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Youth Flag Football Plays Practice Plans & Drills



Introduction:

Coaching youth sports can be challenging. With a little guidance and organization your experience can be extremely rewarding. The key to successful coaching is being prepared and organized. It is important to take advantage of the limited time you get each week with the players. With a structured practice, easy to teach and learn plays, and a whistle can will quickly convert your group into a competitive team. I found that many coaches spend a lot of time on drills not associated with the types of plays they will run. By having a list of plays designed before you practice, this allows you to focus your drills around running perfect plays. The goal for the season should be teach every player their positions and football. This may look a little disorganized in the first week or two, but if you stay patient and continue to coach, the players and your games can become competitive and the experience for everyone can be enjoyable.

Product Information Statement:

Flag football plays designed for youth flag football. These plays have been used successfully and are created so that the coach can effectively communicate and the players can easily understand. There are 25 color pages of organized run and pass plays which utilizes 7 different formations. Each page provides one key play along with other play options on the same page. The positions are color coded so the play can be easily called and understood in the huddle. There are various options per play so you don't have to thumb through 100 of pages to find and call plays. Although the book has 25 key plays, each play has other options leading to a total of over 50 total plays in this manual.

Keys to Offense:

On offensive the key to success is getting the players to be patient while running the play so the play develops. Surprising, many plays, basic or advanced, can result in positive yards if the play is run *correctly*. It is important to get the timing down for the plays. Quick hit plays must be run quickly – meaning the runner and QB must execute their part as soon as the ball is snapped. In other plays the plays can be run at a comfortable pace to ensure fakes and hand-offs are completed without mistakes. Many of these plays consist of misdirection and fakes. It is important that the players not getting the ball take the fake correctly and the actual ball carrier is patient to let the play develop ahead of him so the lanes are open. Proper delays and clean hand-offs can be the difference between being competitive or not.

Keys to Defense:

On defense the key to success is also patience. Many teams will runs fakes and end-a-rounds, so the defensive players must stay in their position or zone until the player with the ball comes through their area, or cross the line of scrimmage. The goal is to keep the runner inside, meaning the defensive ends must not let the runner get to the outside of them. Defense should be designed to utilize every player regardless of their skill. Each player should be taught their position, and coached for improvement through out the year.

Recommendations:

The plays are in order of difficulty. I recommend teaching a few pages at a time. The most important thing is to execute the plays correctly. Once the players understand the plays their experience and yours will make great strides forward.

Disclaimer:

Information in this document is to be used as information purposes only. The authors do not guarantee, warranty, or provide predictions regarding this information. They also do not imply these will work in every situation and and/or are governed by your league. You should consult with your league to ensure they will conform to their standards. Nothing on this website or document constitutes, or is meant to constitute, advice of any kind.



Sample Drills:

Flag Pulling:

Group the players into two groups based on skill set – Better players grabbing better player flags and beginner players grabbing beginner player flags. This will allow the players at all levels room to improve and gain confidence. As the season progresses your two groups will more than likely change quite a bit

The Drill: Set up two stations (Better and Beginner) – for each station align cones about 4 yards apart and 15 yards long. Select one player to be the flag puller first – the others will run the ball. Have a coach be QB and hand the ball off. (this is also a chance to teach correct hand-offs). Have each runner one at a time run the ball at the defensive player. The runner must stay in the cones. The defensive player will start about 5 yards back of the QB. The defensive player will focus primary on staying in front of the runner – moving left or right, and making a good grab at the flag (at the belt). It is important the defensive player not over commit and run up on the runner. The runner will more than like run past him/her every time. Running up on the runner will come with more experience. Have each runner run through 2 or 3 times before rotating a runner for the defensive player.

Hand-off Drills:

This drill helps with getting the QB focused on plays running left or right, faking if needed and ultimately getting the ball to the final runner. It also helps with getting the RB to understand which direction they are running, if their getting the ball or not, and in which order they will start. I use this drill as my warm-up before games. It focuses on the fundamentals of running plays.

The Drill: Set-up the Pro-Set offense without the receiver. QB, Center and the two RB positions. All the remaining players will get in lines at the RB positions. Have a coach stand directly in front to the Center/QB and call out which RB is getting the ball, either left or right, along with any fakes. I start this drill with basic hand-offs to either running back one at a time. I then start using both RB's (left and right) and throwing in miss-directions and fakes. This drill really helps with getting the QB focused on plays running left or right, faking if needed and ultimately getting the ball to the final runner. It also helps with getting the RB to understand which direction they are running, if their getting the ball or not, and in which order they will start.

The Proper Flag Pull:

Teach the players to grab the flag at the point the flag connects to the belt. It is much easier to grab this area as apposed to the end of the flag which has much more movement and more difficult to grab.



Sample Practice Plan: (based on 90 minutes)

10 minutes – Warm-up – Two equal rows one in front of the other. Spread out with enough room to due to the exercise.

2.5 minutes - Quick water break

30 minutes – Drills focused on fundamentals – both offense and defense. You can divide the team into two groups – offense and defense. Have your defensive coaches run the players through drills focused on defensive fundamentals. Do the same for offense. After 15 minutes switch groups.

2.5 minute - Water break

20 minute – Scrimmage – Offensive against defense

2.5 minute - Water break

20 minute – Scrimmage – Switch offensive and defensive teams

2.5 minute - Water break/closing comments

Sample Exercises

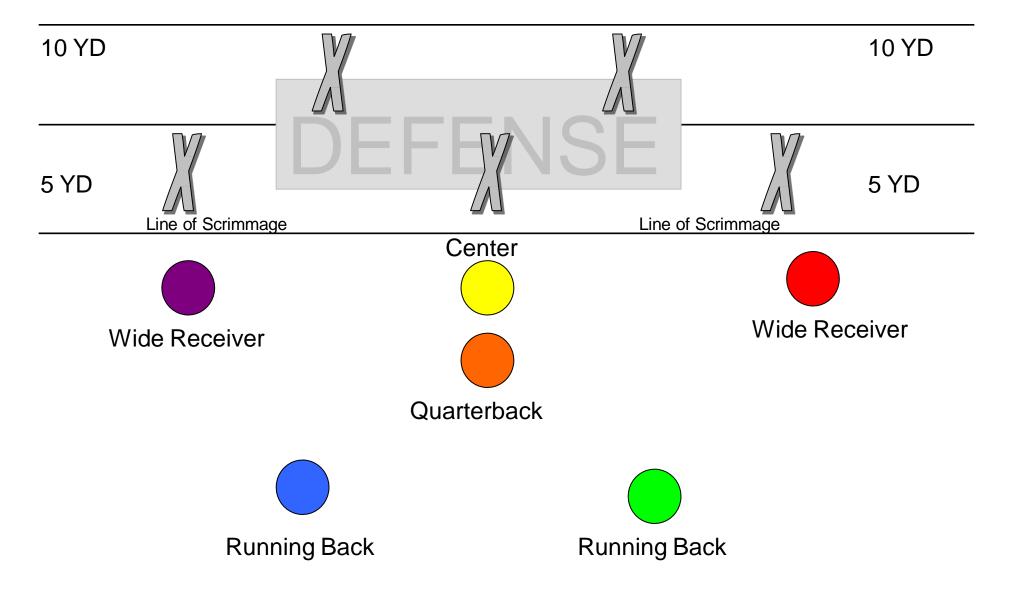
Cross-over Tow Touches – Starting position feet spread apart hands/arms pointed straight out to each side. Take you right hand and reach over the touch/hold your left foot. Hold position for count of ten. Then left hand to right foot. Do this two times each.

Picking Berries – Starting position feet spread apart, hands on hips. Reach out and touch the ground in front of you 3 times – each time getting closer to being right below you, then return to standing position (hands on hips). One set of 10 reps. 1, 2, 3, 1 - 1, 2, 3, 2 - 1, 2, 3, 3 - 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on.

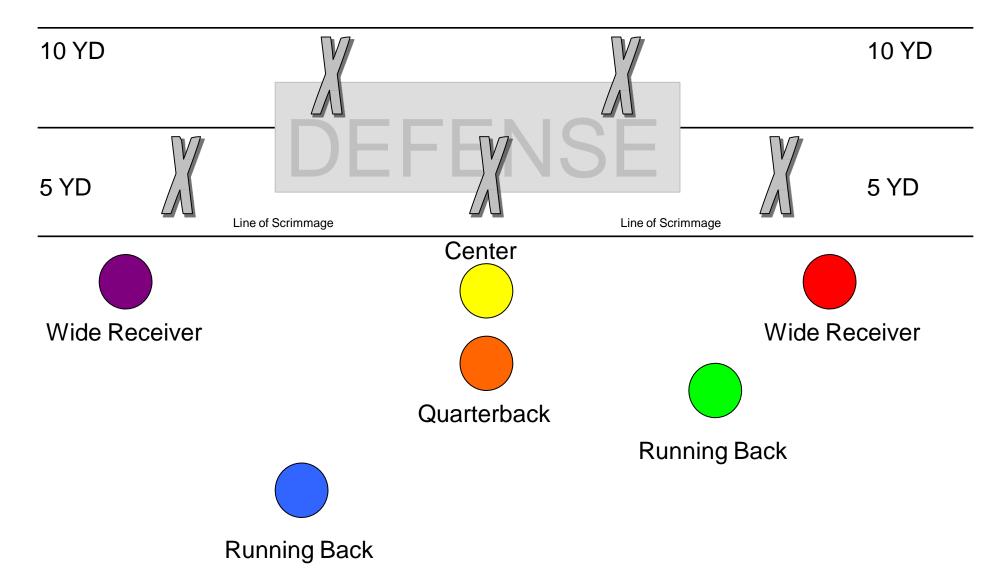
Run Sprints – Form two equal rows - one in front of the other. Coach move back so the players will have about 30 yards to run. Have the players get into a RB set. Coach will yell out – DOWN, SET, HUT (or what ever cadence you will use during games). The players will get into set position and run on HUT. One row at a time. Do this a few times and make sure the players do not leave early.



