



Blocking Zone 2-3-6

ARTICLE 6. a. The blocking zone is a rectangle centered on the **middle lineman of the offensive formation** and extending five yards laterally and three yards longitudinally in each direction.

b. The blocking zone **disintegrates when the ball leaves the zone.**

2-3-6 BLOCKING ZONE APPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING RULES:

Clipping 9-1-5

There shall be no clipping (Rule 2-5).

Exceptions:

1. Offensive players who are **on the line of scrimmage** at the snap **within the blocking zone** (Rule 2-3-6) legally **may clip in the blocking zone**, subject to the following restrictions:
 - (a) A player in the blocking zone **may not block** an opponent with the force of the **initial contact** from **behind** and **at or below** the knee.
 - (b) A player on the line of scrimmage **within** the blocking zone **may not leave** the zone and **return** and legally clip.
 - (c) The blocking **zone disintegrates** when the **ball leaves** the zone (Rule 2-3-6).
2. When a player turns his back to a potential blocker who has committed himself in intent and direction or movement.
3. When a player **attempts to reach** a runner or legally attempts to recover or catch a fumble, a backward pass, a kick or a touched forward pass, he **may push** an opponent below the waist **at or to** the buttocks (Rule 9-3-3-c, Exception 3).
4. When an eligible player behind the neutral zone pushes an opponent below the waist at or to the buttocks to get to a forward pass (Rule 9-3-3-c, Exception 5).
5. Clipping is **allowed** against the runner.

Use of Hands or Arms by Offense 9-3-3-c

c. A block in the back (other than **against the ball carrier**) is illegal (A.R. 9-3-3-I and VII; and A.R. 10-2-2-XII).

Exceptions:

1. Offensive players who are **on the line of scrimmage** at the snap **within the blocking zone** (Rule 2-3-6) may legally block in the back in the blocking zone, subject to the following restrictions:
 - (a) A player on the line of scrimmage within this blocking zone **may not leave** the zone and **return** and legally block in the back.
 - (b) The blocking **zone disintegrates** when the ball leaves the zone (Rule 2-3-6).