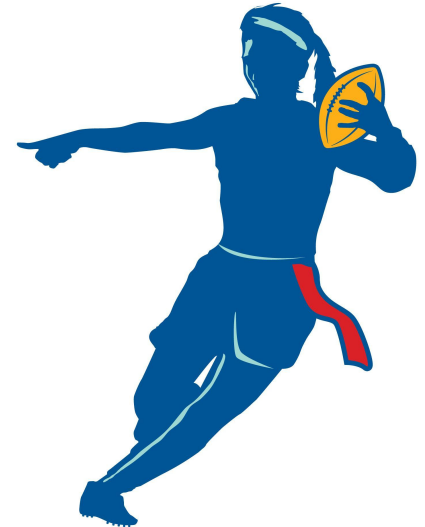

Screen Blocking and Illegal Contact

CFOA Flag Football June 11, 2025

Screen Blocking

This will be the most difficult foul that Flag Football Officials have to make. You must understand the components of an illegal block and a legal screen block. You must be able to use language to explain your call or no call. You must see the play all the way through and consider all components of the play.






1. Intro

The components of legal and illegal blocking and contact

- **Contact, when a foul is called**
Understand and define
- **Right of Place**
Understand and define
- **Right of Way**
Understand and define

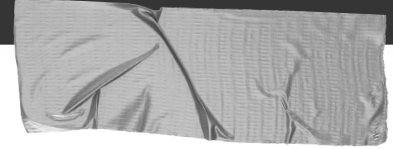
Blocking is -



NFHS - 2.3.1

Blocking is obstructing an opponent by contacting them with any part of the blocker's body.

Screen Blocking is -



Screen Blocking -

NFHS 2.3.2

Screen Blocking is taking a position to Obstruct the path of an opponent without contacting the opponent with any part of the blocker's body.

We must first define what contact is and when it become a foul.



Contact -

... is touching an opponent with impact.

Touching with no impact is not a foul.



2. Examples

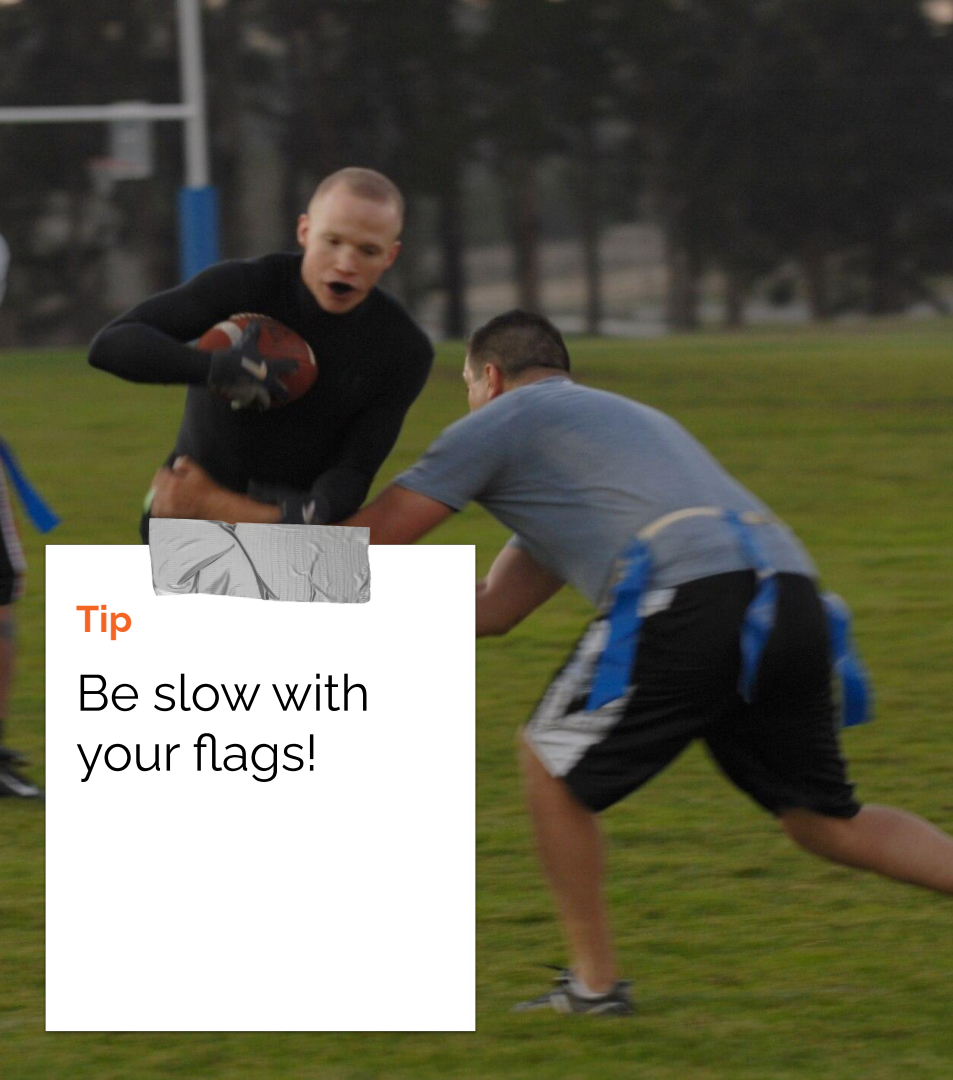
Understand the we must call fouls that have an impact on the play or the player.