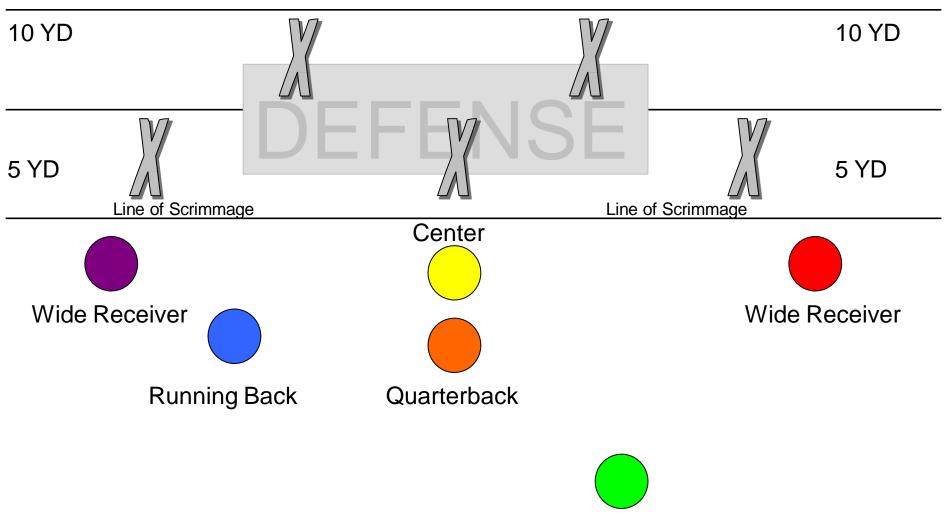
WISH BONE



SPLIT SET - LEFT

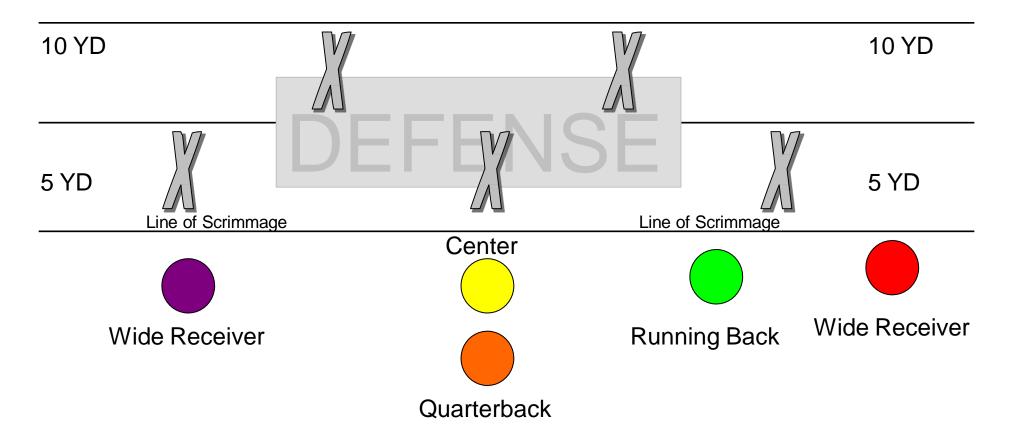


SPLIT SET - RIGHT





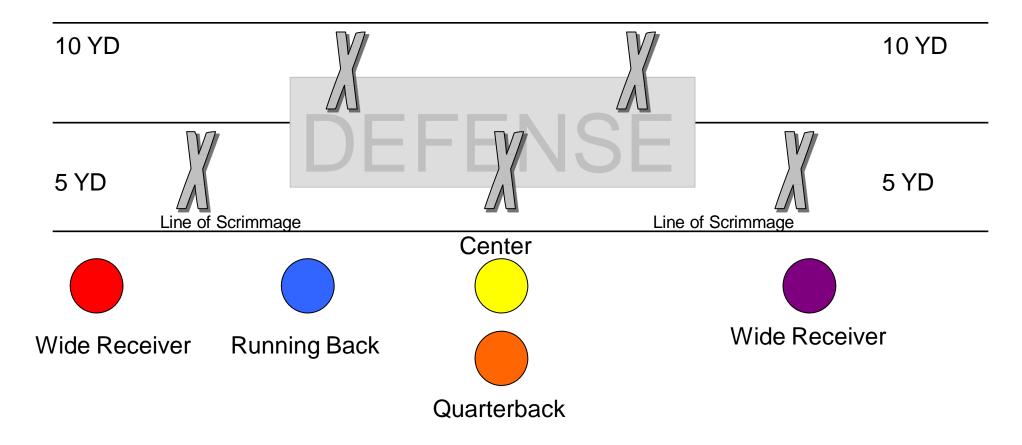
TWINS - RIGHT







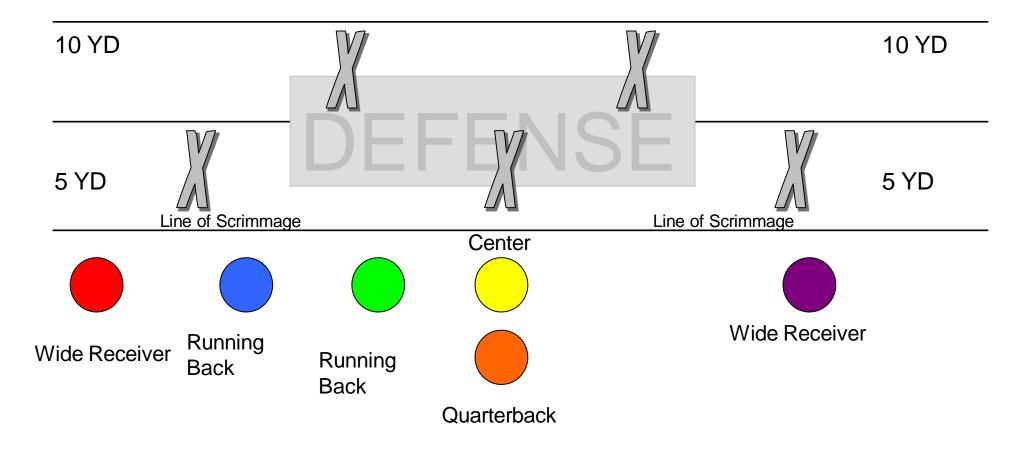
TWINS - LEFT

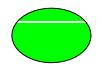






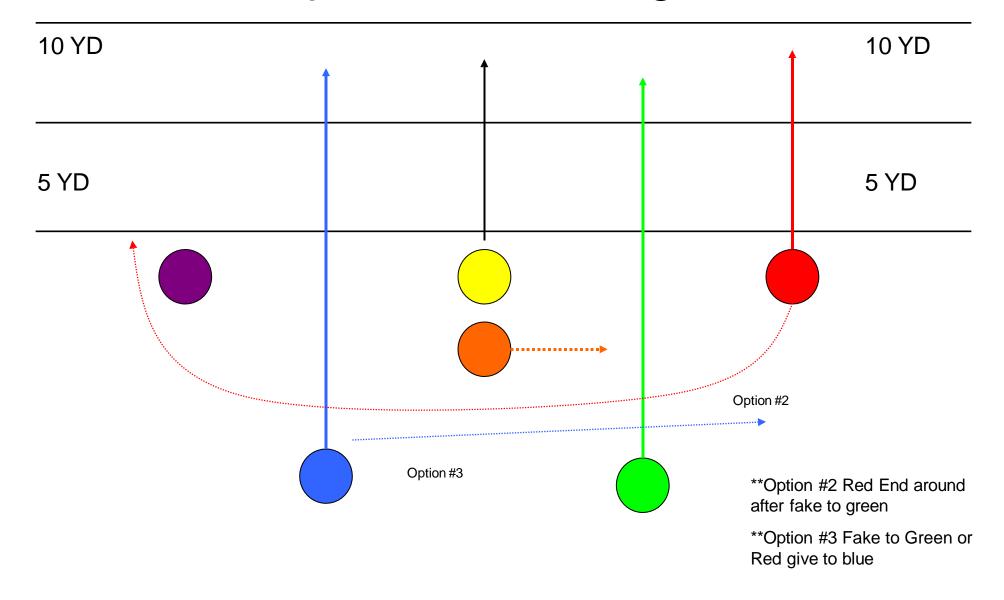
TRIPS - LEFT





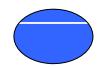
Speed Green - Right





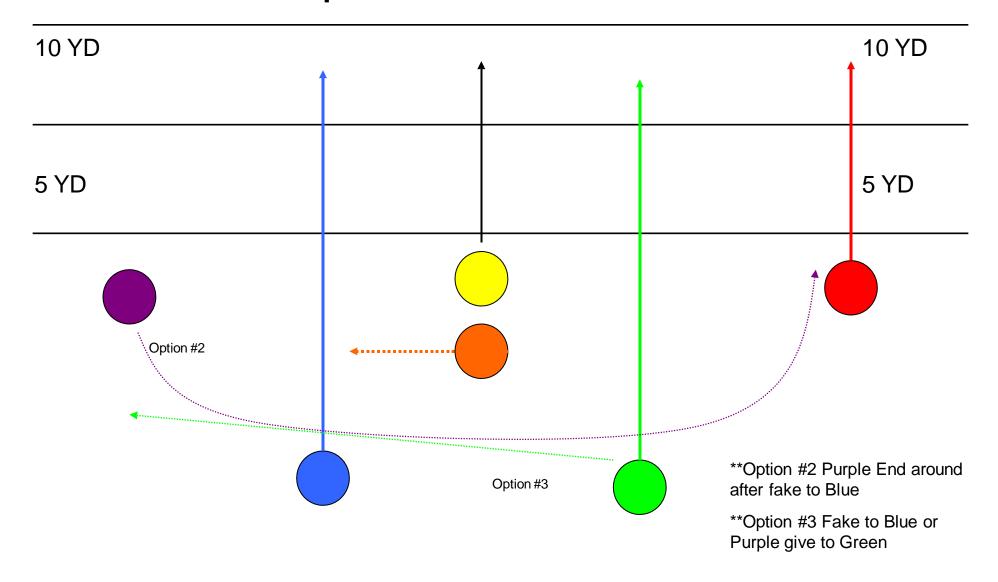
