

ROCKETS FOOTBALL

KICKOFF COVERAGE MASTER PLAYBOOK (40-YARD SYSTEM)

40-YARD LINE KICKOFF SPECIFICATION:

All kickoff plays originate from the **40-Yard Line**. Non-kicker coverage personnel align with their outside foot on the **35-Yard Line** (5 yards back) and execute a flying approach to cross the 40-Yard Line at maximum acceleration as the kicker strikes the ball.

Rules Pertaining to Kickoff Coverage (NFHS)

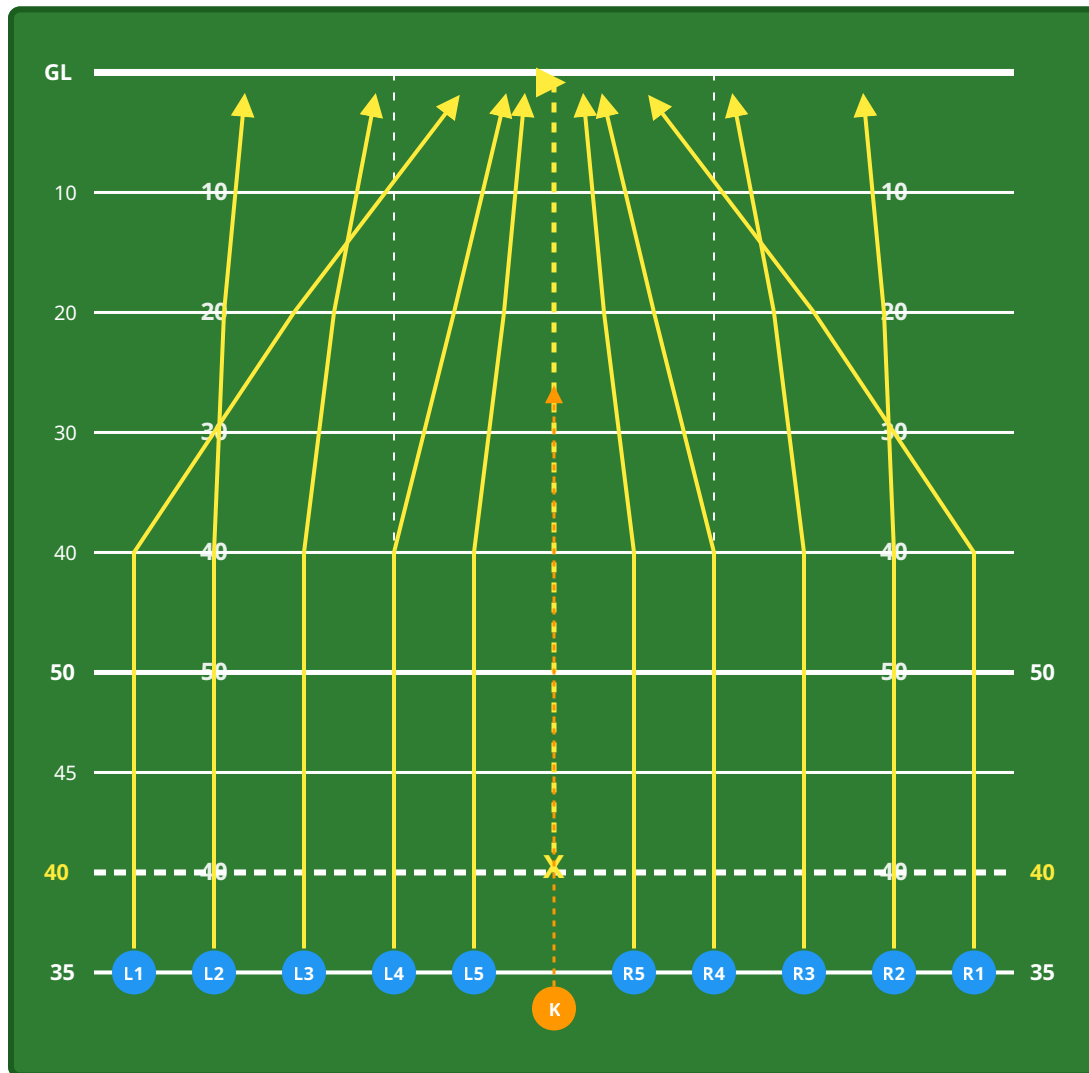
- 1. Onside Rule:** Coverage team members must remain behind the 40-yard line until the ball is kicked.
- 2. Free Ball / Recovery:** Once the ball travels 10 yards (reaches midfield at the 50-yard line) or touches a receiving player, it is a free ball eligible for recovery by the kicking team.
- 3. Out of Bounds Enforcement:** Voluntarily stepping out of bounds during coverage prevents players from re-entering to participate. A kick out of bounds awards possession at the receiving team's 40-yard line, a 5-yard penalty with re-kick, or at the spot out of bounds.
- 4. Unimpeded Opportunity:** Returners fielding high kicks in the air are protected until the ball is touched or lands.
- 5. End Zone Dead Ball:** Any kick touching the goalpost or entering the end zone untouched is an automatic touchback.

