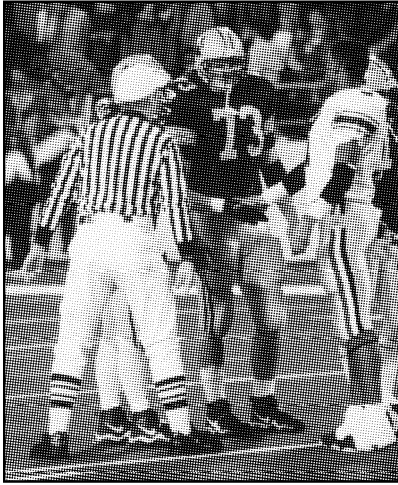




# NFHS

## 3-Official Football Mechanics Manual



## National Federation of State High School Associations

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# Three Officials

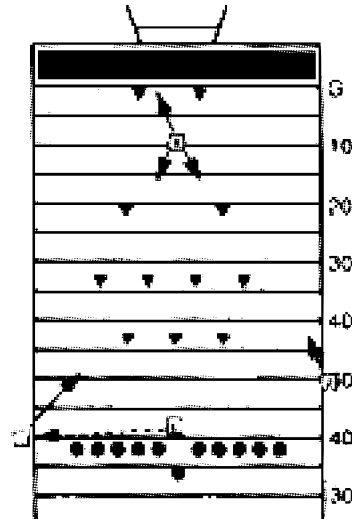
## KICKOFF

### I. REFEREE

#### A. Before kick:

1. Position is near R's 10-yard line in center of field.
2. Count R players.
3. Check positions of other officials.
4. Hold arm above head to request ready sign from officials and kicker.
5. After ready signs have been received, drop arm and sound whistle to signal that kick be made.
6. If short-free kick is anticipated:
  - a. Take regular position.
  - b. Be alert to assist other officials.

Three-Official  
Positions for Kickoff



#### B. After kick:

1. Kick down the middle:
  - a. Signal clock to start when kick is touched, other than first touching by K.
  - b. Pick up runner and follow until releasing to linesman or umpire.
2. Deep kick:
  - a. Retreat to goal line to rule on touchback.
  - b. If kick is caught inside 5-yard line and player is downed in end zone, or ball goes out of bounds there, mark spot of catch with bean bag and rule on whether player's momentum took him into end zone.

3. Kick outside opposite inbounds lines:
  - a. Move cautiously with play.
  - b. Observe action of other players in vicinity of runner.
  - c. Serve as clean-up behind, to side of, and around runner.
4. Kick out of bounds—determine if R had touched or last touched ball inbounds.

## II. UMPIRE

### A. Before kick:

1. Position is R's free-kick line outside sideline opposite linesman.
2. Monitor bench area, identify the free-kick line for the receiving team, then move quickly to sideline opposite linesman.
3. Be certain coaches, players, substitutes and other individuals are in proper location.
4. Count R players.
5. Hold arm above head to indicate you are ready.
6. Watch for any infraction involving R's free-kick line.

### B. After kick:

1. Kick to your side:
  - a. Signal clock to start when kick is touched, other than first touching by K.
  - b. Pick up runner and follow.
  - c. When ball becomes dead, sound whistle and give time-out signal.
2. Kick to opposite side of field:
  - a. Move cautiously toward play.
  - b. Observe action of other players in vicinity of runner.
3. Be alert for first touching by K and mark with bean bag.
4. Mark spot where kick goes out-of-bounds on your side of field:
  - a. Bean bag spot if last touched inbounds by R.
  - b. Drop penalty marker if untouched inbounds by R or not last touched inbounds by R.
5. After ball has gone downfield, move down the sideline while watching for fouls away from ball.
6. Maintain a position enabling coverage of your sideline at all times.
7. If ball becomes dead on your side prior to crossing R's free-kick line, sound whistle promptly and take charge.

## III. LINESMAN

### A. Before kick:

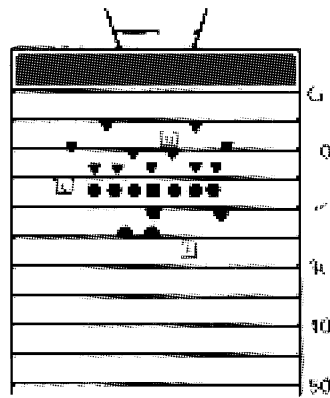
1. Take charge of ball.
2. Position is K's free-kick line in side zone to monitor bench area and assist kicking team in getting into position.
3. Move on field to kicker and after checking legality of kicking tee, hand kicker ball, point out referee and instruct kicker to wait for referee's signal before kicking.
4. Count K players.
5. Obtain captain's ready sign.
6. Move to position just outside the sideline on K's free-kick line on the line-to-gain equipment side.

