

SPLIT DEFENSIVE RATINGS – OPTIONAL RULE

Some seasons produced after 2014 include 2-digit defensive ratings for linebackers and safeties. These 2-digit ratings are designed to be used with this optional rule. **If you do not use this rule** then **always** use the first number listed as the defensive player's rating. For example, if the player is assigned a "65" defensive rating then always use "6" as his defensive rating when not using this rule.

When using the optional Split Defensive Ratings Rule, the 2-digit defensive rating consists of his pass rating followed by his run rating. So if the defender is rated "45" then his defensive rating against a pass is "4" and his defensive rating against a run is a "5".

Whenever a pass is being defended, use his first rating. Whenever a run is being defended, use his second rating. Note that all containments (both linebacker and strong safety) are considered runs for purposes of this rule, so always use the defenders second number when checking containment.

Important notes:

- This rule **overrides** the following two rules (found below) regarding Free Safeties. Instead of being rated 0, use the Free Safety's Run Defense rating when following these two rules:
 - *The Safety Blitz cannot be used if the free safety is assigned coverage responsibilities. Against a run, treat a blitzing free safety in the same manner as a blitzing zero-rated linebacker.*
 - *If he is moved into the flat/look-in pass zones, or he is placed on the line of scrimmage, consider him an additional linebacker for purposes of determining the number of linebackers in the zone. If the reading "LB in zone" occurs on a run, consider his defensive rating against the run to be 0.*
- Sometimes you may wish to use players who have double-digit defensive ratings along with players who have single-digit ratings (for example, a draft league that contains both older and current season players). In such a scenario, use the following rules to determine the secondary rating for a defender who only has a single-digit rating:
 - For linebackers, his secondary rating is always the same as his primary rating. So if a linebacker is rated a "4" then he becomes a "44".
 - For Safeties, his secondary rating is always "0". So if a safety is rated a "4" then he becomes a "40".