

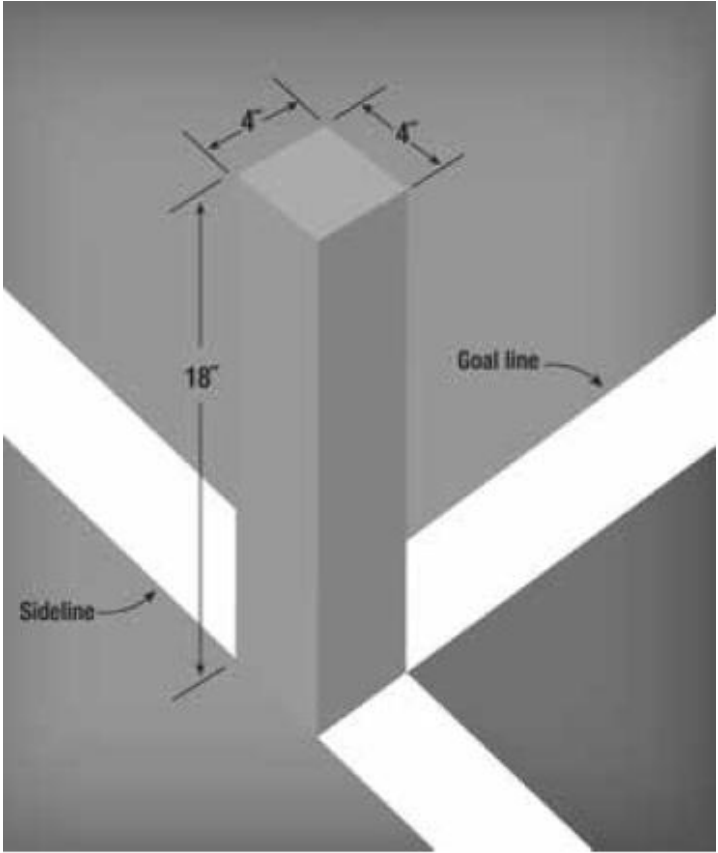
# Goal Line Plays & Mechanics



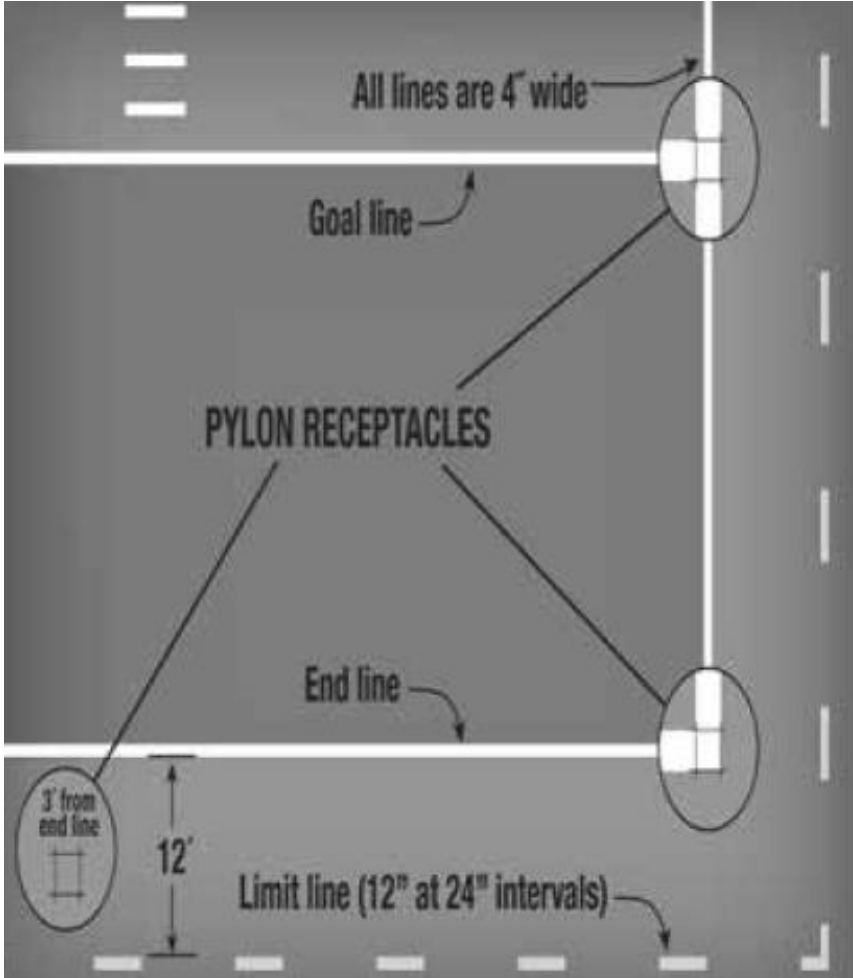
**Dallas Football Officials Association**  
**New Members Training**



