



WEST VIRGINIA MECHANICS – 2022

These pages dictate the commonalities with the NFHS Football Officials Manual and some add-ons that make the mechanics more efficient. **We need greater consistency across the State. Work at it.**

1. PRE-GAME MEETING WITH COACHES AND THE COINTOSS:

The Coaches Pre-game meetings shall occur between 1 1/2 to 1 1/4 hours prior to the kickoff in or near a team locker room. The coin toss shall be conducted 3 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff in the center of the field. Only 4 captains from each team shall be on the field. All other team members shall be off the field of play. Any request to send other players on the field shall be denied. Sportsmanship shall be addressed with the captains at this time. The LJ and BJ shall be at their respective hashes with a ball from the team on their side of the field. For 2nd half, take captains out for options (can take out all 4 captains or just one).

2. KICKOFF (5-man):

- a. The Referee shall take a position near the hash mark opposite the press box. Depth will vary with the ability of the kickers. Check K's formation.
- b. The Line Judge shall assist in counting the kicking team.
- c. If a kickoff goes out of bounds and has been touched by the receivers, the covering official shall go to the spot, no need in using a bean bag.
- d. BJ has kicking line, LJ has receiving line. After kick, both BJ/LJ officiate the play remaining on the sideline using the accordion effect as the L/LJ do on a regular scrimmage play.

3. SCRIMMAGE DOWN:

- a. The wings will give a hand signal for the closest wide-out near them OFF the LOS ONLY. DO NOT PUNCH ON THE LOS.
- b. The covering official on out of bounds plays will hold the out-of-bounds spot and continue to observe action from that vantage point. Wings must be aware to assist Umpires with ineligible downfield.
- c. The chain clip shall be placed in the **middle** of the yard line closest to the back stake.
- d. **6-man: New: Deep judges, start on sideline for scrimmage plays. Distance yourself 20 yards downfield from LJ & L**

4. Types of formations will determine how the referee will give the ready-for-play and take his position to cover the play.

- a) If the offense has a normal huddle the referee should always be near the line of scrimmage to help with ball exchanges. Be sure your Back Judge and Timer can see you give the ready signal and always face the line of scrimmage.
- b) If the offense is a no-huddle set, the Referee may drop back 12-15 yards to give the ready signal. (when needed). Always face the line of scrimmage.

5. SHORT FREE KICK MECHANICS (5-man):

- Kick comes to BJ/L side of the field, focus on touching of the ball by R players and First Touching by K players. LJ/U key on blocking by K players and the ball traveling 10 yards.
 - Kick comes to LJ/U side of the field, focus on touching of the ball by R players and First Touching by K players. BJ/L key on blocking by K players and the ball traveling 10 yards.
- For an unexpected Short Free Kick:**
- BJ-Team K's Free Kick Line — LJ- Team R's Free Kick Line, others in **normal** free kick positions.
 - Kick comes to BJ side of the field, BJ takes touching of the ball by R players and First Touching by K players. LJ keys on blocking by K players and on the ball traveling 10 yards.
 - Kick comes to LJ side of the field, LJ takes touching of the ball by R players and First Touching by K players. BJ keys on blocking by K players and on the ball traveling 10 yards.

6. **PUNT COVERAGE DOWN FIELD (5-man)**
 - a. The Back Judge will cover his 2/3 of the field favoring the Line Judge's side. If the Back Judge starts out behind the deepest receiver he must move forward to view the catch/no catch or muff.
 - b. The Linesman will leave when he is sure ball will be kicked and cover his 1/3 of the field. One official has the ball the other is observing action in front of and around the receiver/runner.
 - c. The Line Judge will not leave the line-of-scrimmage until the kick has crossed the line.
 - d. If the punt is short, the Back Judge may get help from the Line Judge.
7. **TRY BY KICK OR FIELD GOAL ATTEMPT (5-Man):**
 - a. Umpire goes back under the uprights with the Back Judge. NEW for 2020. U takes upright on the home team side as this is the sideline the Umpire goes up after the try for point or FG is successful. BJ has the whistle after the kick is ruled successful or no good.
 - b. Referee shall look into the holder's face, and be at least 10 yards wide and 3 yards deeper than kicker.
8. **Official's uniforms shall follow the WVSSAC Officials' Handbook regulations. Blue bean bags** and if necessary white bean bags for a PSK spot or aiding the down-marker in 1st and goal situations. **Predominately black shoes with black laces and some white accents.** If an official wears a towel it must be black with the black pants. **NO SUNGLASSES ARE TO BE WORN (unless prescription)**
9. **TIMING INTERVALS AND INTERMISSION:**
 - a. All intermissions are to be timed by the Back Judge (and perhaps the Referee).
 - b. Put 3 minutes on the clock for the mandatory warm-up period after the halftime intermission expires.
10. **INITIAL COVERAGE OF ELIGIBLES:**
Follow the mechanics illustrated in the most recent Official's Manual.
11. **PSK shall not be used in overtime periods.**
There are to be no overtime periods for JV football. Middle School may play a maximum of 2 OT if coaches agree prior to the start of the game.
12. **6-MAN MECHANICS:**
In 6-man, deep judges have outside eligibles. With trips, take two outside eligibles.

Umpire shall raise his hand when the ball becomes dead following a scrimmage down (this helps the wings on making sure ball is secured).

If there is only one flag, that official shall give the preliminary signal and report foul to the referee. If there are two flags, referee will get call and give signals.

Misc. Referees may operate either on the wide side of the formation or on the passing arm/kicking leg side for scrimmage downs (*other than kick tries*).

Be certain the chain crew has been properly instructed as to their duties and to stay alert and move out of the way when a play comes toward them.

Reminders for 2022: Referee, give penalty options to the Head Coach. Preliminary signal is optional but not recommended by R.

Reminders for 2022: Referee, announce number of offender on penalty announcement. (Ex. "Holding, offense, #74")

Reminder for 2022: We will not be doing the 2+2 anymore (Incomplete pass followed by stopping the clock signal). Officials, when an incomplete pass is thrown, covering official give incomplete pass signal. Other officials glance at game clock to make sure it has stopped.

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