Field Zones & Takeoff Mechanics

Zone Name	Field Line Bounds	Tactical Objective & Execution
Fly Zone	35 to 40-Yard Line	Timed 5-yard running start from the 35 to cross the 40-yard line at full sprint.
Speed & Read Zone	40 to Opponent 50/45 Line	Sprint downfield at top speed while reading return keys (TEs/FBs).
Evade Zone	Opponent 45 to 25-Yard Line	Skillfully evade blockers within designated lanes without sacrificing lateral lane integrity.
Contact Zone	Opponent 25 to Goal Line	Engage and destroy blockers immediately in front of returner; lockout and shed.

Master Position Assignment Summary

Position	Start Alignment	Core Role & Assignment
L1 / R1	Split Sideline & Numbers	Fold & Fill (Linebackers): At opp 40, FOLD INSIDE behind contain to hit open seams.
L2 / R2	Top of Numbers	Contain Defenders: Align on numbers. Maintain OUTSIDE leverage; keep ball inside.
L3 / R3	Split Numbers & Hash	Lane Men: Squeeze ball with square shoulders. Discard double teams and tackle.
L4 / R4	2 Yds Outside Hash	Attack Men: High speed direct line tracking directly to returner.
L5 / R5	Goal Post Uprights	Lane Men: Squeeze center corridor and secure interior tackle zone.
K	Middle (35-40 YD)	Safety: Mirror ball movement across field as safety valve.



POSITION EXECUTION GUIDELINES

L1 / R1 (Fold & Fill): Sprint 35 to 40. At opp 40, FOLD INSIDE behind L2/R2 contain to hit open seams.

