

OFFENSIVE **PASS INTERFERENCE** – KNOW IT – SEE IT – CALL IT

Illegal interference is interference with an eligible receiver (offensive or defensive) in the target area, or interference which prevents an eligible receiver from reaching the target area, when there is a reasonable expectation that the receiver would have had the opportunity to attempt to complete the pass.



Blocking Downfield

Ineligible receivers shall not go downfield beyond the neutral zone, unless they make contact with an opponent in the neutral zone and maintain n this contact as they move downfield.

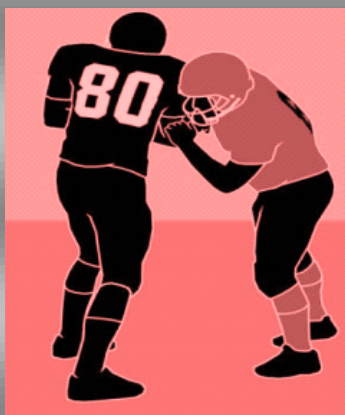
However, should such player lose contact and no longer take part in the play, he shall not be penalized.

All Team A players may block downfield prior to the ball being caught on passes on or behind the line of scrimmage.



Push Off

The push off is not always easy to detect. It can be subtle — a hand or forearm in the body of the defender. If the push is not sufficient to cause separation, the covering official should take a pass on it. But it's good preventive officiating to tell the receiver after the play that his actions are being observed and subsequent similar actions could be flagged.



Driving Through the Defender

When a receiver is physically bigger than a defender, the receiver may try to use that advantage to get open for a pass. If a defender has a superior position, watch for the receiver to attempt to bull their way past the defender. Again, remember that defensive players are entitled to their position on the field, that it is incumbent on the offensive player to avoid contact.

Be in position

Sometimes you only have to move a short distance (or not at all) to cover a play. Regardless of how much movement is necessary, be sure to get an angle that allows you to view the play.

Know the enforcement

Penalty enforcement is not just the referee's job. Every official should know enforcement procedures. If it appears the crew is going to mess up enforcement, speak up. You can save the crew from an embarrassing error.