

UNOFFICIAL FAN-MADE TRAINING WORKBOOK

BB SCHOOL OF BLOCK

School of Caging - Training Workbook

Blood Bowl - cage recognition, protection, repair, movement, pressure and mastery

						
						
						

A-H | Exercises and Answer Key

School of Caging - Exercises

Work from the board, not from the answer key. The exercises progress from recognising a cage to reading, building, repairing, moving and breaking cage structure, before ending with mastery tasks.

For printable construction tasks, mark or draw the required final position directly on the board. Where the task is about cage structure rather than movement mechanics, movement range and routes are not part of the question.

Board notation

	Circle	own player
	Triangle	opponent
	Ball Carrier	ball glyph is integrated in the player token
	Rotated token	Prone / no Tackle Zone
	Target ring	marked square in the A-G exercises

A · RECOGNISE THE CAGE

A1 · CAGE OR NOT?

A four-corner cage protects the Ball Carrier with players positioned diagonally around them.

Look at the position. Is this a four-corner cage?

Position 1

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		X2		X3	
3			X1		
4		X4		X5	
5					

Position 2

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		X2		X3	
3		X4	X1		
4				X5	
5					

Position 3

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		X2	X6	X3	
3		X7	X1	X8	
4		X4			
5					

A2 · FIND THE CAGE

The Ball Carrier is surrounded by several players.

Which four players form the four-corner cage?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2	X8		X2		X3		
3		X9		X1		X10	
4	X12		X4		X5		X11
5				X13			

B · READ THE PROTECTION

B1 · LOOKS SAFE

Several players are close to the Ball Carrier.

Does the position provide complete four-corner cage protection?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2			X2		X3		
3	X8			X1 S	X5	X10	
4		X9	X4	X11			
5							

Which corner position is missing?

B2 · PRESSURE OR DAMAGE?

Y1 is putting pressure on X3.

Has X3 lost its defensive function as a cage corner?

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		X2		X3	Y1
3			X1 S		
4		X4		X5	
5					

B3 · SAME SHAPE, DIFFERENT PROTECTION

Both positions have a player occupying each of the four corner squares.

Do they provide the same defensive protection?

Position A

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		X2		X3	
3			X1		
4		X4		X5	
5					

Position B

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2		X2		X3	
3			X1		
4		X4		X5	
5					

What has changed in Position B?

C · BUILD THE CAGE

C1 · COMPLETE WHAT EXISTS

X1 is the Ball Carrier.
Some of the required protection is already in place.

Which players already form part of the four-corner cage, and which corner positions still need to be filled?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		X6					X7
2			X2		X3		
3	X8			X1		X9	
4		X10					X11
5			X4			X5	

C2 · BUILD IT

X1 is the Ball Carrier.
Build a four-corner cage around X1.
Ignore movement range and routes for this exercise.

Which four squares must be occupied?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		X6					X8		
2			X2						
3				X3	X1		X4		
4		X11					X5	X12	
5			X13				X14		

D · REPAIR THE CAGE

D1 · UNDER PRESSURE

Read the position around the Ball Carrier.

Does the cage require structural repair?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							

D2 · WHICH ONE REPAIRS THE CAGE?

Read the Ball Carrier's protection.

Three final positions are shown.

Which one restores the defensive function that has been lost?

Position A

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Position B

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2			X2		X3	
3		X6		X1		X7
4			X4		X5	
5						X8

Position C

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2			X2		X3	
3		X6		X1		X7
4			X4		X5	X8
5						

D3 • MORE THAN ONE PROBLEM

Several parts of the position are under pressure.

Which problem has actually reduced the Ball Carrier's cage protection?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1			X8	Y4				
2		Y1	X2		X3		X9	Y5
3				X1				
4			X4		X5	Y2		
5		X10	Y3				X11	

What is the structural problem?

D4 • HOLDING TOGETHER?

Read the position around the Ball Carrier.

Does the cage require structural repair?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		X8			Y4				
2		Y1	X2		X3	Y2		X9	
3			X6	X1	X7				
4			X4			X5	Y3		
5		X10			X11				

Select the square where defensive function must be restored.

E · MOVE THE CAGE

E1 · THE BALL HAS MOVED

X1 previously occupied C3 as the Ball Carrier.

X1 is now on E3.

Read the cage relative to X1's current position. Is the four-corner cage complete?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2		X2		X3			X7	
3					X1			
4		X4		X5		X8		
5							X9	

Which players from the old cage still occupy corner positions around X1?

Which required corner position is still empty?

E2 · FOLLOW THE BALL

Position 1

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2		X2		X3		X6	
3			X1		X7		
4		X4		X5		X8	
5							

Position 2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2		X2		X3		X6	
3					X1		
4		X4		X5		X8	
5							

Position 3

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2		X2		X3		X6		X9	
3							X1		
4		X4		X5		X8		X10	
5									

E3 • MOVE IT

X1 will finish on the marked square.
Ignore movement range and routes for this exercise.

Which four squares must provide the cage around X1's new position?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1			X8				X9		
2		X2		X3		X6			
3			X1				O		
4		X4		X5		X7		X10	
5			X11						

Which are already occupied?
Which required corner is still empty?

F · BREAK THE CAGE

F1 · PRESSURE IS NOT ENOUGH

Position A

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Position B

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Position C

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Which position only puts Y3 under pressure without removing either its occupation or its Tackle Zone?

F2 · THE WEAKENED SIDE

Position A

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Position B

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

F3 · WHICH CHANGE MATTERS?

Position A

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Position B

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Which position has lost cage protection on the marked lower-right approach?

F4 · WHAT ACTUALLY CHANGED?

