

# Linesman and Linejudge Positioning

*Based on the 2008-09 NFHS Officials Manual  
and CCAFO Mechanic's Addendum*

by Ron Patry

CCAFO



# Where do I line up?



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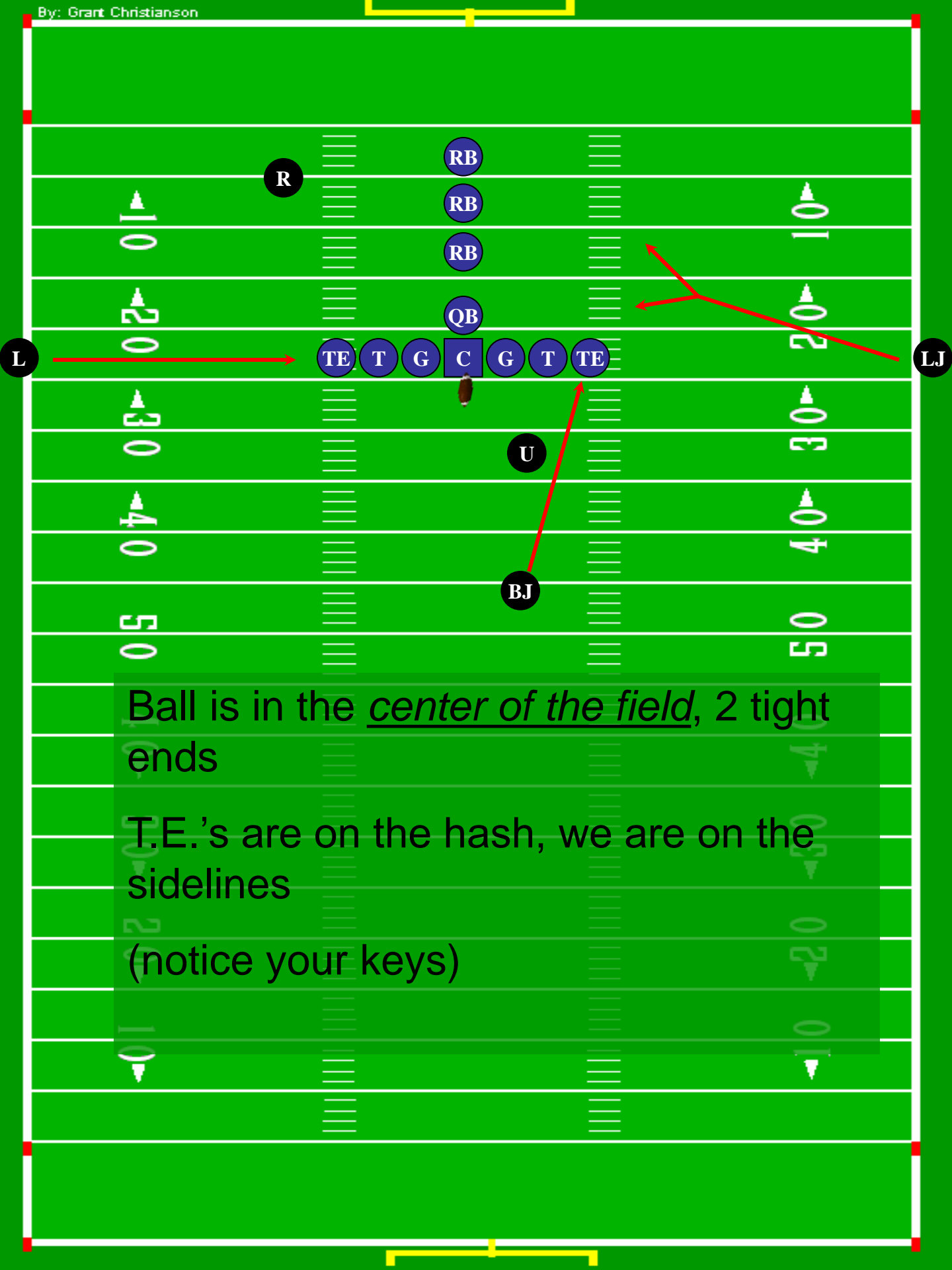
- Begin each play positioned on the sidelines keeping coaches and players back
- Or 9 yards from the widest receiver
- Most circumstances, not past the *bottom* of the numbers (9 yard marks)
- When in doubt, line up on the sideline and work your way in

# COME IN HARD

- **GOAL LINE PLAYS:** ball is snapped on the opposite hash, 2 tight ends – line up bottom of the numbers but be ready to come in hard
- **CLOSE TO A FIRST DOWN :** ask the Umpire to HAND you the ball (not throw it) and you put it at your feet
- **DO NOT** come in so hard you loose sight of the ball or run into players, meet first resistance and keep your head up but always :
- **SEE THE BALL!**