7. Be certain coaches, players, substitutes and other individuals are in proper locations.
  8. Hold arm above head to indicate you are ready.
  9. Watch for any infraction involving K's free-kick line.
  10. If there is a dead-ball foul, administer penalty and place ball ready.
- B. After kick:
1. Be alert for first touching by K—mark spot with bean bag.
  2. Be alert for kick which does not cross R's free-kick line.
  3. Watch initial blocks by players near R's free-kick line and action against kicker and holder.
  4. If there is a penalty for a foul before kick ends requiring rekick, administer penalty and place ball ready.
  5. Mark spot where kick goes out of bounds on your side of field.
    - a. Bean bag spot if last touched inbounds by R.
    - b. Drop penalty marker if untouched inbounds by R or not last touched inbounds by R.
  6. Kick to opposite side of field:
    - a. Move cautiously toward play.
    - b. Observe actions of other players in vicinity of runner.
  7. After ball has gone downfield, move down the sideline while watching for fouls away from ball.
  8. Maintain position enabling coverage of sideline at all times.
  9. Be in position to take over coverage of runner in your area on long return.
- IV. ALL OFFICIALS
- A. Signal clock to start when kick is touched, other than first touching by K.
  - B. Kick out-of-bounds between goal lines:
    1. Sound whistle.
    2. Give time-out signal and mark spot.
    3. Determine if R had touched or last touched ball inbounds.
    4. Toss flag if R did not touch the ball.
  - C. Sound whistle when ball becomes dead in your area and give time-out signal.
  - D. Carry bean bag in hand.
  - E. Free kick following safety:
    1. Each official assumes same relative position and has same duties as on kickoff.
    2. Ball put in play by drop kick, place kick or punt.

**FIELD-GOAL ATTEMPT BY FREE KICK  
AFTER A FAIR CATCH OR AWARDED FAIR CATCH**

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Position: Behind and directly between uprights.
  - B. Determine whether kick is successful.
- II. All other officials' mechanics same as kickoff.

**Three-Official  
Positions for Running  
and Forward-Pass Plays**



**RUNNING PLAY**

**I. REFEREE**

**A. After ball is spotted:**

1. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.
2. Position: One which allows continuous view of ball, behind Team A on side opposite linesman (distance back or to side varies according to A's formation).
3. Check the following:
  - a. 25-second count.
  - b. One-second count after huddle or shift.
  - c. Number of A players and eligible backs.
  - d. Be alert for snap irregularities, illegal shifts and false starts.
4. Be alert with linesman for player in motion away from you and maintain responsibility for him if he reverses direction.

**B. After snap:**

1. Key opposite guard for run/pass, move cautiously to avoid interfering with a reverse or other delayed play.
2. Areas of responsibility:
  - a. Ball, runner and action around him to neutral zone.
  - b. If action is toward linesman:
    - (1) Do not follow runner too closely.
    - (2) Move parallel to scrimmage line behind runner.
  - c. If action is away from linesman, move parallel to scrimmage line following runner.
  - d. Relay ball to umpire at inbounds spot.
  - e. Do not get boxed in. Do not turn back on ball.
  - f. Cover sideline opposite linesman, end line to end line.
  - g. Be ready for kick or pass which may start out as running play.

- h. If there is a score and no foul which might nullify score, give touchdown signal and record score.
  - 3. Check following:
    - a. Illegal use of hands by players of A.
    - b. Action behind ball and away from runner near line.
    - c. Action on quarterback after handoff.
    - d. Signal from linesman indicating foremost point of ball on quick line plays.
    - e. Blocks on your side of ball outside free-blocking zone toward ball.
    - f. Backward or forward pass when ball is thrown.
    - g. Fouls behind runner after he crosses neutral zone.
  - 4. Continue to observe action behind neutral zone before leaving area.
  - 5. Responsible for runner until he crosses neutral zone or turns upfield. Focus on side opposite linesman.
  - 6. When ball is dead:
    - a. Move quickly to its location.
    - b. Be positive of ball location before sounding whistle.
  - 7. Oversee spotting of the ball, declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure and sound whistle.
  - 8. If first down has been made or change of team possession has occurred, give time-out signal to stop clock, unless already stopped by rule.
- II. UMPIRE
- A. After ball is spotted:
    - 1. Position:
      - a. Usually 3 to 8 yards behind B's line, near the guard/center gap opposite the linesman keeping snap in view.
      - b. Do not interfere with vision or movement of B players.
      - c. Vary position so players cannot use you as interference.
    - 2. Check following:
      - a. Five players numbered 50 through 79 on offensive line.
      - b. Count B players.
      - c. Number of eligible pass receivers on your side on all plays.
      - d. Interference with snap, snap infraction, false start or encroachment.
      - e. Disconcerting signals by B.
  - B. After snap:
    - 1. Areas of responsibility:
      - a. Key ineligible linemen for run/pass, read point of attack.
      - b. Watch line play, paying particular attention to free-blocking zone restrictions. Do not cover ball closely.
      - c. Look for illegal use of hands or arms, illegal blocks and other fouls near line of scrimmage.
      - d. On plays into your side zone area and on wide offensive plays, cover from inside the hash marks, take runner and ball to goal line. Referee covers behind you.
      - e. When hole opens directly in front of you.
        - (1) React and adjust according to play, possibly move laterally (quick step) from hole being alert for tight end cutting across.

