



# Microphone Instructions

## USE OF THE MICROPHONE

The Referee's use of a field microphone adds a positive dimension to communication when used properly. The microphone should be used to explain penalties and unusual situations. The Referee should have control (on/off switch) of the microphone.

**When** used, the microphone should be tested prior to the start of the contest and the following guidelines should be followed.

### The Referee will:

- I. Move to an open area on the field, face the press box, and stand still.
- II. Continue to use the appropriate signals. After the penalty is accepted or declined, the Referee will give the final signal with the microphone.
- III. Do not turn on the microphone until any crew conference on a foul is concluded. The Referee will have all pertinent information before turning on microphone (e.g. whether or not the penalty will result in a first down, **if it will possibly be half the distance, etc**).
- IV. Use normal voice quality when speaking with the microphone. Shouting is not necessary.
- V. Be aware that there often is a delay between speaking and hearing over the loud speakers.
- VI. Say "dead ball" rather than "Prior to the snap."
- VII. Do not announce the colors of the teams. Say "Offense" or "Defense".
- VIII. Speak in short phrases and pause briefly between phrases.
- IX. Announce the number of the player who committed the foul while referencing the team by position on the field (e.g. Offense/Defense, Kicking Team/Receiving Team). The Referee will use team names only for unusual situations

### Example of Proper Announcement:

"Holding, Offense, Number 74. 10 Yard Penalty From The Spot Of The Foul, Replay 2<sup>nd</sup> Down"

Larry McCloy  
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