Position A

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

X2 is at E3, applying pressure to Y5.

Position B

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Position C

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Which position has actually reduced the cage protection relevant to the marked approach?

F5 • THE APPROACH

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		X4					X5		
2			X2		Y2		Y3		X6
3	X7					Y1			
4		X8			Y4		Y5		
5			X9	○	○			X10	
6				X11					

Which cage player's defensive function must be neutralised to weaken protection on the marked lower-left approach?

G · THE REAL BOARD

G1 · THE CROWD

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									

Which statement accurately describes the current cage protection?

G2 · THE GAP

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									

Does the current position provide complete four-corner cage protection?

Select the square that must be occupied to complete the four-corner structure.

G3 · HOLDING THE LINE

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									

Does the current four-corner protection require structural repair?

Select the player whose current state has reduced the Ball Carrier's four-corner protection.

G4 · THE SHIFT

Position A

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									

Position B

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									

Does Position B still provide complete four-corner protection around the Ball Carrier?

Select the four players providing the cage protection in Position B.

G5 · THE OPENING

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											

Y1 is the opposing Ball Carrier.

You want to weaken protection on the marked approach.

Select the part of the position that must change to achieve that objective.

H · MASTERY

H1 · YOUR CAGE

Position 1

Read the position. Describe the protection around your Ball Carrier.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									

Position 2

The position has changed. What has changed in your protection? What, if anything, needs to be restored?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									

Position 3

The Ball Carrier is now on H3. Complete the required protection around the new position.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1						X8			
2		Y1			X2		X3		
3								X1	
4					X4		X5		
5			X6						X7

Mark the two missing corner squares on the board.

H · MASTERY

H2 · THEIR CAGE

Read the position. Describe the protection around the opposing Ball Carrier.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									

An approach comes from the lower-left side of the cage.

Which part of the Ball Carrier's protection matters to this approach?

What structural change would create the opening you need? Show the required change on the board.

H · MASTERY

THE PADDED CAGE

Read the board.

Your turn.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											

Use the available own players to show the final protection you want around the Ball Carrier.

Answer Key

A-G answers are reproduced from the frozen final-QA master. H answers follow the approved mastery specifications.

A • RECOGNISE THE CAGE

A1 · CAGE OR NOT?

Answer: YES

Answer: NO

Answer: NO

A2 · FIND THE CAGE

Answer: X2, X3, X4, X5

B • READ THE PROTECTION

B1 · LOOKS SAFE

Answer: NO

Answer: E4

B2 · PRESSURE OR DAMAGE?

Answer: NO — STILL FUNCTIONING

B3 · SAME SHAPE, DIFFERENT PROTECTION

Answer: NO — DIFFERENT

Answer: X3 still occupies the square, but no longer exerts a Tackle Zone.

C • BUILD THE CAGE

C1 · COMPLETE WHAT EXISTS

Answer: X2 and X3 / C4 and E4

C2 · BUILD IT

Answer: D2, F2, D4, F4

D • REPAIR THE CAGE

D1 · UNDER PRESSURE

Answer: NO — NO STRUCTURAL REPAIR REQUIRED

D2 · WHICH ONE REPAIRS THE CAGE?

Answer: POSITION B

D3 · MORE THAN ONE PROBLEM

Answer: X5

Answer: X5 still occupies the corner square but no longer exerts a Tackle Zone.

D4 · HOLDING TOGETHER?

Answer: YES

Answer: E4

E • MOVE THE CAGE

E1 · THE BALL HAS MOVED

Answer: NO

Answer: X3 and X5

Answer: F2

E2 · FOLLOW THE BALL

Answer: X2, X3, X4, X5

Answer: X3, X6, X5, X8

Answer: X6, X9, X8, X10

E3 · MOVE IT

Answer: F2, H2, F4, H4

Answer: X6, X7, X10

Answer: H2

F · BREAK THE CAGE

F1 · PRESSURE IS NOT ENOUGH

Occupation / TZ: YES / YES

Occupation / TZ: YES / NO

Occupation / TZ: NO / NO

Answer: A

F2 · THE WEAKENED SIDE

Answer: A: E4 + E5 protected by Y5. B: neither protected by Y5.

F3 · WHICH CHANGE MATTERS?

Answer: POSITION B

F4 · WHAT ACTUALLY CHANGED?

Answer: POSITION C

F5 · THE APPROACH

Answer: Y4

G · THE REAL BOARD

G1 · THE CROWD

Answer: The cage shape is still occupied, but one corner has lost its Tackle Zone function.

G2 · THE GAP

Answer: NO

Answer: E4

G3 · HOLDING THE LINE

Answer: YES

Answer: X5

G4 · THE SHIFT

Answer: YES

Answer: X3, X5, X6, X12

G5 · THE OPENING

Answer: Y4

H · MASTERY

H1 · YOUR CAGE

Position 1: complete four-corner cage. Position 2: E4 remains occupied but its player is Prone, so that corner has lost its defensive function. Position 3: around H3, functional protection is required at G2, I2, G4 and I4; G2 and G4 are reused.

H2 · THEIR CAGE

The relevant protection is Y4. The structural change required is for Y4 to lose its defensive function; in the interactive version this is demonstrated by making Y4 Prone.

H3 · THE PADDED CAGE

Ball Carrier G4. F3 and F5 already provide two corner functions. Complete the cage with functional own players on H3 and H5. The old Prone player on D5 does not need to be repaired.

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Credits

School of Caging was developed by Ferns as a free training resource for Blood Bowl players. Concept, exercises, instructional direction and final editorial decisions: Ferns / Richard F. J. This workbook forms part of the BB School of Block project.

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Website: bbsob.net