- (2) Cover action at point of attack and then behind runner.
2. Be alert for quick kick or pass, ineligible receivers and fouls in secondary area.
3. If fumble occurs beyond neutral zone, assist in determining who secures possession.
4. Do not sound whistle unless covering official is not in position.
5. If ball becomes dead in your area, sound whistle immediately.
6. If ball becomes dead in side zone, spot ball at inbounds line.
7. If ball becomes dead out of bounds, be ready to assist with relay to inbounds spot.

### III. LINESMAN

- A. After ball is spotted:
  1. Position: Straddle line ball is on. Except in short yardage or goal -line situations, no closer than nine yards outside widest offensive player. Often on the sideline if necessary; signal number of down.
  2. Check down-marker number; signal number of down.
  3. Use extended arm signal and hold until snap to indicate closest A player is off line of scrimmage.
  4. Check following:
    - a. Number of eligible pass receivers on your side.
    - b. Wingbacks, flankers, split ends and slot backs are in legal position.
    - c. Player in motion away from you and maintain responsibility for him if he reverses direction.
    - d. Minimum of seven offensive players on line of scrimmage.
    - e. Encroachment, false start and interference with snap.
- B. After snap:
  1. Areas of responsibility:
    - a. On quick plays into line, assist referee in marking forward progress with downfield foot.
    - b. Observe initial charge of linemen. Key near tackle for run/pass.
    - c. Observe action by blockers on end and linebackers on your side.
    - d. Pinch in when necessary—especially on short yardage for first down—and, if possible, on every play within 10-yard line and goal line.
    - e. Be ready to move quickly downfield on quick kick and pass.
  2. On plays into your side zone and on wide offensive plays, take runner and ball to goal line.
  3. While moving downfield with runner. watch for illegal forward pass or fumble.
  4. If play continues following an illegal forward pass, drop penalty marker at spot of pass to indicate where run ended and at spot of any subsequent foul.
  5. Working with line-to-gain equipment and crew:
    - a. Echo referee's signal verbally and with proper hand signal.
    - b. Repeat referee's time-out signal.
    - c. Do not turn back on field of play when having equipment moved.

- d. Authorize down marker to be moved only after referee's signal.
- e. When necessary to move yardage chain:
  - (1) Spot foremost point of ball with downfield foot.
  - (2) Have down-marker operator mark the spot, informing referee that yardage chain is ready.
  - (3) Have line-to-gain crew set the two rods.
- f. When line-to-gain is goal line:
  - (1) Fasten clip on chain at intersection of goal line.
  - (2) Remove line-to-gain equipment from sideline.

#### IV. ALL OFFICIALS

- A. Keep play properly boxed in.
- B. Before sounding whistle:
  - 1. Be certain ball is dead.
  - 2. Be certain of ball location.
  - 3. Keep eyes on runner when you are covering.
- C. When ball becomes dead in your area, sound whistle promptly and be alert for:
  - 1. Dead-ball fouls.
  - 2. Surprise plays or fumbles.
- D. If there is a fumble, covering official should:
  - 1. Mark spot of fumble with bean bag.
  - 2. Rule on possession immediately.
  - 3. If defense recovers, covering official should immediately signal time-out and then first down.
  - 4. If fumbling team recovers, covering official should indicate number of next down with finger(s) or fist if fourth down.
  - 5. If ball becomes dead before fumble, covering official sound whistle immediately to indicate down has ended.
- E. If ball goes out of bounds:
  - 1. Covering official:
    - a. Give time-out signal immediately.
    - b. Mark and hold spot.
    - c. Continue to observe action.
  - 2. Nearest free official retrieve ball, unless covering official is in best position to do so.
  - 3. Other officials:
    - a. Echo time-out signal.
    - b. Move quickly into position to assist getting ball ready-for-play.
- F. Be alert for substitution infractions.

