

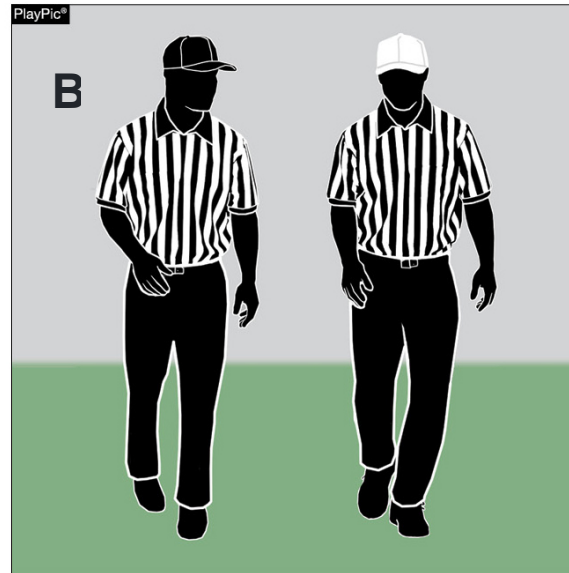
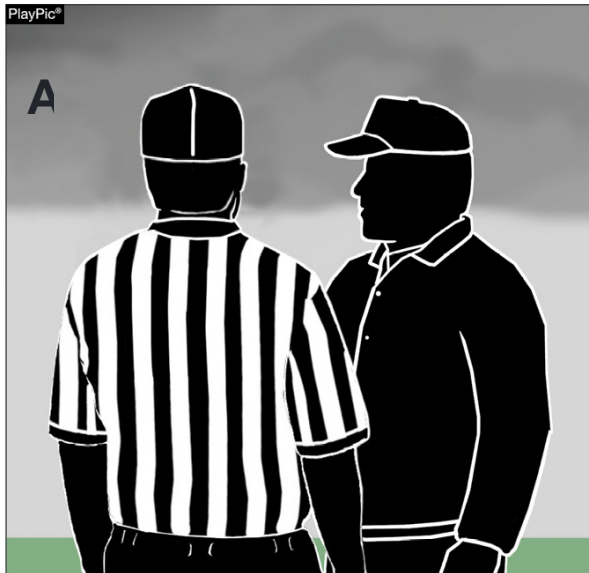


# 2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES



## DESIGNATING TEAM REPRESENTATIVE

### RULES 1-4-1, 1-4-4 (NEW), 2-32-5, 3-5-2, 10-1-1, 10-1-2, 10-2-4



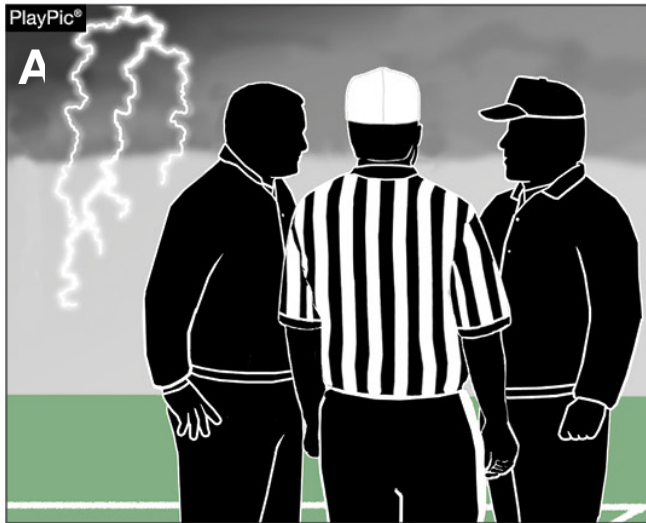
Prior to the game the head coach will notify the referee of the designated representative (coach or player) who will make decisions regarding penalty acceptance or declination (PlayPic A). When a foul occurs, the linesman or line judge will inform the referee as to the penalty decision if a coach is the decision maker (PlayPic B).