Wish Bone Hand-off to Green – Run Straight





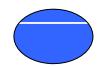
Speed Blue - Left





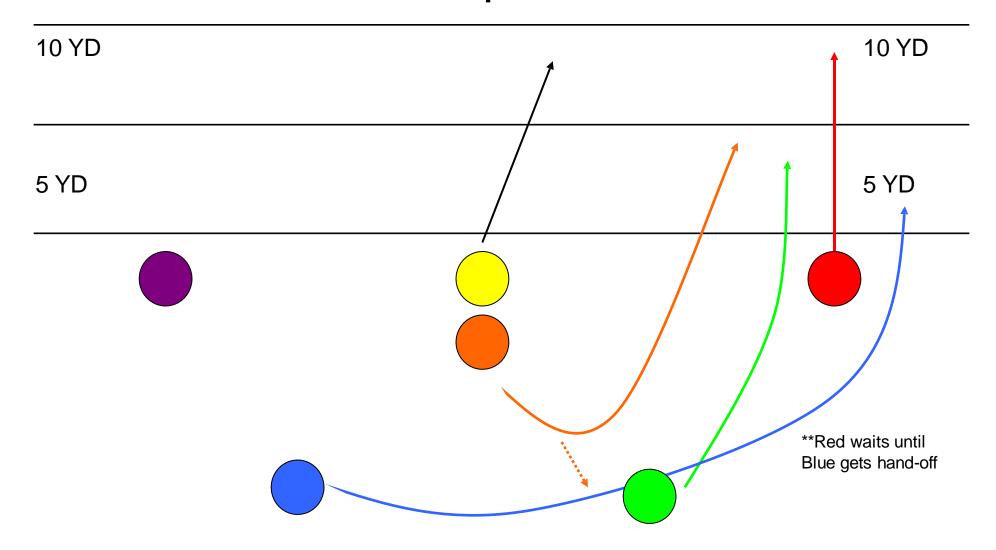
Wish Bone Hand-off to Blue – Run Straight





Blue Sweep - RIGHT





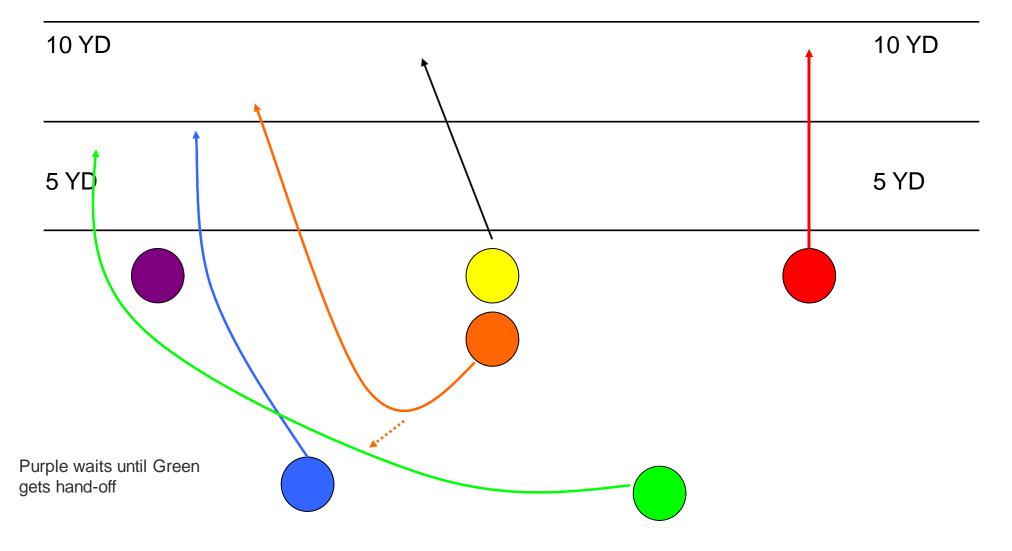
Wish Bone Green Leads Right Hand-off to Blue





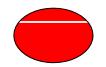
Green Sweep - LEFT





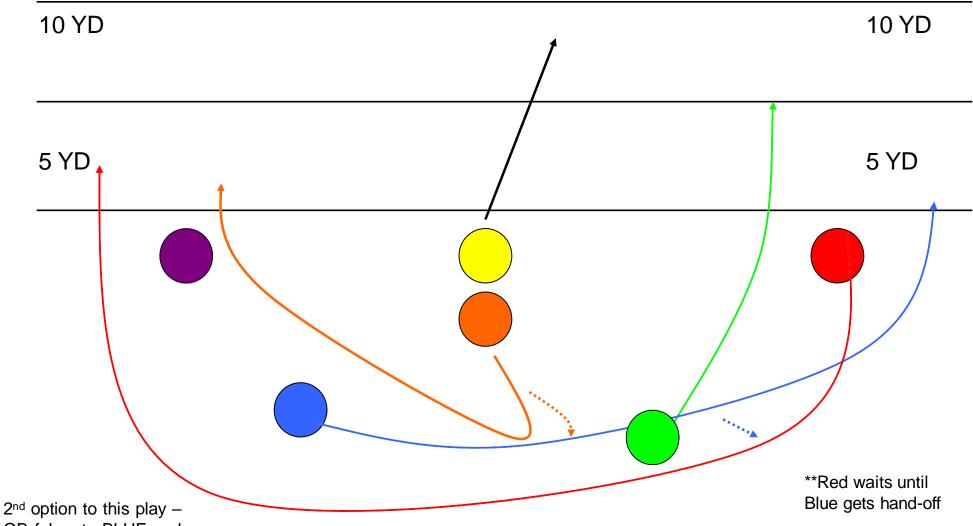
Wish Bone Blue Leads Left Hand-off to Green