### FORWARD PASS

- I. REFEREE
  - A. After ball is spotted:



1. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.
  2. Position: On side of quarterback opposite linesman.
  3. Count A players.
  4. Identify eligible backs.
- B. After snap:
1. Key opposite tackle for run/pass.
  2. Observe all blocks behind the neutral zone.
  3. As passer retreats, remain wider and deeper than passer.
  4. Give special attention to contact with passer.
    - a. After ball is released, continue to observe passer, not flight of ball.
    - b. Verbally alert defenders when passer has released ball.
  5. Determine whether pass is forward or backward.
  6. Be alert to observe illegal passes.
    - a. Move to spot of pass to determine whether passer's feet were in or behind neutral zone when ball was released.
    - b. If illegal, drop penalty marker; continue to officiate.
    - c. If close, mark spot of pass with bean bag and continue to officiate.
  7. Solely responsible for intentional grounding.
  8. Continue to observe player action behind neutral zone before leaving area.
  9. Responsible for runner until he crosses neutral zone and to side of field opposite linesman.
- II. UMPIRE
- A. After ball is spotted:
1. Position: 3-8 yards behind B's line and near the guard/center gap on side opposite linesman.
  2. Observe ineligible and numbering requirements.
  3. Identify eligible receivers on your side of line.
  4. Note position of ball between inbounds lines.
- B. After snap:
1. Watch initial charge and whether ineligible linemen are illegally downfield.
  2. Key ineligible linemen for run/pass.
  3. Determine whether pass crosses neutral zone.
  4. Assist referee to determine whether passer's feet were in or behind neutral zone when ball was released.
  5. Cover short passes down middle—responsible for passes in flat on your side.
  6. Watch for interference.
  7. Cover a fumble or an illegal pass after forward pass is caught:
    - a. Mark spot of fumble with bean bag.
    - b. Drop penalty marker at spot from which illegal pass is thrown.
  8. If pass is incomplete, relay ball to referee.
  9. Determine if ineligible is illegally downfield.
  10. If pass is intercepted inside defensive team's 5-yard line:
    - a. Be prepared to rule on momentum carrying player into end zone.

- b. Mark spot of interception with bean bag.

### III. LINESMAN

- A. After ball is spotted:
  - 1. Position, same as for running play.
  - 2. Check down-marker number.
  - 3. Identify eligible receivers on your side of line.
  - 4. Be alert for shifts which may change eligibility of players.
  - 5. With the referee, check player in motion away from you and maintain responsibility for him if he reverses direction.
- B. After snap:
  - 1. Key near guard for run/pass.
  - 2. Be alert for defensive holding of eligible receiver.
  - 3. Move downfield to cover passes on your side and assist with all deep passes.
  - 4. Watch for and be ready to rule on:
    - a. Interference by either team.
    - b. Illegal pass after completion.
  - 5. Be ready to adjust coverage if passer decides to run.
  - 6. After catch and ball is dead, mark spot and look for first down.
  - 7. After interception:
    - a. Observe action until ball is dead.
    - b. Mark spot.
    - c. Signal time-out.
    - d. Signal direction ball will be put in play.
  - 8. After incompleteness in your area:
    - a. Sound whistle and give incomplete signal.
    - b. Relay ball to umpire.
    - c. If umpire retrieves ball, help him relay ball to referee by going half the distance to take toss from umpire.

### IV. COVERING OFFICIALS

- A. Be alert for an illegal pass.
- B. Observe touching or catching by ineligible player.
- C. Watch for holding of eligible receivers and all contact beyond neutral zone both before and after pass is thrown.
- D. If ruling on pass reception involving sideline, only signal governing action should be used.
- E. If pass intercepted inside defensive team's 5-yard line and player making interception is downed in end zone or ball goes out of bounds there:
  - 1. Be prepared to rule whether his momentum took him into end zone.
  - 2. Mark spot of interception with bean bag.

## SCRIMMAGE KICK

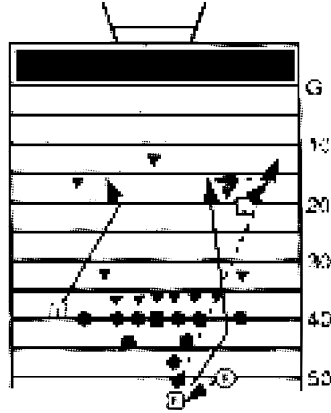
### I. REFEREE

- A. After ball is spotted:
  - 1. Check down and distance with linesman.
  - 2. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.
  - 3. Position: 3-4 yards in advance and 5-7 yards outside player in kicker's

position, and on kicking leg side.

4. Be able to see ball and observe all backs.
  5. Count K players.
- B. After snap:
1. Watch for roughing the snapper.
  2. Watch for fouls behind neutral zone especially near kicker.
  3. Be alert for blocked kick and be ready to rule on recovery.
  4. After ball crosses the neutral zone, observe line play.
  5. Move downfield slowly following kick.
  6. Watch for fouls and be ready to pick up runner if there is long return.
  7. Determine from covering official if ball was touched beyond neutral zone and by whom.
  8. Kick out of bounds in flight:
    - a. Long kick—line up covering official with spot where ball crossed sideline by using an outstretched arm.
    - b. Short kick—go directly to out-of-bounds spot.
  9. If no foul, signal linesman to move line-to-gain equipment.
  10. Obtain ready sign from linesman before giving ready-for-play signal.

