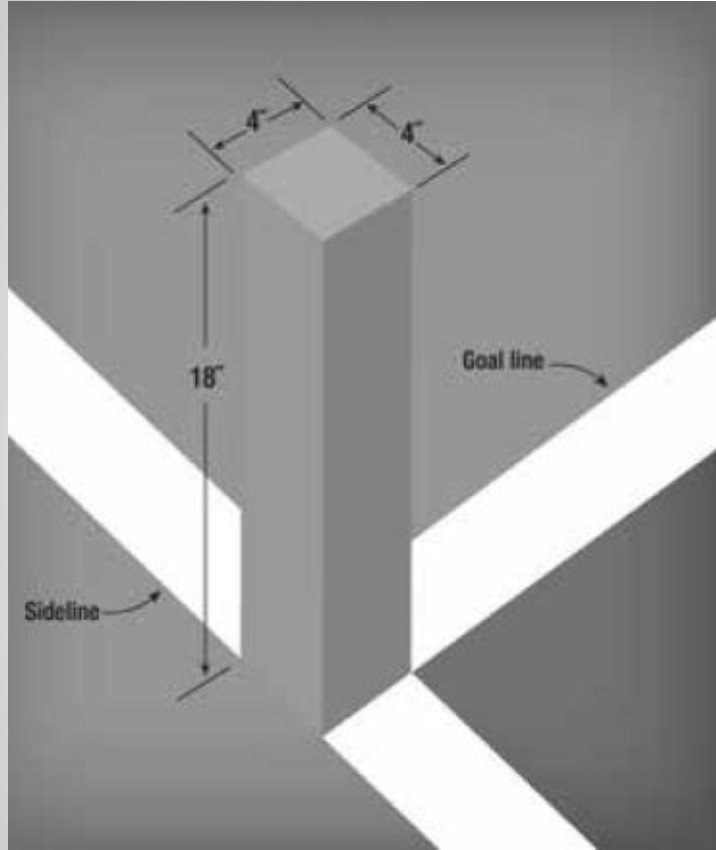


Goal Line Plays

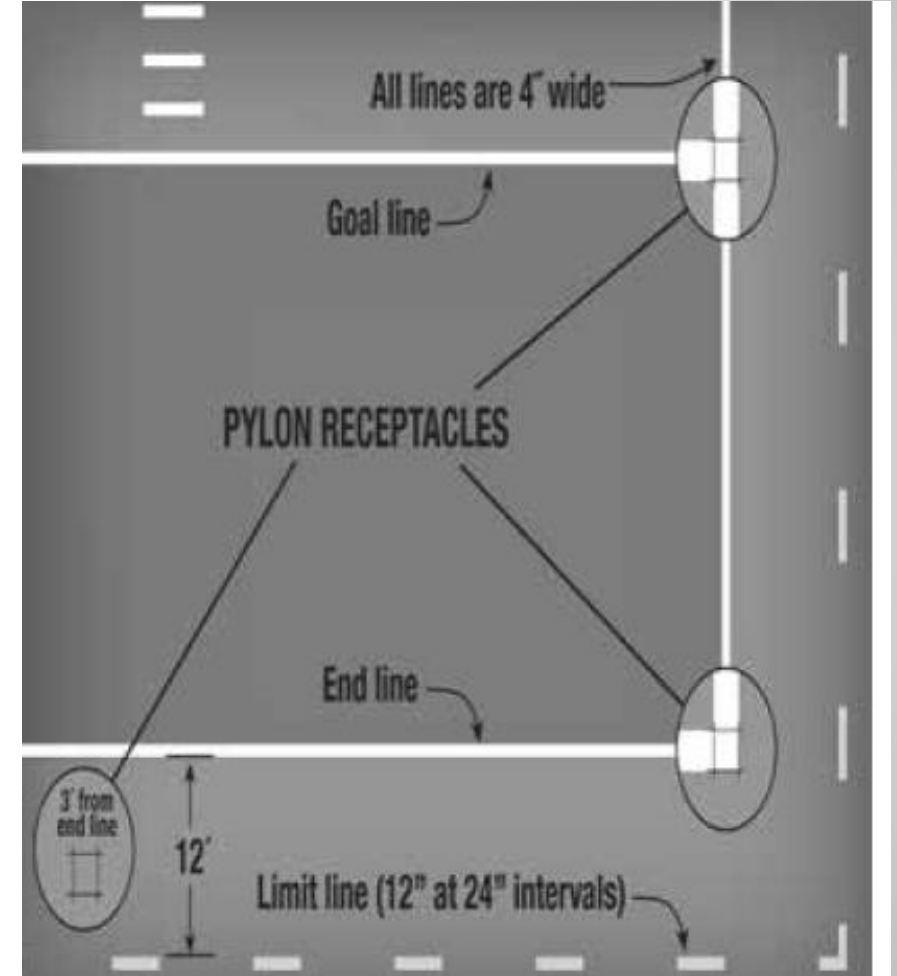
Aug 21st, 2023



Goal Line & Pylons



PYLON DETAIL



Goal Line & Pylons

Rule 2-12-2 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** is in the end zone.
- A team's **GOAL LINE** is that which it is defending.

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.

However there is more to the story as we will see.....

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. 8-2-1-I-IX).
- A player catches a forward pass in the opponent's end zone
- 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, 7-2-5-b 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) Touchdown

- (b) Touchdown

- (c) Touchdown

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) No touchdown.

(b) No touchdown.

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 at 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: When a fumble comes to rest inbounds and no player attempts to secure the ball in advance of the spot of the fumble, the ball belongs to the fumbling team at the spot of the fumble. Team A's ball at the 1-yard line. (Rule 7-2-5-b)

Goal Line Mechanics – Plays from Scrimmage

7-Man Officiating Crews

- When Team A ball at or inside B-7
 - **H & L:** *responsible for the goal line*
 - **F & S:** *take initial position on the end line at the pylon*
- When Team A ball at or inside the B-5
 - **U:** *primary for LOS regarding passer beyond LOS*
 - **H & L:** *move to the goal line at the snap. The one exception is when the line to gain is between you and the goal line. In that instance, go to the line to gain and be prepared to move quickly on to the goal line.*

Goal Line Mechanics – Plays from Scrimmage

7-Man Officiating Crews – Reverse Goal Line Mechanics

- When Team A ball on or behind A-3
 - **H & L:** *at the snap move immediately to the goal line.*
- When Team A ball snapped between A-3 & A-10
 - **H:** *read the play and react to the goal line if necessary.*
 - **L:** *hold the line of scrimmage*

Questions