End Around - Left





2nd option to this play – QB fakes to BLUE and hands the ball to RED

3rd option to the play – BLUE fakes the hand-off to RED

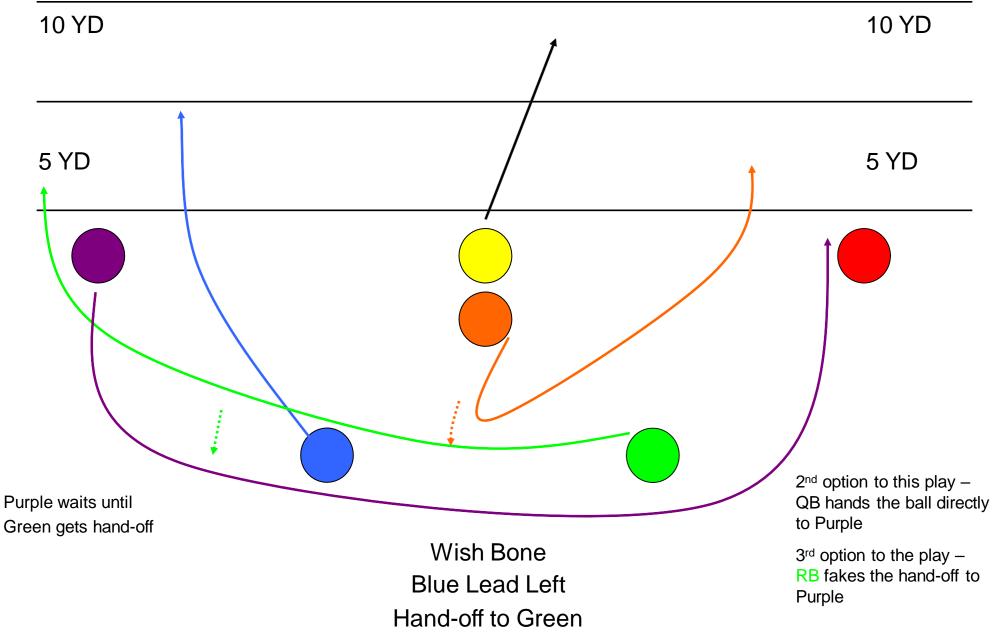
Wish Bone
Green Lead Right
Hand-off to Blue
Blue hand-off to Red





End Around - Right



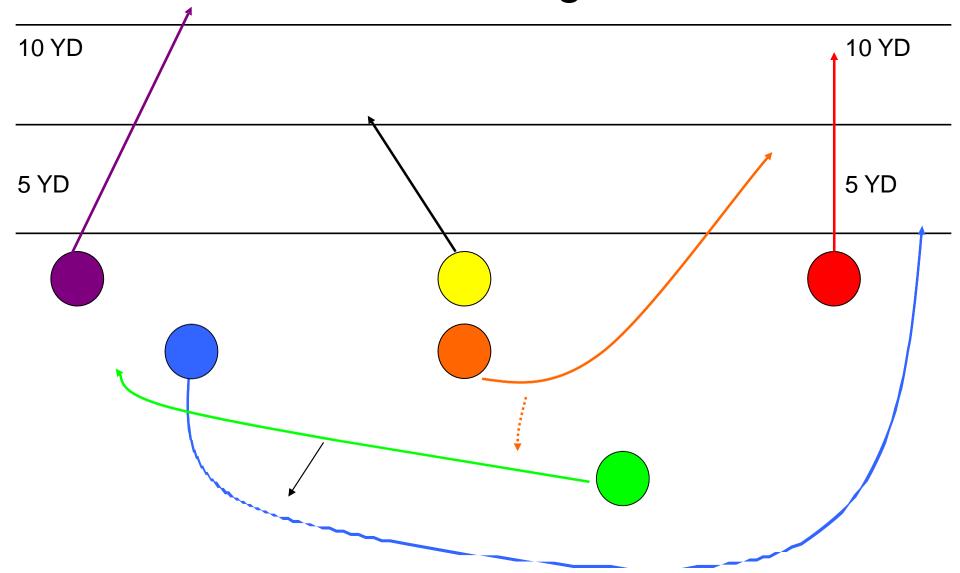


Green hand-off to Purple



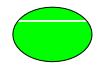
Reverse - Right





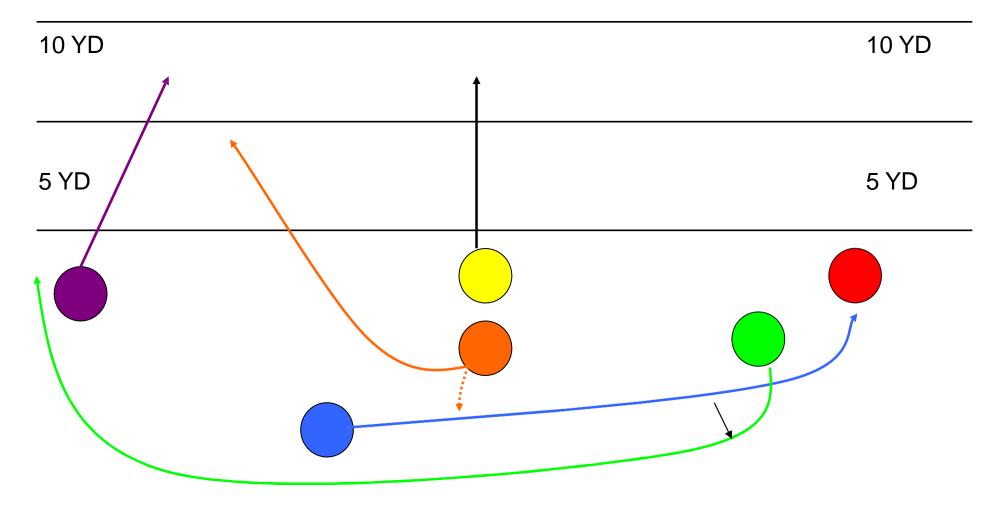
Split Set Right
Hand-off to Green Run Left
Green hand to Blue Run Right





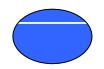
Green Reverse -Left





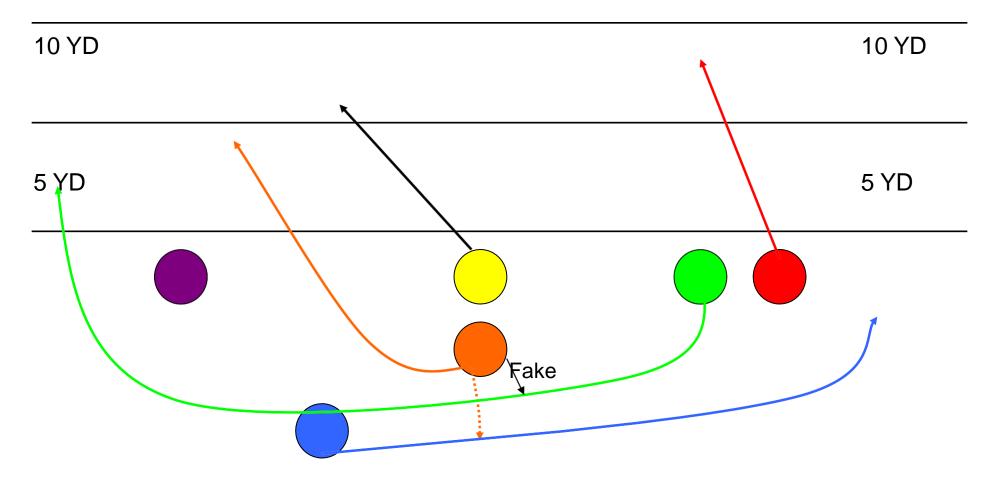
Splits Set Left
Hand-off to Blue Run Right
Blue hand to Green Run Left





Fake End Around - Left





2nd option to this play – QB hands the ball directly to Green

Twins Right
Fake the hand-off to Green
Hand-off to Blue

**Blue waits until Green runs by.

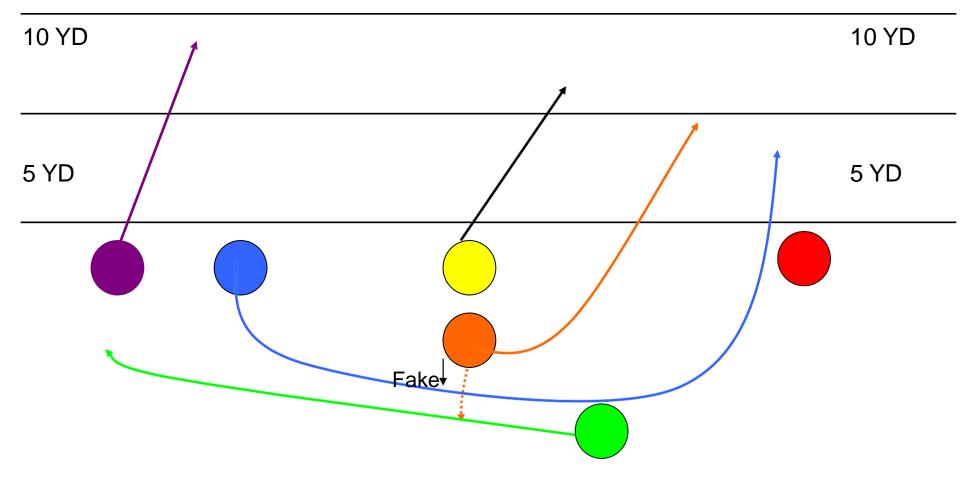
**Red waits for Blue to get ball before running.