**Three-Official  
Positions for Scrimmage Kick**



## II. UMPIRE

- A. After ball is spotted:
1. Position: Wide and 10 yards in front of receiver.
  2. Check numbering exception.
  3. Count R players.
- B. After snap:
1. Carry bean bag in hand during down.

2. Kick caught inside 5-yard line and player downed in his end zone:
  - a. Mark spot of catch with bean bag.
  - b. Be prepared to rule if momentum took him into end zone.
3. Kick down middle or to your side:
  - a. Move quickly downfield.
  - b. Cover action around ball.
  - c. Pick up runner if kick is returned.
4. Kick rolls out of bounds along your sideline:
  - a. Sound whistle.
  - b. Give time-out signal.
  - c. Mark spot.
  - d. Continue to observe play until all action stops.
  - e. If necessary drop bean bag.
  - f. Retrieve ball and toss to nearer official at inbounds spot.
5. Kick is to linesman side:
  - a. Move slowly downfield watching action around ball.
  - b. If out of bounds on linesman side, help retrieve ball and go to inbounds spot.
  - c. Spot the ball.
6. K touches kick beyond line:
  - a. Mark spot of first touching with bean bag.
  - b. Sound whistle if K is first to touch kick at rest beyond neutral zone.
7. Following fair catch:
  - a. Sound whistle as soon as kick is caught.
  - b. Give time-out signal.
  - c. Mark spot.
8. If there is a foul, official not involved should cover ball while official who had foul reports information to referee.

### III. LINESMAN

- A. After ball is spotted:
  1. Position: Same as for run or pass.
  2. Check down number.
  3. Responsible for knowing if ball crossed neutral zone.
- B. After snap:
  1. Hold position until ball crosses the neutral zone.
  2. Cover all kicks to your side.
  3. Ball out of bounds in flight:
    - a. Sound whistle and give time-out signal.
    - b. Move farther downfield than where it went out.
    - c. Walk upfield until referee spots you on sideline.
  4. Ball rolls out of bounds:
    - a. Sound whistle and give time-out signal.
    - b. Hold spot and continue to observe action.
    - c. Drop bean bag at spot if ball must be retrieved.
  5. Assist referee in covering ball on short or blocked kick:
    - a. Note if kick is touched beyond neutral zone.
    - b. Note if recovered in or behind neutral zone.

6. Routine kick:
  - a. Unless kick comes close to your side, delay your move down sideline, cover clipping and other fouls in secondary.
  - b. Move with runner if he comes to your side.
  - c. Follow to goal line if run is broken.
  - d. When ball becomes dead:
    - (1) Sound whistle, give time-out signal, and mark spot.
    - (2) Make sure of possession on fair catch.
7. If there is a foul, free official cover ball while official who had foul reports information to referee.
8. Watch referee for signal to move line-to-gain equipment.

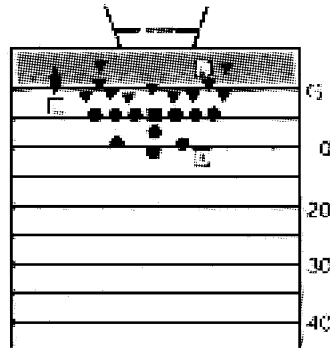
#### FIELD-GOAL OR TRY ATTEMPT

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Position: Behind kicker to cover acts in vicinity. Be able to see holder receive ball.
  - B. Count K players.
  - C. Judge whether kick goes between uprights.
  - D. Try blocked, sound whistle—field goal blocked, ball remains live.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. Position: Near goal line.
  - B. Count R players.
  - C. Determine if ball passes above crossbar.
  - D. Sound whistle when successful kick passes uprights or when it is apparently unsuccessful after breaking goal-line plane.
- III. LINESMAN
  - A. Position: Same as for pass or run.
  - B. Watch for roughing the kicker or holder.
- IV. ALL OFFICIALS
  - A. Position and duties are similar to any scrimmage kick.

#### GOAL-LINE PLAY

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Position and cover same as scrimmage play.
  - B. Do not give touchdown signal behind runner unless obvious.
  - C. Be alert for farthest point of advance of ball.
  - D. Give touchdown signal if touchdown has been signaled by another official and no foul occurred.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. Position: Near goal line and opposite linesman.
  - B. Cover same as scrimmage play.
  - C. Be alert for quick jump pass over line of scrimmage.
  - D. When runner has made quick thrust into line, be sure ball is not moved forward after it has been declared dead.

