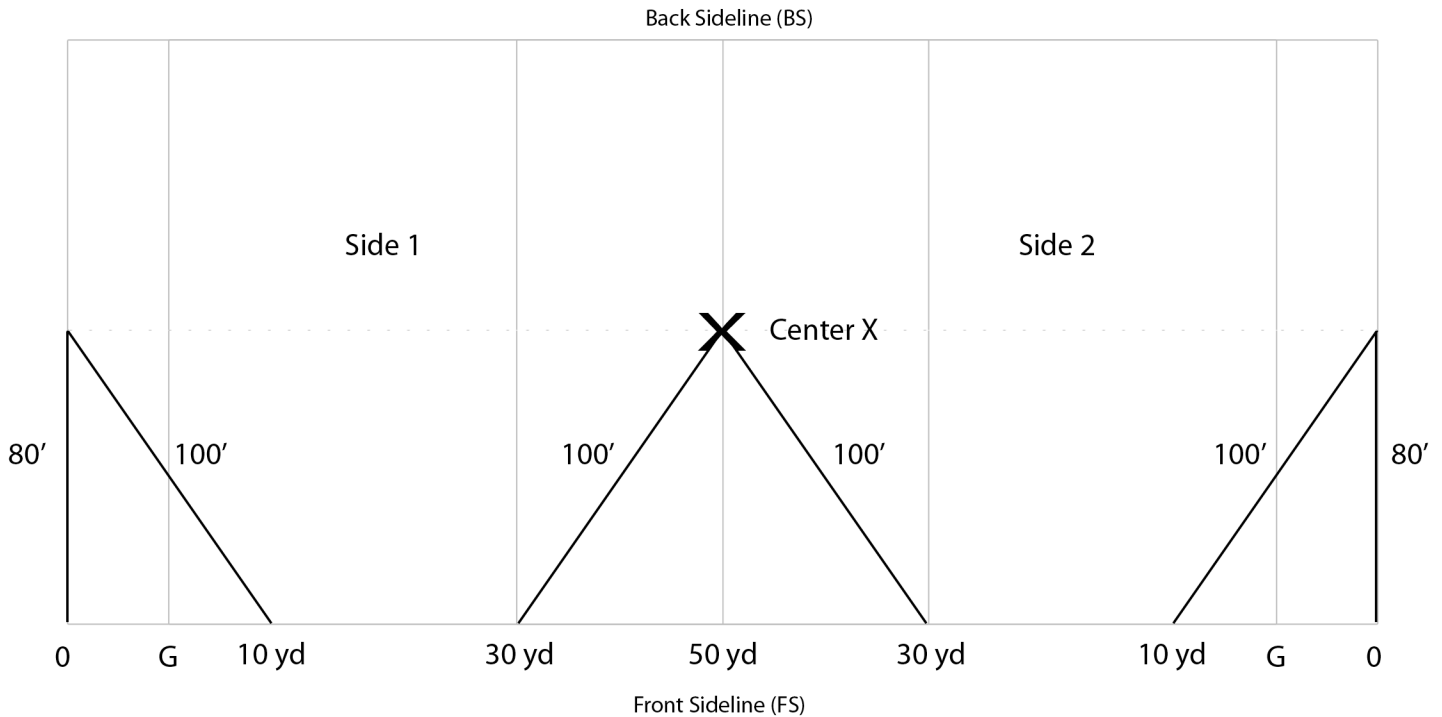


How to Line a Football Field

by Bryan T. Harmsen



What you'll need:

- Large Tape Measure (200ft or longer)
- Long Thin Rope (360ft or longer) that will act as a painting guide, much like a straight edge.
- Field lining paint
- 3 people (minimum)
- Patience and accuracy!

The Process

1. **The Front Sideline (FS).** This should be 360' in length, and you should accurately mark where the 0' and 360' marks are with a perpendicular tick. Measure it using the tape measure and use the rope as your guide. Make sure that both the tape measure and rope are straight and taut before painting. Once they are both set, paint the FS then paint the tick marks for all of the yardlines, remembering that the end zone is 10 yards and the rest should be at 5 yard intervals.
2. **The 50 yardline.** Pay out 200' of tape with person 1 (P1) holding the end, P2 holding the 100' mark, and P3 holding the 200' mark. P1's mark should be on the side 1 30 yd on the FS, P3 should be on the side 2 30 yd also on the FS, and P2 should pull the two 100' lengths taut, out onto the field. This should be marked as the

center X. Once that point is marked, the 50 can be measured and painted 160' from the FS to a tick mark that will designate the future Back Sideline. During this process, you should paint tick marks for your front and back hashes, according to your area regulations (high school, college (Massachusetts and Texas high schools as well), or pro) as well as any contest you'll attend.

3. **The Zero Lines.** P2 and 3 can hold the same spot on the tape while P1 should hold it at the 20' mark. P1 should be at the 0 mark on Side 1 and P3 should be at the 10yd on the the FS, while P2 extends in the same fashion as for the 50 yd. This should be marked and the 0 line should be marked in the same fashion as the 50. Remember to paint your hash tick marks, to be used later. Repeat on Side 2.
4. **The Back Sideline (BS).** Paint the BS by passing the rope through the tick marks on the zeros and 50 that you painted earlier. Next, paint tick marks for the yardlines. Start from the 50, so you can ensure that the part of the field that will be used most is the most accurate. If time is of the essence, just go from 0 to 0.
5. **Yardlines and Hashes.** Putting these on the field is now just a matter of connecting the tick marks and putting the lines on the field. If you have the time, and know you'll have them for performances, it might not hurt to paint the inserts along the hashes.
6. **Congrats, you're done!**