Fake End Around - Right





2nd option to this play – QB hands the ball directly to Blue

**Green waits until Blue runs by.

**Purple waits for Green to get ball before running.

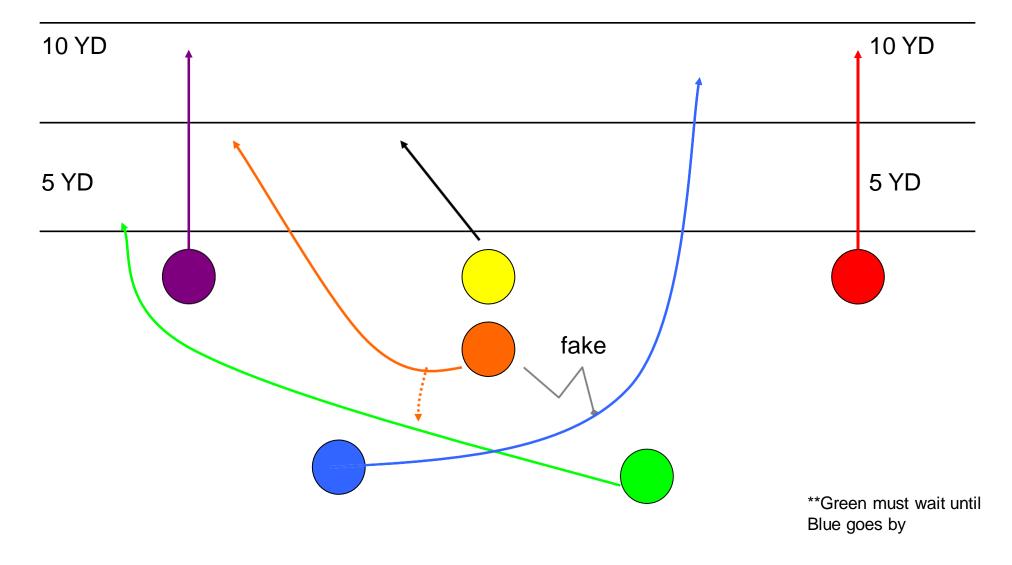
Twins Left
Fake the hand-off to Blue
Hand-off to Green





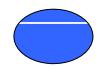
Bull Rush - LEFT





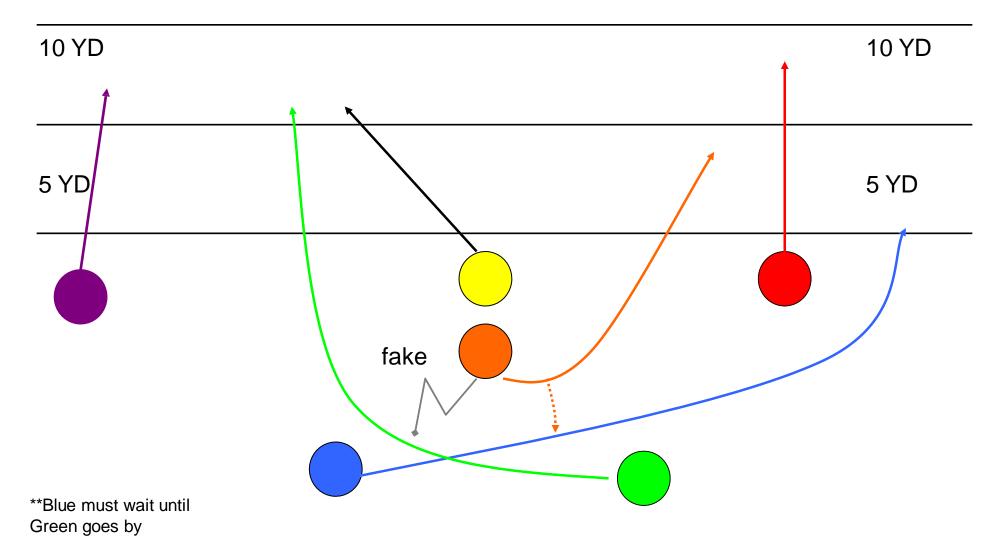
Wish Bone
Fake to Blue Right
Hand-off to Green Rush Left





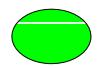
Bull Rush - RIGHT





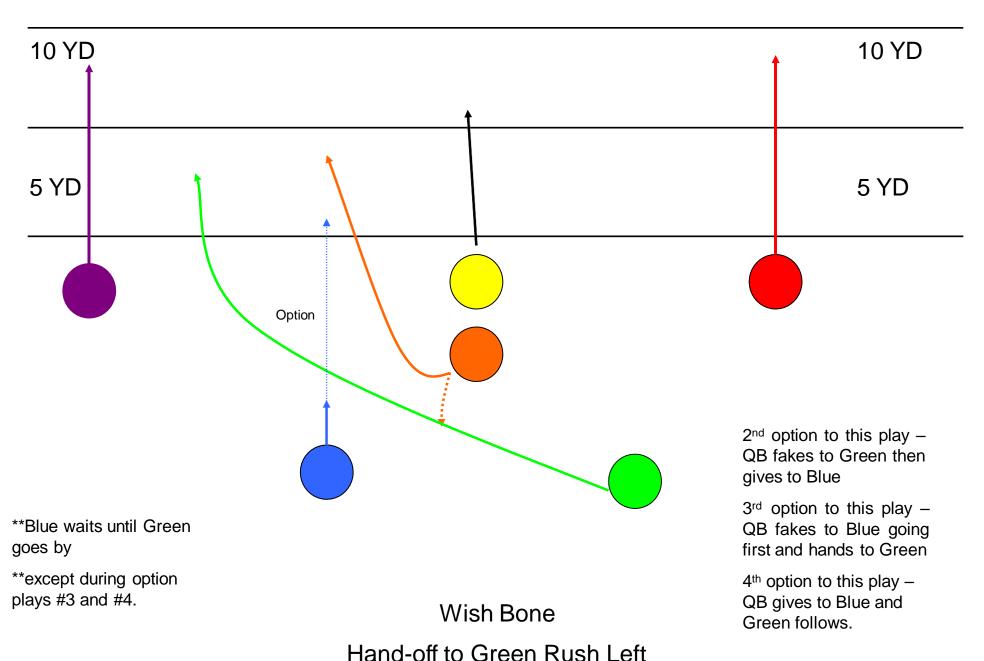
Wish Bone Fake to Green Rush Left Hand-off to Blue Rush Right