**Three Official  
Positions for Goal-Line Play**



- III. LINESMAN
  - A. Position and cover as any scrimmage play.
  - B. Place clip on chain where it intersects with goal line prior to removing it.
  - C. Remove line-to-gain equipment from sideline when line-to-gain is goal line.
  - D. During play:
    - 1. Observe action on line.
    - 2. Be ready to move quickly in end zone if forward pass is thrown.
    - 3. Mark farthest point to which the ball is advanced with extended foot or by actually placing ball.
    - 4. If you see ball in possession cross or touch goal-line plane, INSTANTLY give touchdown signal.
- IV. ALL OFFICIALS
  - A. Only an official(s) who actually observes touchdown should give signal.
  - B. Officials not observing touchdown, do not mirror signal.

**AFTER A TOUCHBACK, SAFETY, TRY OR FIELD GOAL**

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.
  - B. Count proper team players.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. Be alert for substitutions and any irregularities as to number of players.
  - B. Move to proper position.
- III. LINESMAN
  - A. Take proper position:
    - 1. Down-marker operator should retrieve ball and pass it to linesman.
    - 2. Take ball to center of field on proper yard line and place it with foremost point on center of line.
    - 3. Count proper team players and be alert for substitutions.
  - B. Hand ball to kicker if it is put in play by free kick:
    - 1. Instruct kicker to wait for referee's signal.
    - 2. Move to sideline where line-to-gain equipment is located and await referee's ready-for-play signal.

#### IV. ALL OFFICIALS

- A. Do not permit any team attendants on field following a touchback.
- B. Reminder—on free kick following safety:
  - 1. Each official assumes same relative position and has same duties as on kickoff.
  - 2. Ball may be put in play by drop kick, place kick or punt.
- C. Strive to put ball in play without delay.

### ADMINISTERING PENALTIES

#### I. REFEREE

- A. When ball is dead following a foul:
  - 1. Give time-out signal.
  - 2. Get full information from official who called foul.
  - 3. Give preliminary signal to press-box side of field only.
  - 4. Give options to captain of offended team.
  - 5. When captains most advantageous choice is obvious, quickly inform him.
  - 6. When captain does not respond, his silence shall be considered acceptance of obvious choice. Once made, it cannot be revoked.
  - 7. Make note of enforcement spot for penalty.
  - 8. After ball has been spotted, give final signal for foul to press-box side of field only.
- B. When penalty is declined:
  - 1. Go to spot of ball.
  - 2. Give foul signal followed by penalty-declined signal to press box.
- C. When there is a double foul:
  - 1. Signal each foul, facing press box.
  - 2. Follow this with penalty-declined signal.
- D. When two penalties are enforced, give proper signals following each enforcement.
- E. When penalty is to be enforced on kickoff:
  - 1. Indicate scoring signal.
  - 2. Follow with proper foul signal.
  - 3. Point to offending team.
  - 4. Point toward succeeding spot.
- F. Accepted penalty for foul by either team during the last timed down of a period, play continues with an untimed down.

#### II. UMPIRE

- A. Secure ball.
- B. Make note of enforcement spot for penalty.
- C. Proceed with measurement.
- D. On properly marked field, avoid stepping off distance between yard lines, except to the first and for the final yard line.
- E. Walk briskly, use an arm signal to point to each yard line you cross.

#### III. LINESMAN

- A. Be ready to have line-to-gain equipment moved after penalty administration.
- B. Check enforcement.
- C. Be certain of down number.

- D. Do not permit trainers, attendants or coaches to come onto field.
- E. Relay penalty information to appropriate coach.
- IV. ALL OFFICIALS
  - A. Observe live-ball foul:
    - 1. Withhold whistle.
    - 2. Drop penalty marker at proper yard line and continue to observe play, noting location of ball at time of foul.
    - 3. When ball becomes dead:
      - a. Give time-out signal.
      - b. Sound whistle.
      - c. Verbally report information to referee.
      - d. Give no visible signal.
      - e. Make mental note as to whether clock should be started on ready or on snap.
  - B. Observe dead-ball foul.
    - 1. Sound whistle, toss penalty marker into air and give time-out signal immediately.
    - 2. Follow procedures outlined under A.
  - C. See that umpire assesses penalty properly in all respects.
  - D. Calling official (umpire, linesman):
    - 1. After calling foul and ball has been declared dead:
      - a. Sound whistle and stop clock.
      - b. Get referee's attention by giving short blasts of whistle.
      - c. Make sure another official is covering spot of foul.
      - d. Verbally report information fully to referee:
        - (1) Identify foul.
        - (2) Identify offending team including jersey color and offense/defense or kicking/receiving team.
        - (3) Identify offending player's number or position.
        - (4) Indicate spot of foul, end of run or end of kick.
        - (5) Indicate status of ball when foul occurred.
  - E. Assist with locating captains.
  - F. Recover penalty markers and ball.
  - G. Enforcement:
    - 1. Stay clear of spot of foul.
    - 2. If spot is different, go to enforcement spot.
    - 3. When umpire begins enforcement, check for correctness and distance.
    - 4. Avoid visiting while penalty is assessed.
  - H. When a disqualifying foul is called:
    - 1. Official who called foul shall inform offending player and report his number and type of infraction to referee, coach and other members of officiating crew.
    - 2. Emphasize disqualification is for remainder of game.
    - 3. If there are double disqualifying fouls, referee may designate another official to assist in reporting foul to coaches.
    - 4. The official shall not place a hand on offending player, nor accompany or escort him to sideline.



