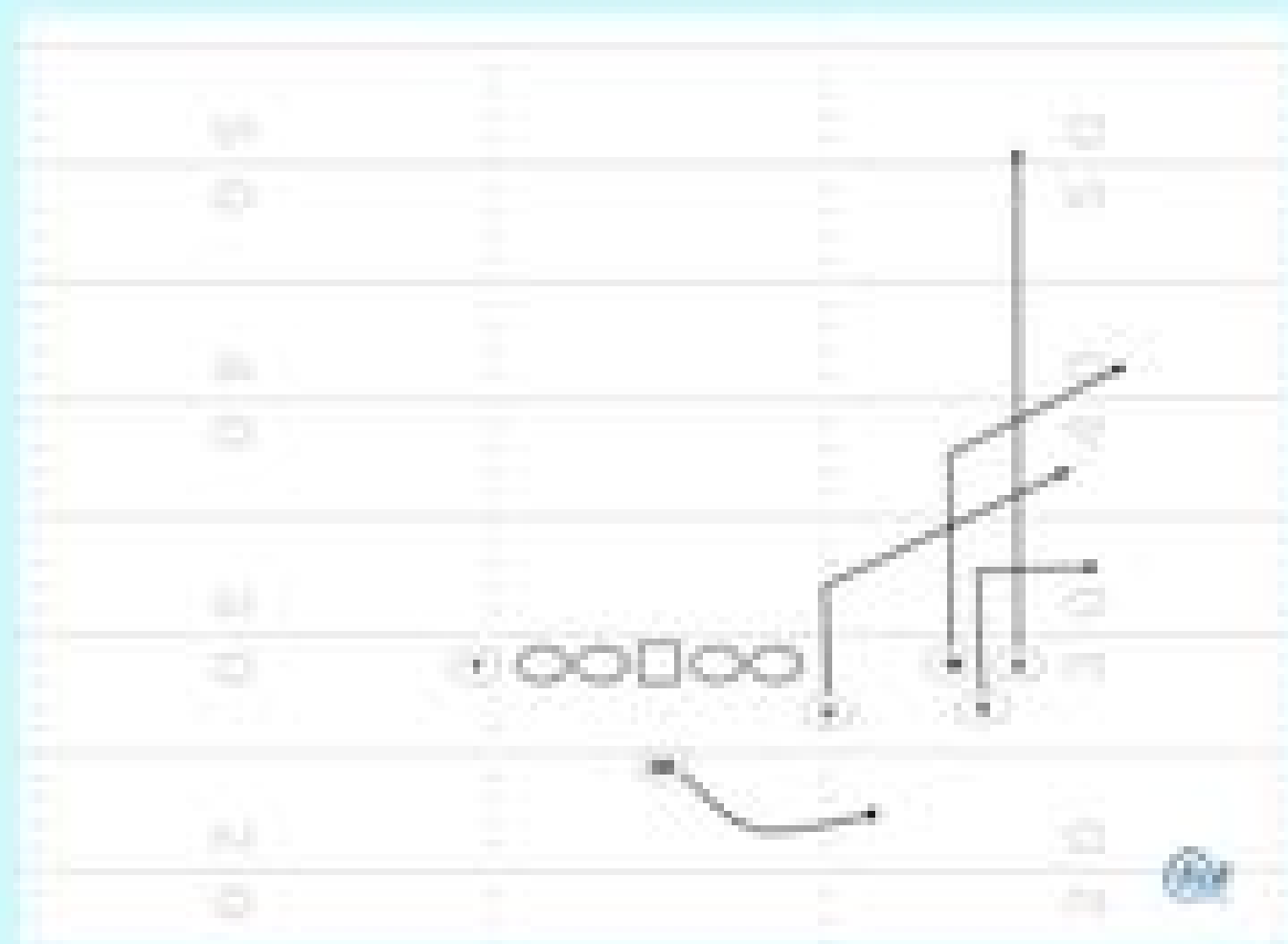
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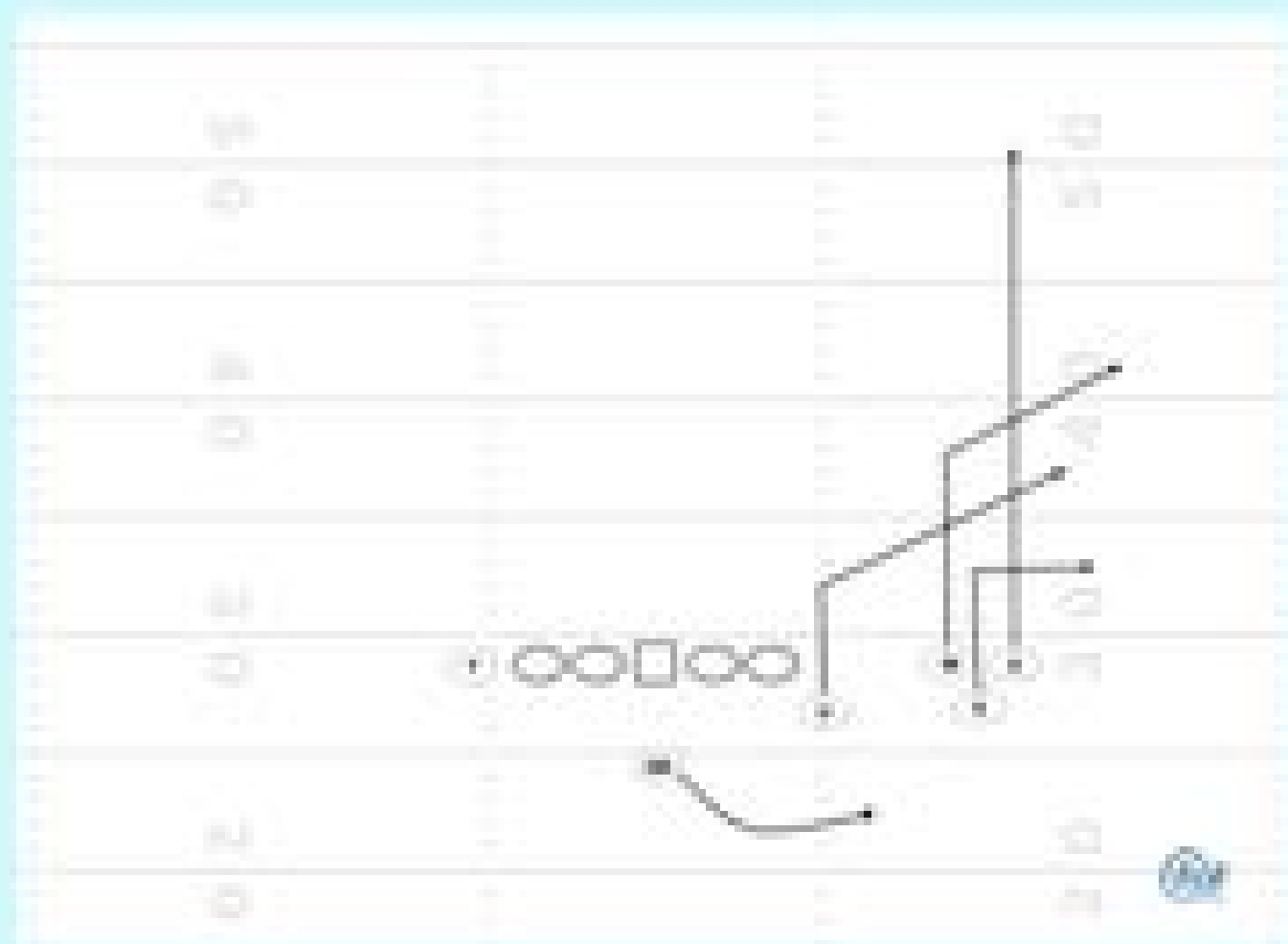
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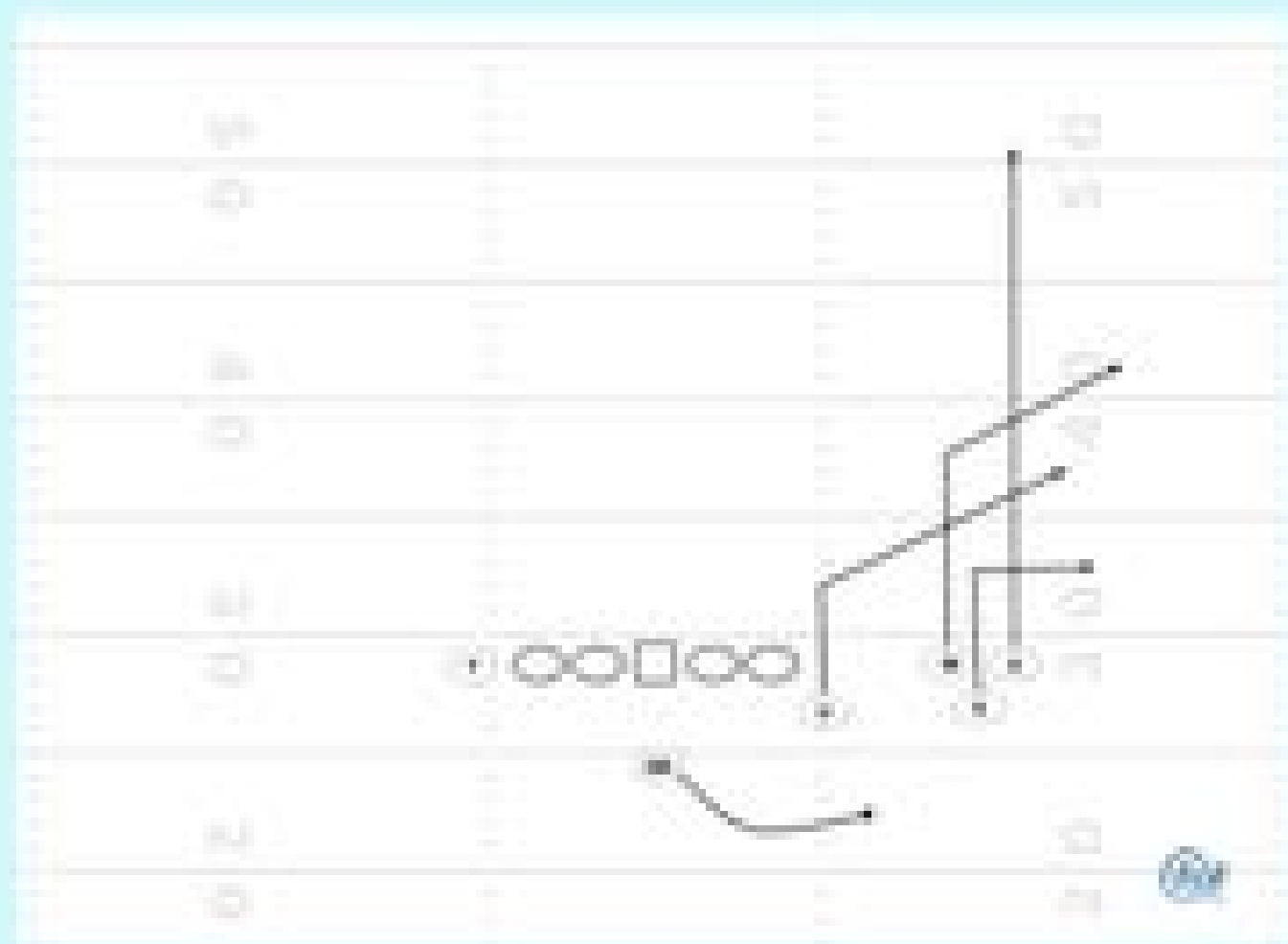


W receives a 17-yard completion directly from the QB.

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Illegal touching on W (5 yards, PS + LOD)

A Few Random Questions...

3-10: What if B92 slaps A64 in the side of the head en route to sacking sacking A10 for a 5-yard loss?

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1-10 for A; "no player may use hand(s) to slap the opponent's
head" (9.4.7) - 15 yards from the PS

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Targeting - taking aim and initiating contact with an opponent above the shoulders (2.20.2)

Illegal Helmet Contact - butt blocking, face tackling, spearing

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2.32.16 defines a defenseless player (DP)

9.4.3g forbids players from making contact with opponents (and a DP)
that is "unnecessary or excessive and which incites roughness"

9.4.3p limits contact with a DP to that which is incidental, initiated with
open hands, or an attempt to tackle with wrapped arms

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