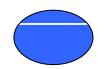




Green Missile - LEFT

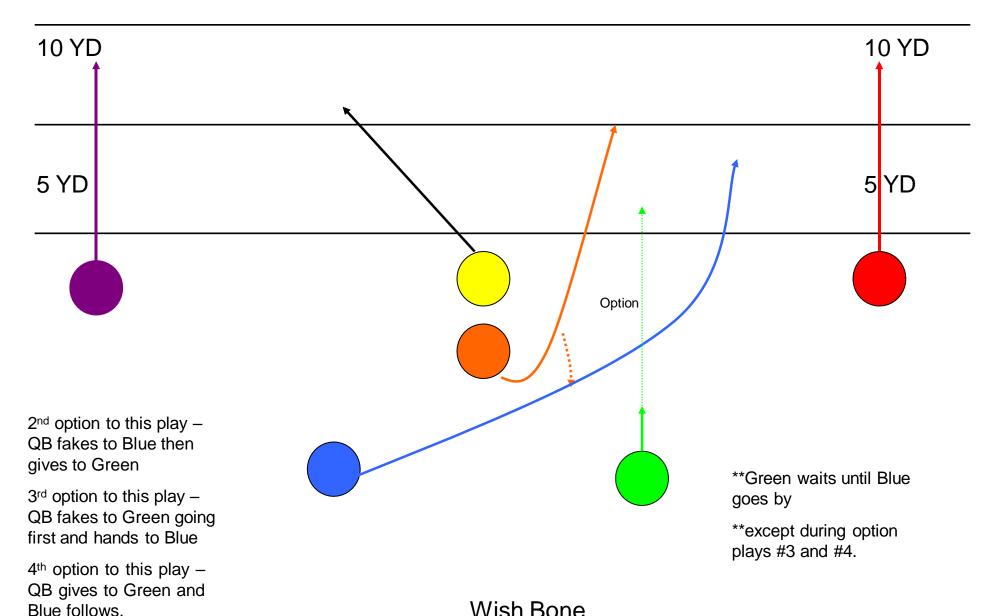






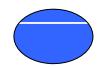
Blue Missile-RIGHT





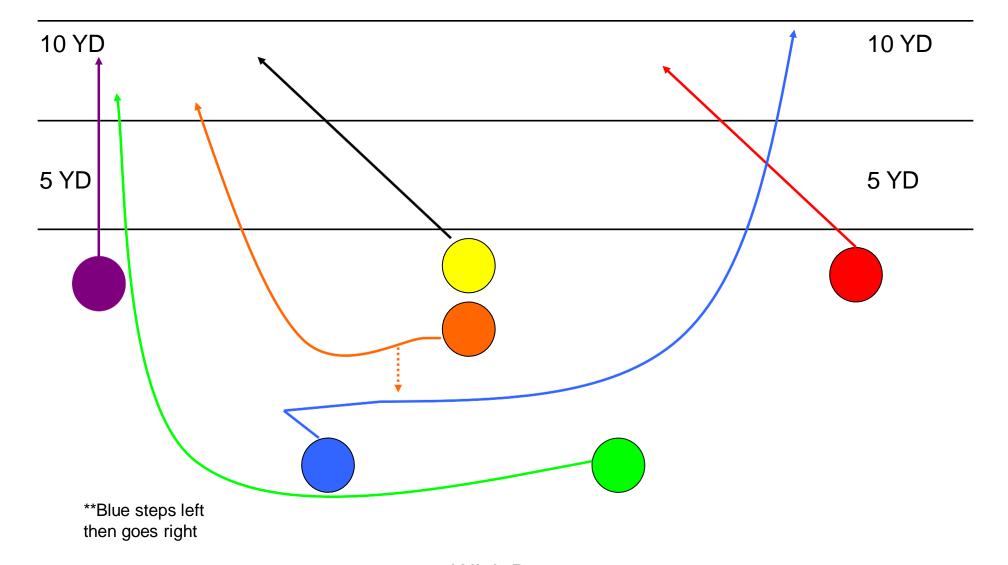
Wish Bone Hand-off to Blue Rush Right





Blue Rocket - Right





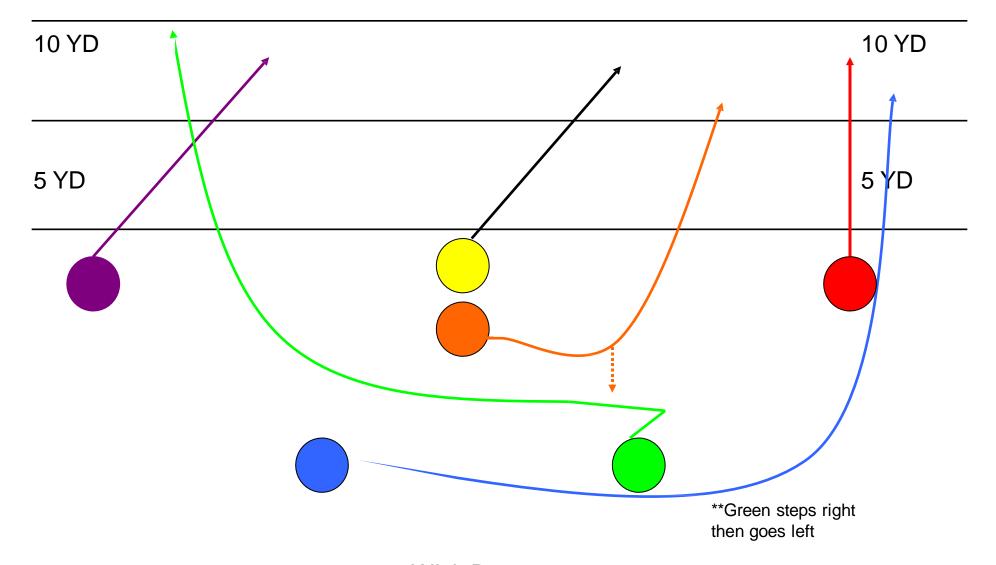
Wish Bone
QB Run Left
Hand-off to Blue Running Right
Green Run Left





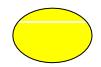
Green Rocket - Left





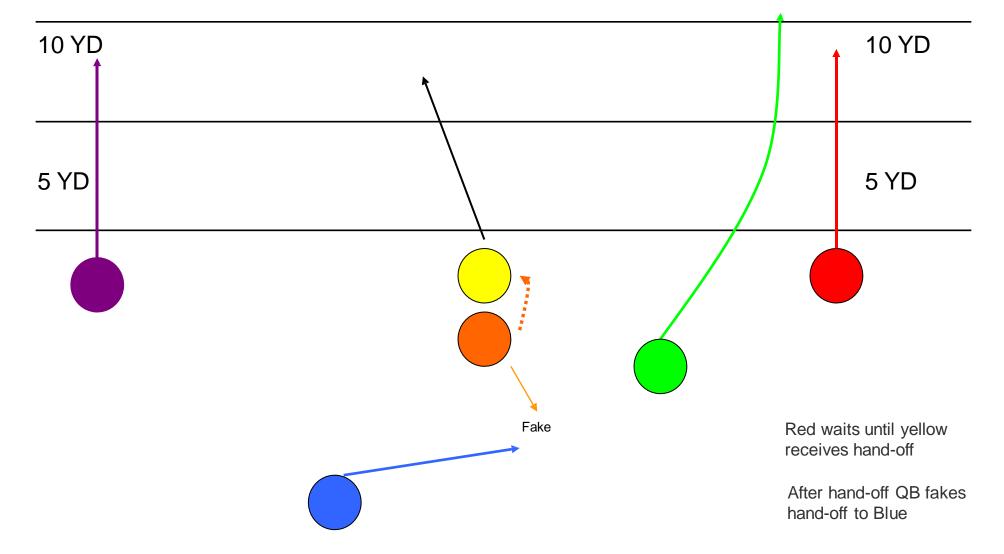
Wish Bone
QB Run Right
Hand-off to Green Running Left
Blue Run Right





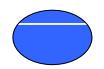
Center Sneak





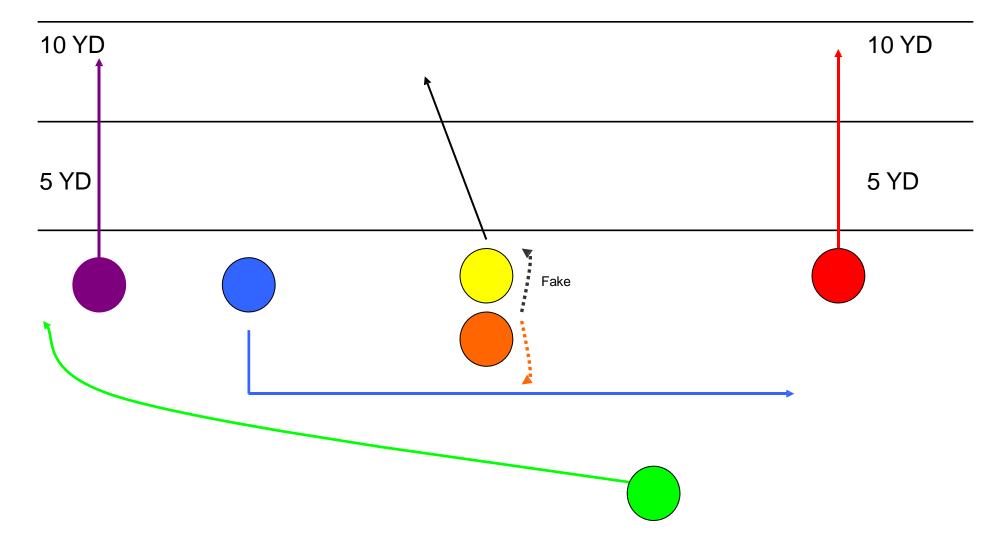
Split Set Left
Quick Hand-off to Yellow
Green and Blue run Right





Fake Center Sneak

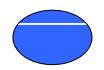




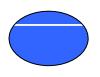
Split Set Right
Quick Fake Hand-off to Yellow

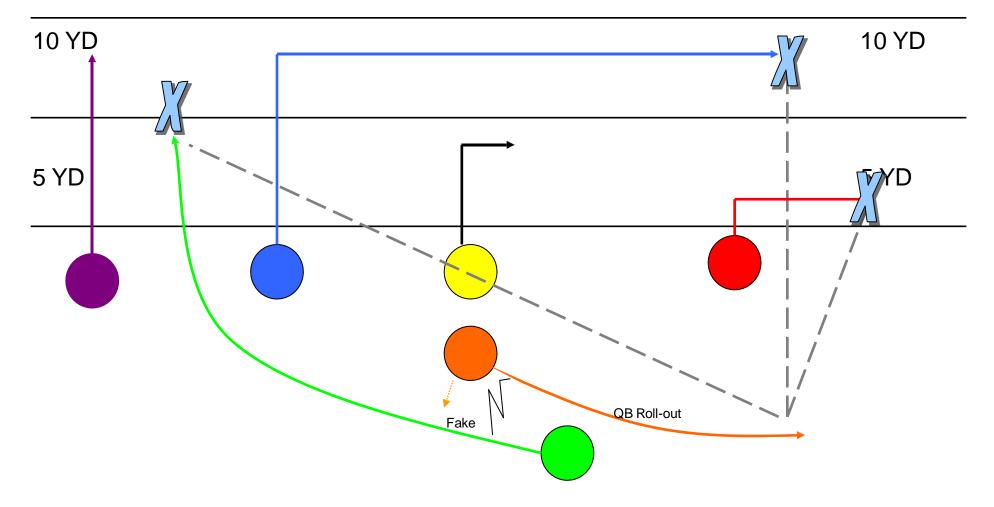
Hand the ball to Blue run Right





Roll-out Pass- Right





Split Set Right
QB Roll-out Right
Blue - 5 yard out pattern
Fake to Green Running Left