# Goal Line & Pylons



**PYLON DETAIL**



# Goal Line & Pylons

- The **GOAL LINE** at each end of the field of play runs between the sidelines and is part of the vertical plane that separates the end zone from the field of play.
- The two **GOAL LINES** are 100 yards apart.
- The plane of the **GOAL LINE** extends between and includes the pylons, which are out of bounds.
- The entire **GOAL LINE & GOAL LINE PYLONS** are in the end zone.
- A team's **GOAL LINE** is that which it is defending.

# Goal Line

*Let's Recap*

- Think of the **GOAL LINE** not as a line but a plane.
- Once a runner, not down by rule, has broken the plane with the ball, in possession, it is a TD.





# Goal Line & Pylons

- A player who touches a pylon is out of bounds
- A loose ball that touches a pylon is out of bounds behind the goal line.

# Touchdown

## A touchdown shall be scored when:

- A ball carrier advancing from the field of play has possession of a live ball when it penetrates the plane of the opponent's goal line. This plane extends beyond the pylons only for a player who touches the ground in the end zone or a pylon. (A.R. 2-23-1-I and A.R. 8-2-1-I-IX).
- A player catches a forward pass in the opponent's end zone (A.R. 5-1-3-I and II).
- A fumble or backward pass is recovered, caught, intercepted or awarded in the opponent's end zone (**Exceptions:** Rules 7-2-2-a Exception 2 and 8-3-2-d-5). (A.R. 8-2-1-X)
- A free kick or scrimmage kick is legally caught or recovered in the opponent's end zone. (A.R. 6-3-9-III).
- The referee awards a touchdown under the provisions of Rule 9-2-3 Penalty.

# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-II

- Ball carrier A1, advancing in the field of play, becomes airborne at the two yard line. His first contact with the ground is out of bounds three yards beyond the goal line. The ball, in possession of the ball carrier, passes over the pylon.
- **RULING:** Touchdown (Rule 4-2-4-d).

# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-II

- The ball, in possession of airborne ball carrier A21, crosses the sideline above the one-yard line, continues beyond the pylon and is then declared dead out of bounds in possession of A21.
- **RULING:** Ball is declared out of bounds at the one-yard line (Rules 2-12-1 and 4-2-4-d).



# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-V

- Ball carrier A22 dives for the goal line at the B-1. The ball in his possession (a) touches the pylon; (b) goes over the top of the pylon; (c) crosses the goal line inside the pylon. A22 then first contacts the ground out of bounds three yards beyond the goal line.
- **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) Touchdown in all three. The ball in A22's possession has broken the plane of the goal line in all three scenarios.

# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-VI

- Ball carrier A22 heads for the right-hand pylon at the goal line. At the B-2 he dives or is blocked into the air by an opponent. The ball in A22's right hand crosses the sideline at the B-1 and passes outside the pylon, and then A22 (a) touches the pylon with his foot or left hand; (b) first touches the ground out of bounds three yards beyond the goal line.
- **RULING:** (a) Touchdown. The goal-line plane is extended since A22 touches the pylon. (b) Not a touchdown. The goal-line plane is not extended because A22 did not touch either the pylon or the ground in the end zone. The ball is ruled out of bounds at the B-1.

# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-VII

- Ball carrier A22 heads for the right-hand pylon at the goal line. The ball in his right hand crosses the extension of the goal line outside (i.e., to the right of) the pylon, and then A22 steps (a) on the goal line; (b) on the sideline inches short of the goal line.
- **RULING:** (a) Touchdown. The goal-line plane is extended because A22 touches the ground in the end zone. (b) Not a touchdown. The goal-line plane is not extended. The ball is ruled out of bounds at the crossing point.

# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-VIII

- Ball carrier A22 heads for the right-hand pylon at the goal line. The ball is in his right hand. His foot hits the pylon just before the ball crosses (a) the pylon or (b) the extension of the goal line just to the right (outside) of the pylon.
- **RULING:** (a) and (b) No touchdown in either case. Because the pylon is out of bounds the ball is dead when A22's foot hits it. Thus in both cases the ball is dead before it crosses the goal line.

# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-IX

- Ball carrier A1 is hit and his forward progress stopped inbounds near the goal line at the sideline to his right. When he is stopped he has the ball in his right hand extended beyond the goal line (a) inside the pylon; (b) outside the pylon.
- **RULING:** (a) Touchdown. The ball became dead when he extended it beyond the goal-line plane. (b) Not a touchdown, because no part of his body touches either the pylon or the end zone. In this case the goal-line plane is not extended.

# Example

## Approved Ruling 8-2-1-X

- Ball carrier A33 is running toward the Team B goal line. He drops the ball just inside the one-yard line and, thinking he has scored a touchdown, circles through the end zone and runs to his team area. There is no touchdown signal by any official. The fumbled ball hits the ground just outside or just inside the goal line, rolls along the ground in the end zone, and is declared dead there when it comes to rest and no player attempts to recover it.
- **RULING:** Touchdown. The ball belongs to the team last in possession at the dead-ball spot. By definition an awarded fumble in the opponent's end zone is a touchdown. (Rule 7-2-5)



# Goal Line Mechanics - Kicks

## 3-Man Officiating Crews

- **R:** Start game clock when the ball crosses the goal line after being first touched by the Team B in the end zone. *Usually, this will occur when a receiver carries the ball out of the end zone.*
- **R** - If free kick goes deep, *retreat to position to observe actions involving the goal line, end line.*
- **R & L: (Momentum)** When a Team B player catches a free or scrimmage kick between his five yard line and the goal line *drop bean bag to mark start of momentum spot.*
- **R & L: (Momentum)** When a Team B player recovers a kick between his five yard line and the goal line *drop bean bag to mark start of momentum spot*
- **H & L:** If rolling scrimmage kick goes out of bounds on your side, mark the spot. *L - Responsible for goal line and end line.*

# Goal Line Mechanics – Plays from Scrimmage

## 3-Man Officiating Crews

- **H & L:** Be aware of the importance of assisting **R** in marking forward progress behind the neutral zone, *particularly when the goal line is involved.*
- **H & L: (Momentum)** When a Team B player intercepts a forward pass, fumble or backward pass between his five yard line and the goal line *drop bean bag to mark start of momentum spot*
- **R, H & L: (Momentum)** When a Team B player recovers a fumble between his five yard line and the goal line *drop bean bag to mark start of momentum spot.*
- **ALL:** Be alert to rule on dead ball behind a goal line. *Indicate ruling by prompt signal.*

# Goal Line Mechanics – Plays from Scrimmage (cont'd)

## 3-Man Officiating Crews

- **H & L:** Be in position to cover runner in your area. Pinch in when necessary, especially on short yardage for first down and *if possible on every play within 10-yard line and goal line.*
- **H & L:** Initial position must be wide out of bounds, off the sideline. *When snapped at or inside the 5 yard line, move toward the goal line and rule on the score.* Work back to the ball to establish forward progress.
- **H & L:** Indicate score by touchdown signal only when in position to determine ball penetrating the plane of the goal in possession. If ball's forward progress stops short of goal line, move in on the ball, mark and hold the dead ball spot until ball is spotted for next down, if any. *When snapped at or inside the 5 yard line, move toward the goal*
- **H & L:** On plays into your side zone area and on wide offensive plays, *be prepared to take runner and ball to goal line.* **R** covers behind you.