



Pre-snap action: Team B movement and signals

MOFO Supplement 19.02 (supplement to Section 3.4 of the MOFO)

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1 Introduction

There has been some discussion about how we should deal with movement prior to the snap by Team B linemen.

This supplement revises the section of the MOFO that covers "disconcerting signals" by expanding it to cover legal and illegal movement by defensive linemen.

2 Revised text (MOFO paragraph 3.4.5)

5. Team B movement and signals:

- a. A "stem" is where a Team B lineman moves laterally, and the movement is at least enough to change from head-up on one opponent to head-up on another, or from head-up to gap between two opponents, or vice-versa.
- b. When there is a coordinated movement by two or more Team B linemen, the signal to initiate it must not come from a lineman.
- c. A movement by a Team B lineman that constitutes a stem is legal. A quick, abrupt or exaggerated movement by a Team B lineman that is not a stem (e.g. stamping a foot, waving an arm) should be interpreted as an attempt to get Team A to false start.
- d. The following are fouls by Team B:
 - i. Replicating a Team A starting signal (e.g. words or a clap), whether or not Team A reacts. It is not a foul to make a noise that Team A isn't using, or to make hand gestures that don't create a clapping sound.
 - ii. A quick, abrupt or exaggerated movement by a defensive lineman that is not a stem *and* causes Team A to false start.
- e. With the exception of disconcerting signals, fouls under Rule 7-1-5 only become a foul if Team A reacts and does so authentically. If legal movement by a Team B lineman causes a Team A player to reach into the neutral zone and touch the Team B player, it is an encroachment foul on Team A. That is not an authentic reaction to being threatened.