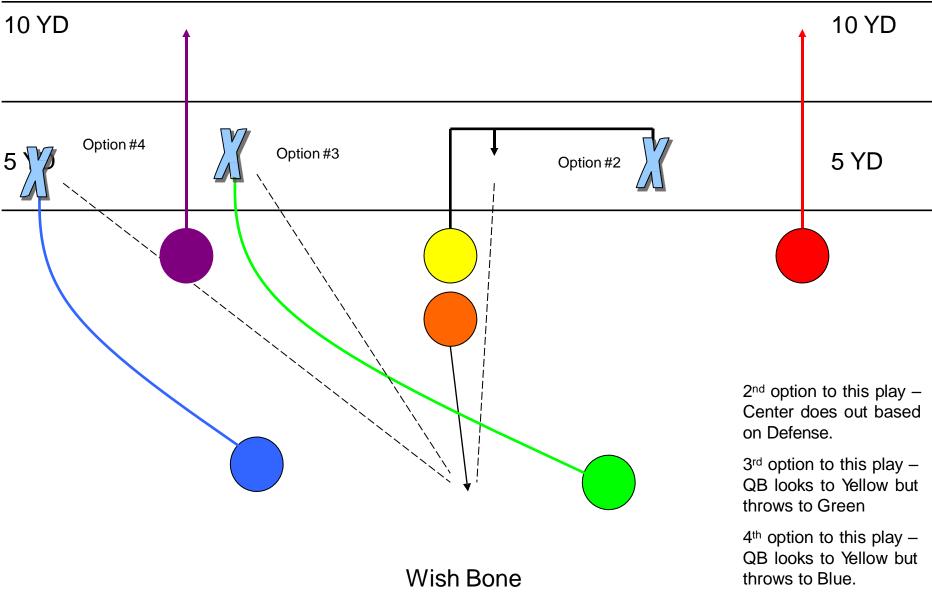
Blue 1st option Red 2nd option Green 3rd option





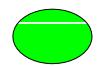
Center Pass





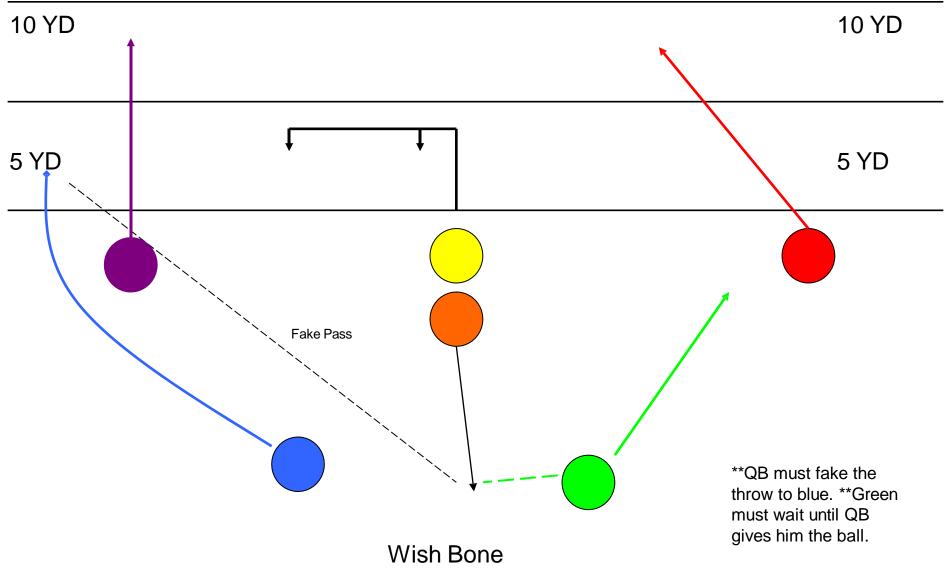
Wish Bone
QB Drop back pass to Center
Green and Blue run Left





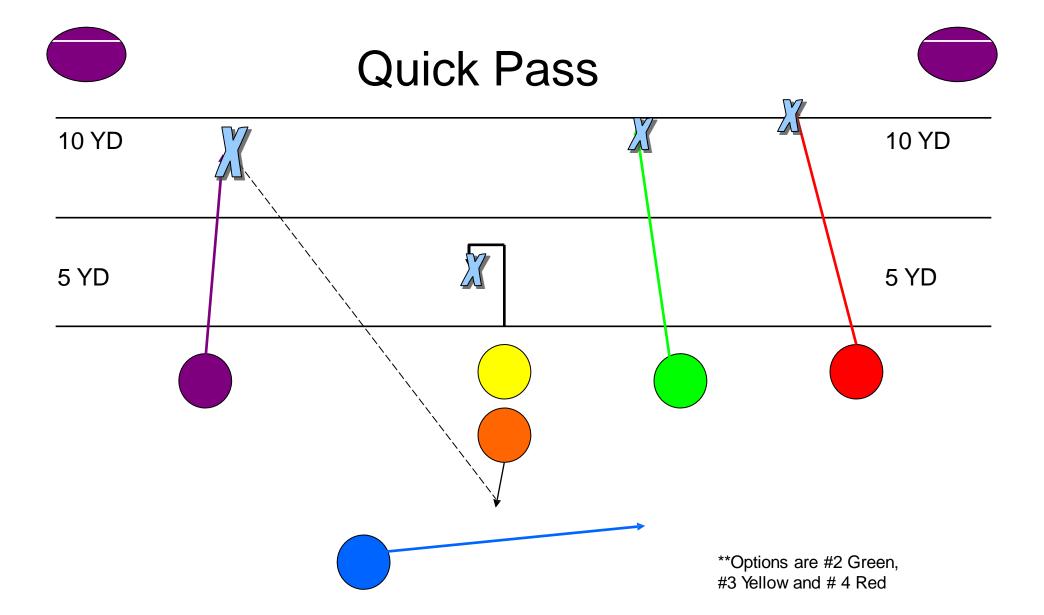
Fake Pass - DRAW





QB Drop back pass
Blue run Left to catch pass
Green stay to get hand-off

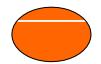




Twins Right

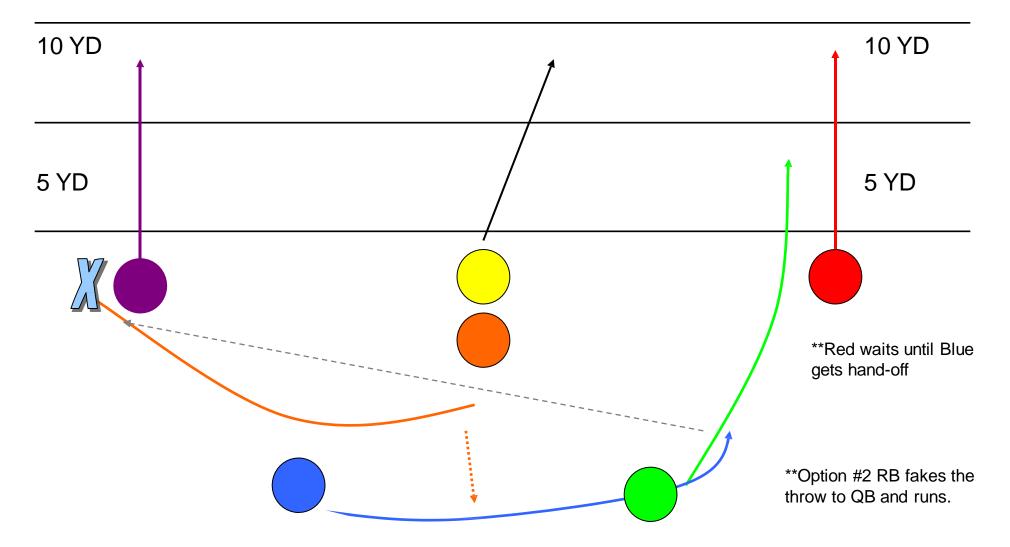
QB Quick Pass to Purple





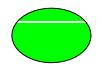
QB Pass - Left





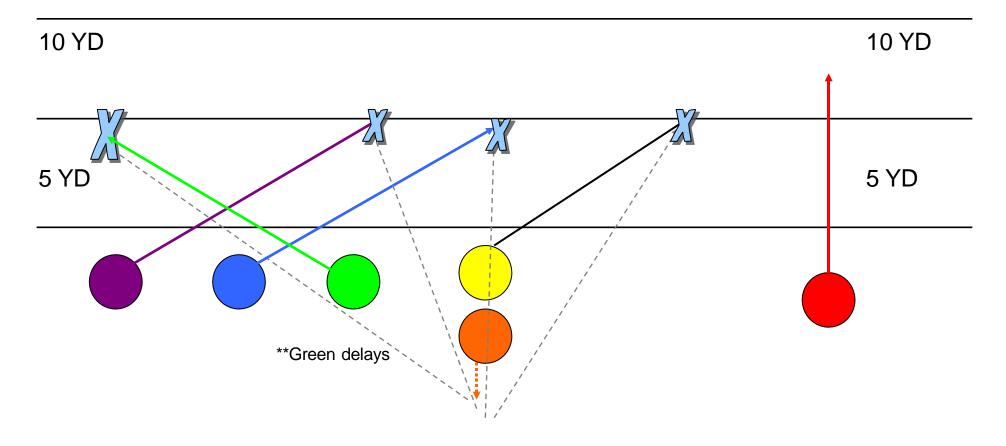
Wish Bone Hand-off to Blue – Run Wide Right Blue passes back to QB