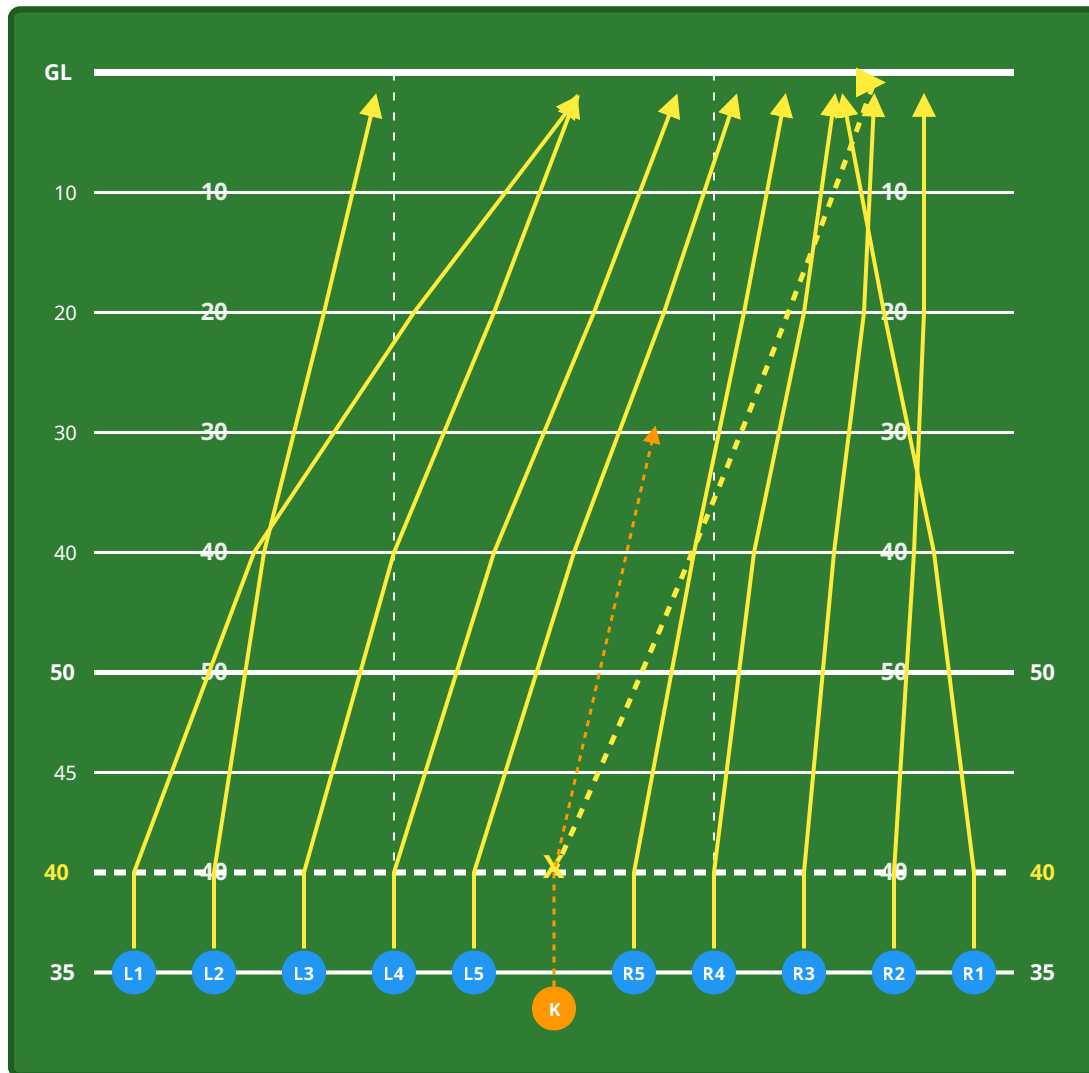
L2 / R2 (Contain): Align on numbers. Maintain OUTSIDE leverage to prevent out-flanking; keep ball inside.

L4 / R4 (Attack): Align 2 yds outside hash. High-speed direct line to returner.

L3/R3 & L5/R5 (Lanes): Maintain 5-yd lane spacing. Squeeze central corridor with square shoulders.

KICKOFF COVERAGE: RIGHT DEEP

TEE ON 40 YD LINE | START ON 35 YD LINE



POSITION EXECUTION GUIDELINES

R1 (Playside Fold): Take off on inward angle; FOLD INSIDE behind R2 into right return corridor.