→ **Offense**

The ball carrier runs through the player attempting to de-flag

→ **Defense**

The defender rushes straight into the body of the QB attempting to through a pass.



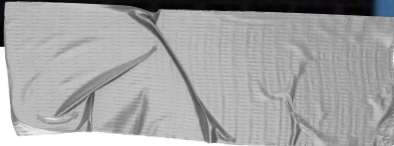
Tip

Be slow with
your flags!

NON-Contact

Flag Football should be a “noncontact” sport. We know there will obviously be contact, the question will always be “did it impact the player or the play?”

Right of Place -

The background image shows several young men playing flag football on a green grass field. They are wearing orange and blue jerseys with black shorts and have red and green flags attached to their waists. One player in the foreground is running towards the right, while others are in various positions around him. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting it's daytime.

Right of place is given to any stationary player who maintains normal player posture and make no movements in any horizontal direction to change their position. Right of place supersedes right of way when determining who is guilty of a foul.



Tip

Right of Place always supersedes Right of Way.

Right of Way

Right of way is given to a player who has established a direction of movement in a regular manner and does not alter that direction. A player with right of way has higher privilege when determining who is guilty of a foul than all other players except those who have established right of place.

Blocking Down Field

Right of Place and Right of Way are used to determine if a legal screen block is made or an illegal contact foul needs to be called. These are even more important when considering blocking down field.



Tip

The blocker is moving with the ball carrier and makes impactful contact with a defensive player who has established their space when trying to de-flag the ball carrier. FOUL - illegal block

—
Illegal contact by the ball carrier -

An illegal movement of the ball-carrier directly at a defensive player who has established position on the field. This includes lowering the head or initiating contact with a shoulder, forearm, chest, or hips.



Tip

When the defense has established their place on the field, the ball carrier is responsible to avoid contact.

Blocking –

NFHS 9.3.1

Blocking by any player is illegal unless it is a screen block



Tip

Know who is responsible to avoid the contact. Who has established “right of place” and even if the player is moving are they holding that right of place.

NFHS - 9.3.2

After assuming a legal position, a screen blocker may move to maintain legal position by moving in the same direction or path as the opponent....A screen blocker shall not extend the arms, or use hands, arms elbows or legs to initiate contact.



Tip

When the blocker is moving along a line parallel to the defense they maintain their legal position. This line can be any shape (i.e. circular) and remain legal.