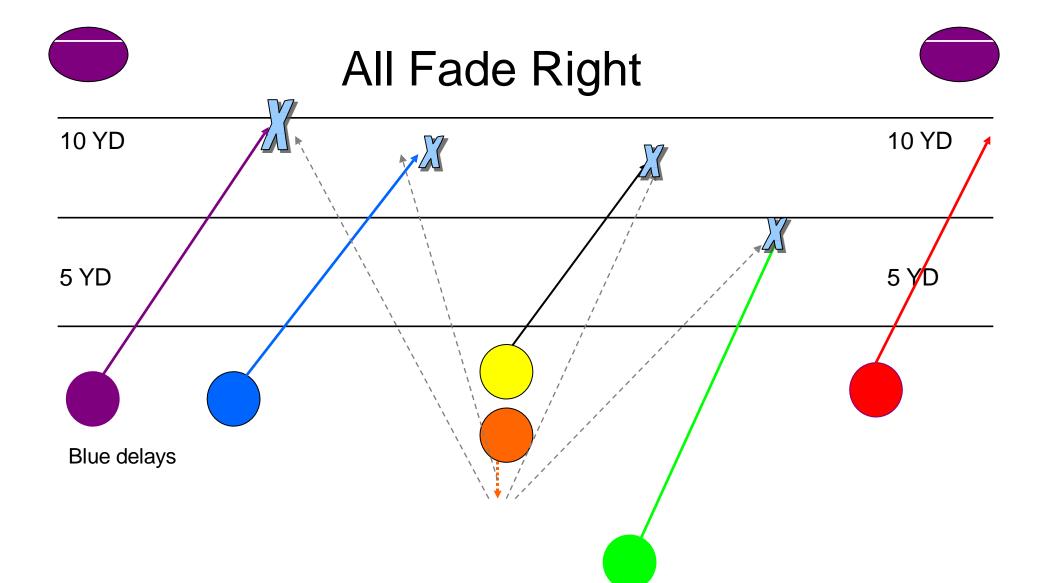
Green Fade Left





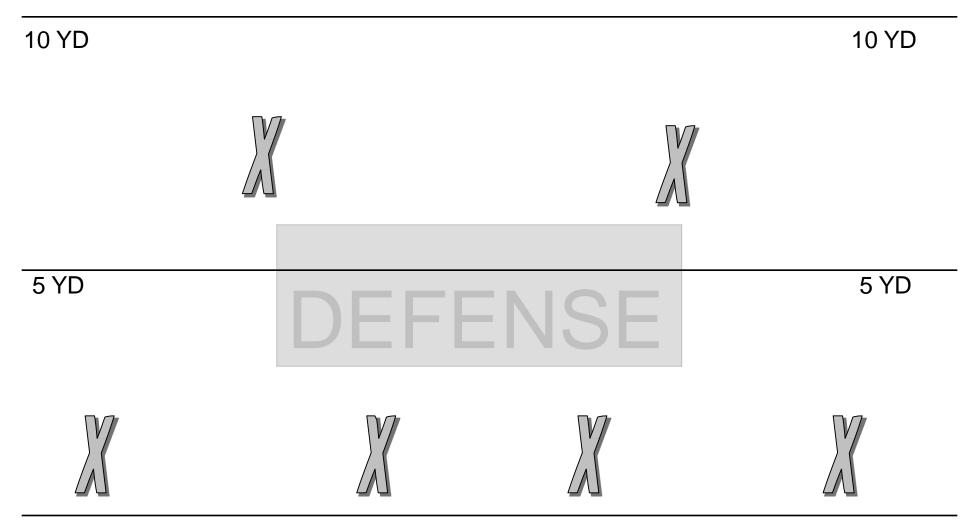
Trips Left First option is Green





Twins Left First option is Purple

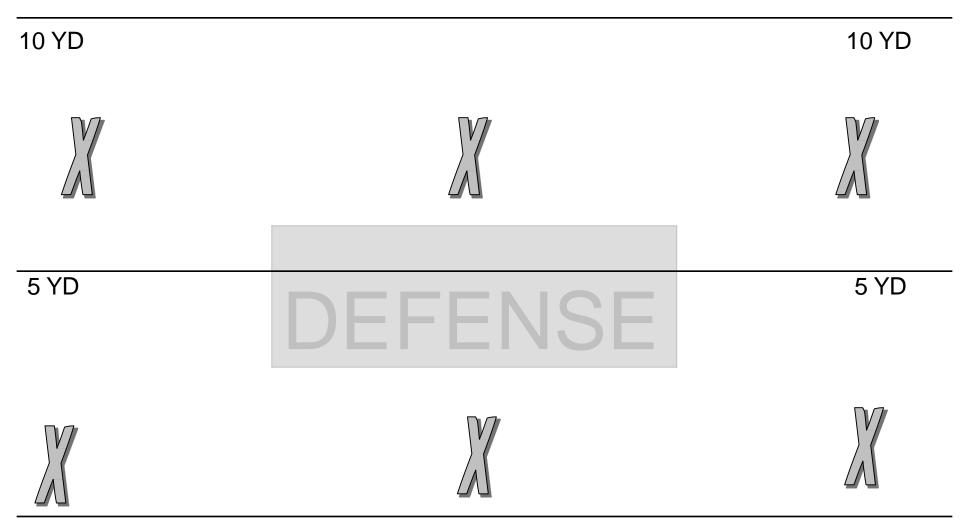




Line of Scrimmage



3 - 3

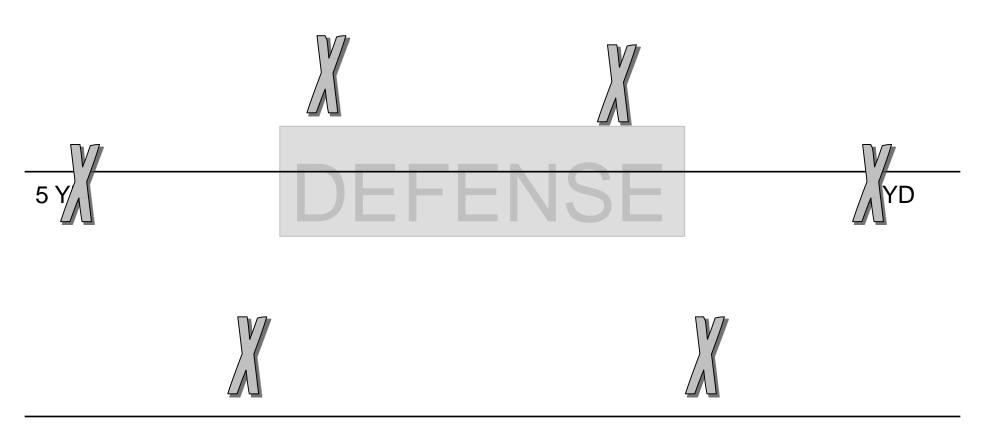


Line of Scrimmage



2-2-2 Inside

10 YD 10 YD

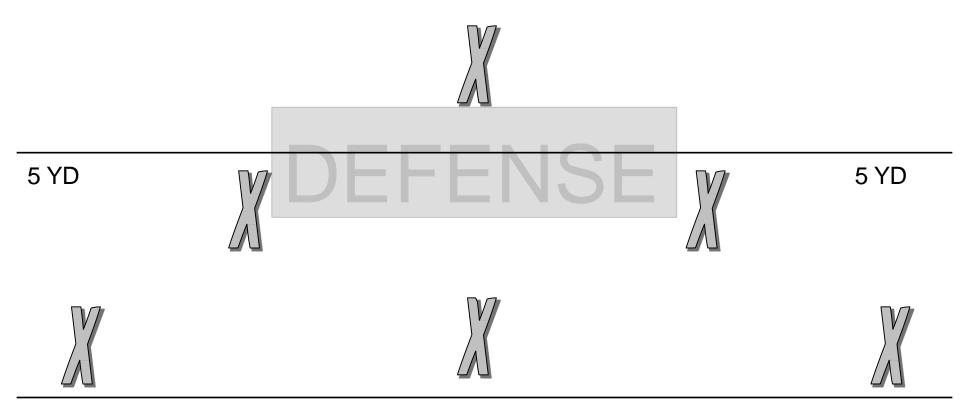


Line of Scrimmage



3-2-1 Outside

10 YD 10 YD



Line of Scrimmage