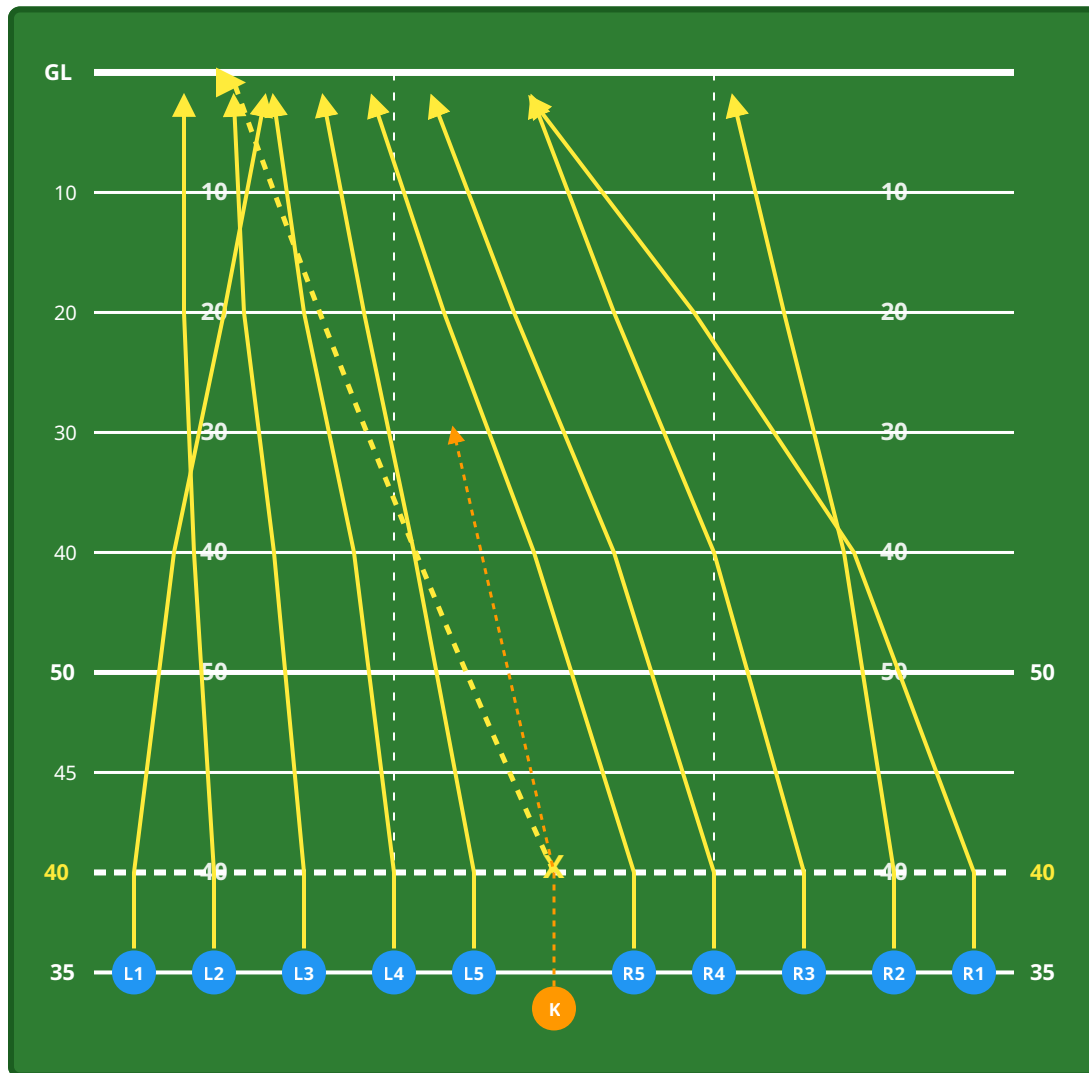
R2 (Playside Contain): Maintain strict OUTSIDE leverage on painted right numbers; pin ball inside.

L1 / L2 (Backside Safety/Contain): L1 shifts across as deep safety valve; L2 holds backside contain.

L3/L4/L5 & R3/R4/R5: Angle pursuit lines to squeeze right hash and numbers corridor.

KICKOFF COVERAGE: LEFT DEEP

TEE ON 40 YD LINE | START ON 35 YD LINE



POSITION EXECUTION GUIDELINES

L1 (Playside Fold): Take off on inward angle; FOLD INSIDE behind L2 into left return corridor.

L2 (Playside Contain): Maintain strict OUTSIDE leverage on painted left numbers; pin ball inside.

R1 / R2 (Backside Safety/Contain): R1 shifts across as deep safety valve; R2 holds backside contain.

L3/L4/L5 & R3/R4/R5: Angle pursuit lines to squeeze left hash and numbers corridor.