5. All officials:
  - a. Record player's number and name, if known.
  - b. Observe all other players.
6. Following contest, notify state association office, if applicable.
- I. Record unsportsmanlike penalties.

#### MEASURING FOR FIRST DOWN USING TRADITIONAL RODS AND CHAIN

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Give time-out signal.
  - B. Signal linesman to bring chain onto field.
  - C. Motion players away from ball.
  - D. Place one hand on ground in vertical position at foremost point of ball.
  - E. Rotate ball so long axis is parallel to sideline.
  - F. Place one end against your hand marking foremost point.
  - G. In side zone, measure before ball is taken inbounds.
  - H. If line-to-gain not reached in side zone, use chain to accurately place ball at the inbounds spot.
  - I. If ball has gone out of bounds, measure to point where ball crossed sideline.
  - J. Inside edge of forward rod marks line-to-gain.
  - K. When measurement is completed:
    1. Signal number of next down.
    2. Spot ball at proper place.
    3. Wait for line-to-gain crew to return to position.
  - L. If new series awarded to opponent of team which was in possession when ball became dead:
    1. Place ball so that foremost point, when it became dead, becomes rear point when the direction is changed.
    2. New rear rod set with inside edge at new point of ball so that line-to-gain is 10 yards in advance of this point.
  - M. After measurement:
    1. Get ready signs from captains.
    2. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.
    3. If not out of bounds, signal clock to start with ready-for-play.
    4. If first down for Team B, start clock on snap.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. Take forward rod from chainman at place of measurement.
  - B. When linesman says "ready," tighten chain and hold forward rod near ball until referee reaches decision.
- III. LINESMAN
  - A. When a measurement is signaled by referee:
    1. Grasp chain and clip at back edge of back-yard line (don't just grasp clip since clip could detach).
    2. Instruct down-marker operator to mark front rod spot and keep same down number.
    3. Bring chain behind ball and place clipped part of chain at back edge of back-yard line.

4. Hold firmly and call "ready" to umpire to stretch chain tight.
  5. Wait for referee's decision and signal.
  6. If not first down:
    - a. While holding chain, accompany crew to sideline, reset chain in original position.
    - b. Instruct down-box operator to move indicator to next down.
  7. If new series, set inside edge of rear rod at foremost point of ball after spotted by referee. First down on marker.
- B. Mark foremost point of ball for down-box operator on all first downs.

## TIME-OUT PROCEDURE

### I. REFEREE

- A. Sound whistle:
  1. Signal time-out.
  2. If time-out is charged to a team, indicate by moving both arms three times in a horizontal motion toward that team.
- B. If officials time-out, indicate by tapping chest with both hands.
- C. Duties:
  1. Check number of time-outs remaining for each team.
  2. Check time remaining with umpire.
  3. Check down with linesman.
  4. Notify coach and captain after third time-out has been charged.
  5. Take position away from other officials. Observe Team A.
  6. Time 60-second interval. At 45 seconds, signal umpire and linesman by pointing directly at them to give their teams 15-second warning.
  7. Inform each team huddle of down and time remaining in period.
  8. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.

### II. UMPIRE

- A. Position: Maintain position over ball.
- B. Be alert for signal from referee (pointing directly toward you) to give your team 15-second warning; go to team huddle and say: "Coach, ball will be marked for ready-for-play in 15 seconds."
- C. Be alert for substitution or attempt to use substitutes for purpose of deception, and maintain proper number of players/attendants in huddle.
- D. Inform coach and captain of time-outs remaining.

### III. LINESMAN

- A. Position: Halfway between ball and your sideline.
- B. Be alert for signal from referee (pointing directly toward you) to give your team 15-second warning; go to team huddle and say: "Coach, ball will be marked ready-for-play in 15 seconds."
- C. Be alert for illegal substitution and attempts to use substitution for purposes of deception.
- D. Inform captain and coach of time-outs remaining.
- E. Make sure only three team attendants are on field.

