

Short Sketch

"NFL Rulebook"

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INT. COACH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

It's a dark, cavernous corner office. A huge ELECTRIC CONSOLE outfitted with levers, buttons and dials of all sorts. Above these are rows of small TV MONITORS. Most of the monitors show footage from NFL football games. One larger monitor shows an episode of *Girls*. Before the console, is a huge, leather swivel CHAIR. For now, we only see the back of it. A small NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS LOGO is emblazoned on the back.

An INTERCOM SYSTEM BEEPS ON and we hear a MONOTONE VOICE:

INTERCOM VOICE
Coach? Josh is here to see you.

The TV showing *Girls* is quickly flipped to another football game in progress. A VOICE FROM THE CHAIR booms out.

VOICE FROM THE CHAIR
... Send him in.

A heavy door CREAKS open and JOSH MCDANIELS, the offensive coordinator of the New England Patriots enters.

VOICE FROM THE CHAIR (cont'd)
Come forward, Mr. McDaniels. Have
you the plan for next week?

JOSH MCDANIELS
... I do, my lord.

VOICE FROM THE CHAIR
Coach Lord.

JOSH MCDANIELS
I mean, Coach Lord.

On that, the chair swivels around to reveal the Voice: Head Coach of the Patriots, BILL BELICHIK. He wears an eye patch like a pirate. Josh is a little caught off-guard by it. Belichik quickly takes it off.

BILL BELICHIK
(re: eye patch)
Um, it helps me sleep. Now what do
you have for me?

JOSH MCDANIELS
Well coach, as you know, we have a
big game coming up next week, and
I've been burying my nose in the
playbook and figured out something
big. Real big. Total game changer.

BILL BELICHIK
Please tell me it doesn't involve
Tim Tebow.

JOSH MCDANIELS
No, no, no--

BILL BELICHIK
Because my contract with Satan
strictly forbids it. You did what
you had to in Denver, but--

JOSH MCDANIELS
Lord Coach, trust me. Tebow's not
involved. No, it's the NFL
Rulebook. The offensive staff has
done their homework, and we've
found some interesting information.

BILL BELICHIK
Let's hear it.

The door opens again and a TEAM of ASSISTANT COACHES enter
with memo binders and playbooks.

JOSH MCDANIELS
Lord Coach, as you know, last week
we learned that lining up just four
offensive linemen and declaring a
normally eligible receiver as
ineligible keeps our enemies'
defenses off balance.

BILL BELICHIK
Indeed.

JOSH MCDANIELS
Well, if you take a good look at
the rules, you'll find there's a
lot of other good stuff in there
too.

BILL BELICHIK
Like?

Josh looks back at his Coaching Staff. They open their
rulebooks and get ready to present.

JOSH MCDANIELS
Uh, well, for example... Did you
know that...
(flipping through book)
(MORE)

JOSH MCDANIELS (cont'd)
On page 30, Rule 6, section 1-A on
the issue of Kickoffs, it says...
(reading)

A kickoff puts the ball in play at
the start of each half and after a
successful score... But what you
didn't know, Lord Coach, was that a
team can successfully charge its
opponent in the amount of 850
dollars per free kick.

BILL BELICHIK
So... they're not really free at
all?

JOSH MCDANIELS
Totally unfree. I'll continue...
(reading)
And said amount must be paid in
full to the head coach prior to the
kick via liquid cash or travelers
checks.

BILL BELICHIK
That's not bad. I like having
folding money in my pocket after
big games, though I loathe
travelers checks... What else?

Josh gestures to one of his Assistant Coaches.

ASSISTANT COACH
So, um, regarding footwear... It
states under section 4, article 2,
subsection G, that a player may
wear an unapproved standard
football shoe style, including ones
with rocket boosters, as long as
the player tapes over the entire
shoe to conform to his team's base
color.

Belichik rubs his chin. He finds it very interesting.

BILL BELICHIK
Woah, hold up. Did you say rocket
boosters? I like that. How has
nobody ever figured this out?

JOSH MCDANIELS
I don't think anybody really reads
this thing except for the refs.

BILL BELICHIK
 What else? Let's just list them all
 out and see what we've got.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COACH'S OFFICE - LATER

Title card: *4 hours later*

A huge powerpoint screen projects on a wall with the title:
Patriots Strategy and has about TWENTY DIFFERENT BULLET
 POINTS under it.

JOSH MCDANIELS
 Okay, in addition to the points
 discussed earlier, we are also
 allowed to switch our opponents'
 challenge flags with flash paper.

BILL BELICHIK
 They'll be ash before the officials
 ever know!

JOSH MCDANIELS
 Right?! Next, use of wild animals
 and small gas-powered aircraft on
 special teams is okay.

BILL BELICHIK
 I'm thinking Ligers.

JOSH MCDANIELS
 I figured, you firecracker. After
 that there's an entire section by
 itself that says hypnosis is 100
 percent legal as long as we hire an
 external professional to do it. You
 can only imagine the potential in
 that.

BILL BELICHIK
 We can put a big hypnotic swirl on
 the jumbo-tron during the National
 Anthem instead of the flag! Or a
 flag swirl?

JOSH MCDANIELS
 You're a genius, Lord Coach! And
 you'll like the next one too.

(MORE)

JOSH MCDANIELS (cont'd)
Under section 12, if the correct
paperwork's filled out beforehand,
teams can get points for their
players crying.

BILL BELICHIK
My god. Brady does that every other
week. How many points?

ASSISTANT COACH
It states two points for a hissy-
fit cry and four points, plus a
field goal attempt for an old-
fashioned, snot-flinging baby wale.

JOSH MCDANIELS
Like a herd of baby elephants
getting chainsawed to death from
the ass up. Four points. Bang.

BILL BELICHIK
Let Brady know. We can extend his
contract for another thirty-five
years.

JOSH MCDANIELS
Sure! And There's a secret chant
written in invisible ink on the
back of the rulebook that, if read
aloud, gives us bye weeks in the
playoffs until the Superbowl.

BILL BELICHIK
What about making time elastic?

JOSH MCDANIELS
Uh... Nothing yet, but we're on it.

BILL BELICHIK
Josh... You did good. With your
knowledge of this sacred rulebook,
perhaps one day, once I'm long
gone, this could all be yours.
Gimme a hug, dammit!

JOSH MCDANIELS
And on that day, the Four Horsemen
will arrive, and the world will
burn. Bwahahahahaha!

They hug, laughing manically before bursting into flames.