



Back Play



Play Calling

In rugby, the uniform numbers generally refer to a player's position. However, when we call backline plays, **we do not use the jersey number**. We refer to the player's position from the Scrum outward:

No. 1	Fly Half	No. 2	Inside Center	No. 3	Outside Center
No. 4	Strong-side Wing	No. 5	Fullback	No. 6	Weak-side Wing

The pattern for naming a play is who has the ball and then who gets the ball. All of these plays are built from only 3 basic skills: a Loop, a Switch and a Miss pass.

<u>Play</u>	<u>Description</u>
1 Loop 2	Fly Half loops the Inside Center
2 Loop 3	Inside Center loops the Outside Center
1 – 2 Switch	Fly Half gives the ball to the Inside Center cutting inside
1 -2 Dummy	Fly Half fakes a pass to the Inside Center cutting inside
2 – 3 Switch	Inside Center gives the ball to the Outside Center cutting inside
2 – 3 Dummy	Inside Center fakes a pass to the Outside Center cutting inside
Miss 2	Fly Half passes to the Outside Center directly, missing the Inside Center
Miss 3	Inside Center passes to the Wing directly, missing the Outside Center
5 In	Full back inserts (joins the attacking line) between the Outside Center and the Wing
5 In, Miss 3	Inside Center passes to the inserting Fullback, missing the Outside Center
1 – 3 Switch	Fly Half gives the ball to the Outside Center cutting inside while the Inside Center flairs wide outside





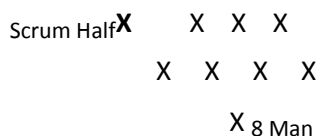
Back Play



Standard Attacking Back Line

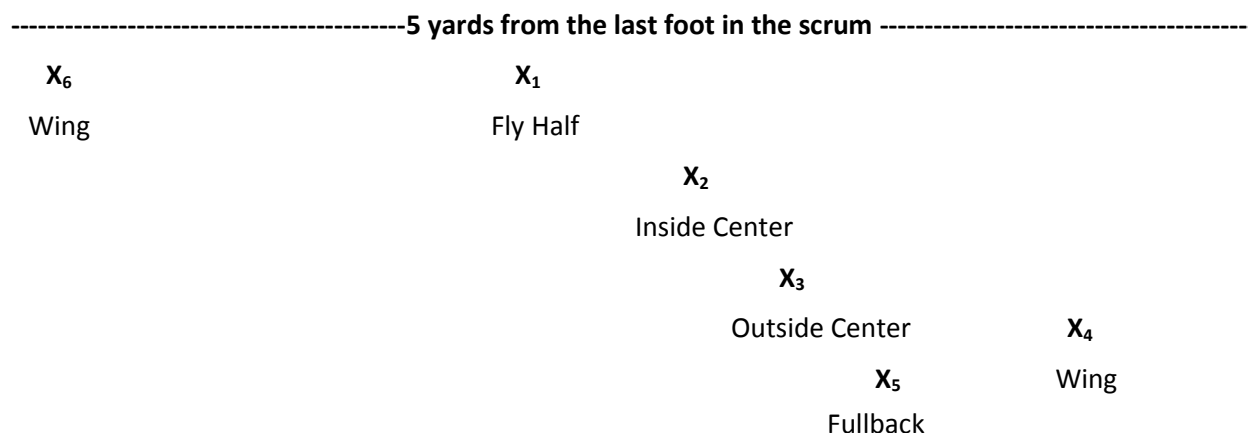
We plan to run in our strong-side attack

The Gain Line: _____



A back-play movement occurs in this space and **must allow the ball carrier to advance past the gain line.**

Weak side Strong side



Please note:

- The Scrum Half is on the left-hand side of the scrum on offense
- The Fly Half is wide of the scrum – the strength of the scrumhalf’s pass will determine how wide the Fly Half can be.
- The Inside Center is wide of the Fly Half who will likely move sideways. The Inside Center must straighten the attack
- The Outside Center is set at 45 degrees from the Inside Center
- The Strong-side Wing does not need to be as steep as the centers
- The Fullback has lined up to insert into the line.
- The Weak-side Wing will fall back to cover the Fullback’s position as the attack proceeds up the strong side





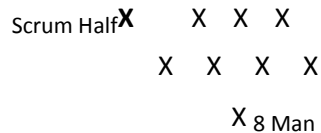
Back Play



Standard Attacking Back Line

We plan to kick to the strong-side in attack

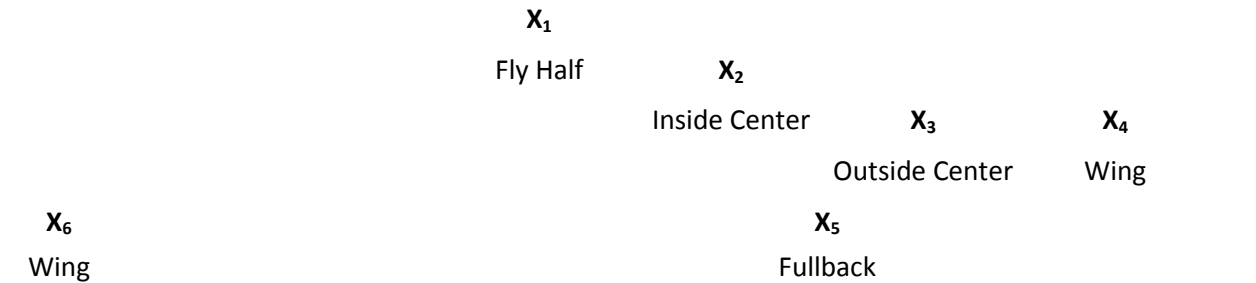
The Gain Line: _____



Weak side

Strong side

-----5 yards from the last foot in the scrum-----



Please note:

- The Scrum Half is on the left-hand side of the scrum on offense
- The Fly Half plans to kick toward the strong side or expects the Scrum Half to do so
- The Inside Center lines up very shallow and **will be certain to stay behind the kicker until after the ball has been kicked** – will run directly up field to put our forwards onside and will yell “You’re On!” so they know they are onside
- The Outside Center lines up very shallow, will be certain to stay onside until the ball is kicked and will run directly toward the ball
- The Strong-side Wing lines up very shallow, will be certain to stay onside until the ball is kicked and will run directly toward the ball
- The Fullback anticipates the kick and joins the attacking line
- The Weak-side Wing anticipates the kick and lines up more deeply; will assume the Fullback’s position and responsibilities in case the opposition counterattacks





Back Play



Standard Defending Back Line

We expect a kick to the strong side

The Gain Line: _____

X X X X Scrum Half
 X X X X
 X 8 Man

Weak side

Strong side

-----5 yards from the last foot in the scrum-----

X₆	X₁	X₂	X₃
Wing	Fly Half	Inside Center	Outside Center

X₄
Wing

X₅
Fullback

Please note:

- The Scrum Half is on the right-hand side of the scrum on defense
- The Fly Half sets the defensive line 5 yards behind the last foot of the last man in the scrum and lines up opposite the opposing Fly Half
- The Inside Center lines up opposite the opposing inside center
- The Outside Center lines up opposite the opposing outside center
- The Strong-side Wing lines up opposite the opposing wing at the 5 yard defensive line if we expect them to run – or deeper if we anticipate a kick (as in this example)
- The Fullback anticipates the kick and plays deep; if the attack is a run, the Fullback is responsible for the “last man” i.e. the outermost attacker
- The Weak-side Wing initially lines up to defend a weak side attack and will drop back and to the middle of the field to assist the Full back if the opposing team attacks the strong side