### IV. ALL OFFICIALS

- A. Repeat time-out signal.

- B. Record time-out, number of player who called it, time on clock and period.
- C. Stand alertly erect.
- D. Do not visit with players.
- E. Restrict discussion to captain.
- F. Do not huddle in a group.

### **INJURY TIME-OUT PROCEDURE**

(Additional responsibilities beyond regular time-out.)

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Summon trainer(s) and/or coach(es) on field.
  - B. Duties:
    - 1. Determine whether injured player is or was unconscious. Inform coach that player may not return to game without written approval from a physician.
    - 2. Be ready to assist trainer(s) and/or coach(es) in securing additional medical help, if needed.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. Make sure summoned trainer(s) and/or coach(es) are not on the field for coaching purposes.

### **ENDING-OF-PERIOD PROCEDURE**

- I. REFEREE
  - A. If field clock is not used, keeps official time:
    - 1. Takes officials time-out with approximately four minutes remaining in second and fourth periods.
    - 2. Inform both captains of time remaining and have both coaches notified.
    - 3. When time expires and ball becomes dead, sound whistle and repeat time-out signal.
  - B. If field clock is used:
    - 1. When facing clock, be responsible for knowing when time expires.
    - 2. If time expires prior to snap:
      - a. Sound whistle to prevent snap, if possible.
      - b. If ball is snapped immediately after time expired, sound whistle loud and long and give time-out signal.
  - C. Following delay to ensure no foul, no obvious timing error, no request for coach-referee conference, and no other irregularity has occurred, hold ball in one hand over head to signal official end of period.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. If field clock is used, when facing clock, be responsible for notifying referee time is about to expire.
  - B. If time expires prior to snap:
    - 1. Sound whistle to prevent snap, if possible.
    - 2. If ball is snapped immediately after time expired, sound whistle loud and long, and give time-out signal.

## BETWEEN-PERIODS PROCEDURE

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Time one-minute interval same as in time-out procedure, including signaling umpire and linesman to give their teams 15-second warning.
  - B. Note and record down, distance and yard line nearest foremost point of ball.
  - C. Announce this information to other officials and confirm with them.
  - D. Measure distance from nearest yard line to foremost point of ball and estimate distance from inbounds line.
  - E. Quickly take ball to corresponding point in other half of field and reverse directions.
  - F. Spot ball and check with linesman and umpire.
  - G. At end of 60 seconds while near ball, announce down and distance.
  - H. Declare ball ready-for-play by using established procedure.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. Record down, distance and yard line.
  - B. Observe both teams as you move to corresponding spot on other end of field.
  - C. Assume responsibilities outlined for time-out including giving your team 15-second warning when directed by referee.
- III. LINESMAN
  - A. Record down, distance and yard line nearest foremost point of ball.
  - B. Confirm information with referee.
  - C. Clip chain at back edge of back-yard line.
  - D. Call down and distance to assistants.
  - E. Reverse ends of yardage chain.
  - F. Set yardage chain after referee has spotted ball.
  - G. Check number of down and distance to gain.
  - H. Assume responsibilities outlined for time-out including giving your team 15-second warning when directed by referee.
  - I. Indicate to referee you are ready by signaling number of down with your finger(s) or fist for fourth down.
- IV. ALL OFFICIALS
  - A. Limit of three team attendants are permitted on field.
  - B. One of two types of coach-player conferences may be held.

## BETWEEN-HALVES PROCEDURE

- I. REFEREE
  - A. Keep time during intermission.
  - B. Signal time to start clock to time intermission. Do not visit with anyone.
  - C. Discuss situations in dressing room or other private place.
  - D. Responsible for seeing that three minutes is placed on the clock for the mandatory warm-up period prior to start of second half after the intermission time has elapsed.
  - E. Determine which team has choice for second half.
  - F. Escort captain to center of field.

- G. Relay choices to team bench and press box with appropriate signals.
- II. UMPIRE
  - A. Escort captain to center of field.
- III. LINESMAN
  - A. Secure game ball.
  - B. During intermission, discuss with line-to-gain crew any aspects of its duties which could be improved to aid in game administration.
  - C. Observe and record option of captains.
- IV. ALL OFFICIALS
  - A. Leave field together.
  - B. Assemble in dressing room or other private place.
  - C. Discuss overtime procedure if applicable.
  - D. Return to field at least five minutes before second half is to begin.
  - E. Start second half on time.
- A. Position: Move downfield as any scrimmage kick.
  - B. Cover line of scrimmage to end line.
- IV. LINE JUDGE
  - A. Position: 5 yards behind and directly between uprights.
  - B. Rule whether kick is successful or unsuccessful.
  - C. If unsuccessful, rule on a possible touchback.
  - D. Give appropriate signal.
  - E. Responsible for your sideline and end line on runs and passes.