# When do I REALLY need to come in hard or line up closer?

- Game is a blowout and getting chippy – let them know you are there every play
- QB is taking a knee (usually at the end of game or half)
- Immediately after a P.A.T.
- Fellow official may be injured or “challenged” and you need to cover more ground



Ball is in the center of the field, 2 tight ends

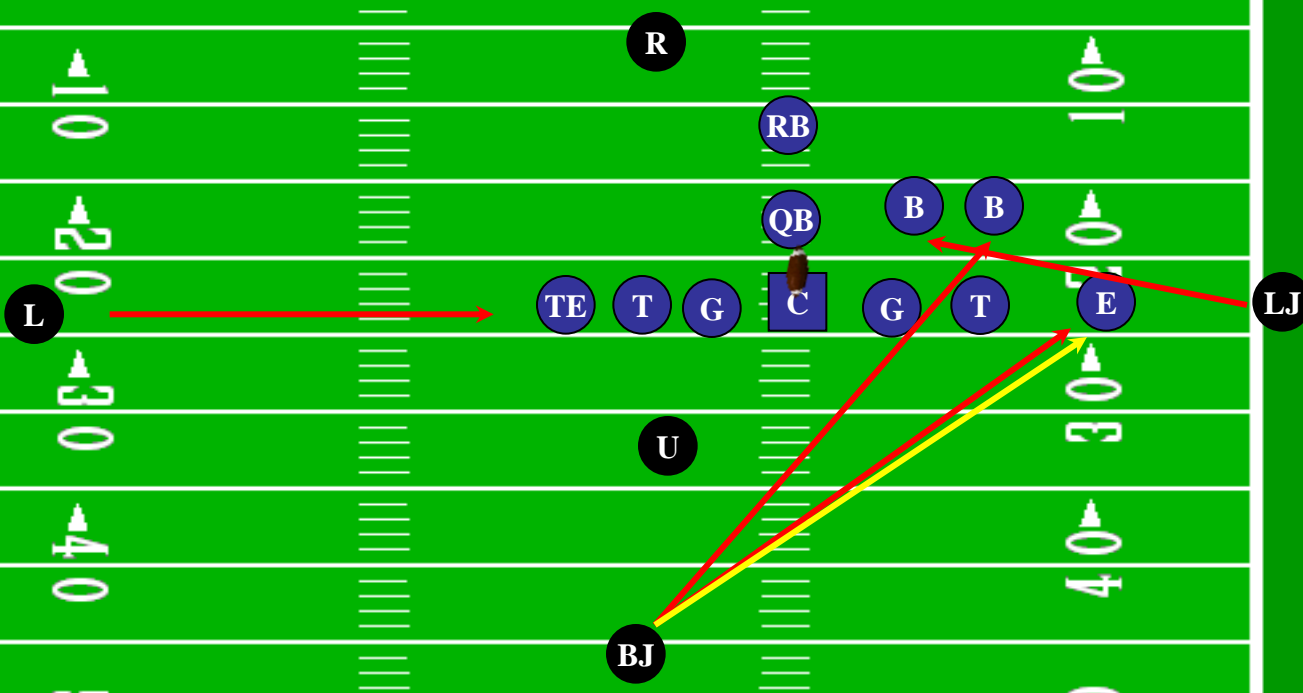
T.E.'s are on the hash, we are on the sidelines

(notice your keys)



• **GOAL LINE GOING IN – 2 t.e.**  
**could be on the field**  
**(nobody behind you) get to**  
**the pylon ; come in hard**  
**SEE THE BALL** and make  
**the call**

# 2 T.E... Opposite hash



L – at least 9 yards from widest rec.. Bottom of the numbers

Very unusual formation – 2 tight ends opposite hash – what if back goes in motion? QB goes in motion?

# ADJUST

# Summary – Wing Positioning

- Begin the play on the sideline or 9 yards from the widest receiver but not past the bottom of the numbers
- **ADJUST**: to the situation, a man in motion, shifts or changes in the formation that change your initial positioning
- When in doubt, start on the sideline



# Summary – Wing Positioning cont.

- Plays that require you to come in hard EVERY TIME : goal line situations, close to a first down, players are getting “chippy”, blowouts, QB taking a knee
- Because you start on the sideline, does not mean you are anchored there or end up there
- You MUST make your presence known early in game to set the tone: physically and verbally
- 5 man crew need to work together as 5 men