NFHS PARTNER



## HALFTIME INTERMISSION OPTION FOLLOWING WEATHER DELAY RULE 3-1-6c EXCEPTION (NEW)

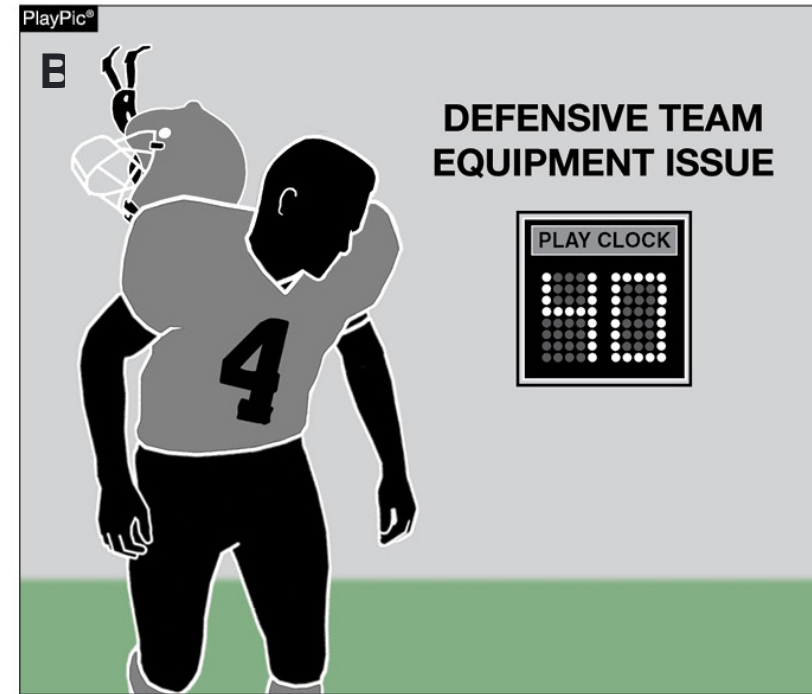


HALFTIME INTERMISSION



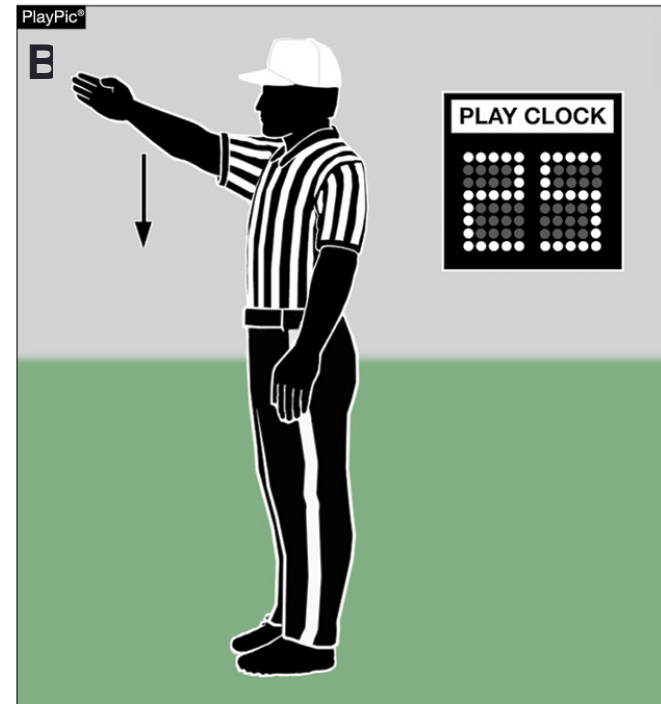
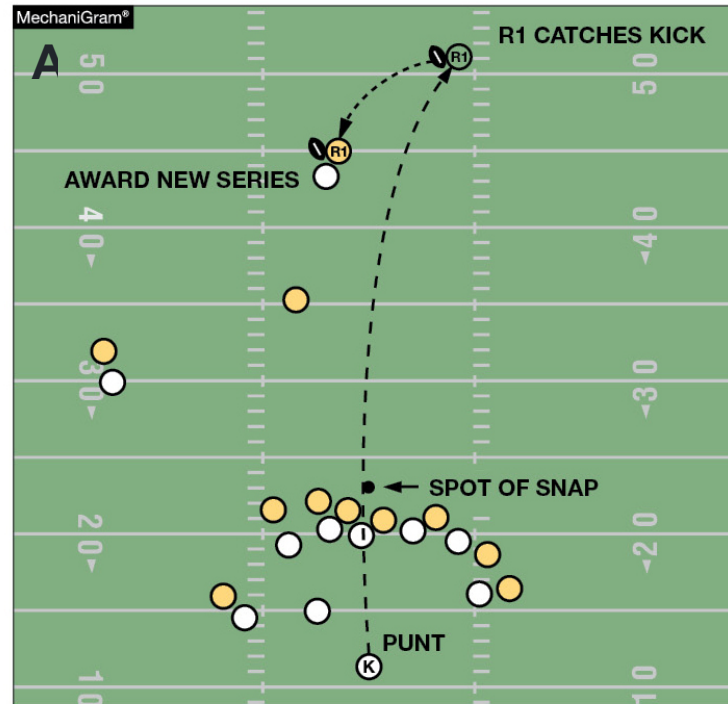
If weather causes a delay of at least 30 minutes during the last three minutes of the second period, the opposing coaches may mutually agree to shorten the halftime intermission below the 10-minute minimum (PlayPic A). The mandatory 3-minute warm-up must take place before the third period begins (PlayPic B).

# 40-SECOND PLAY CLOCK CLARIFICATION RULES 3-6-1a(1)e EXCEPTIONS 2 AND 3 (NEW)



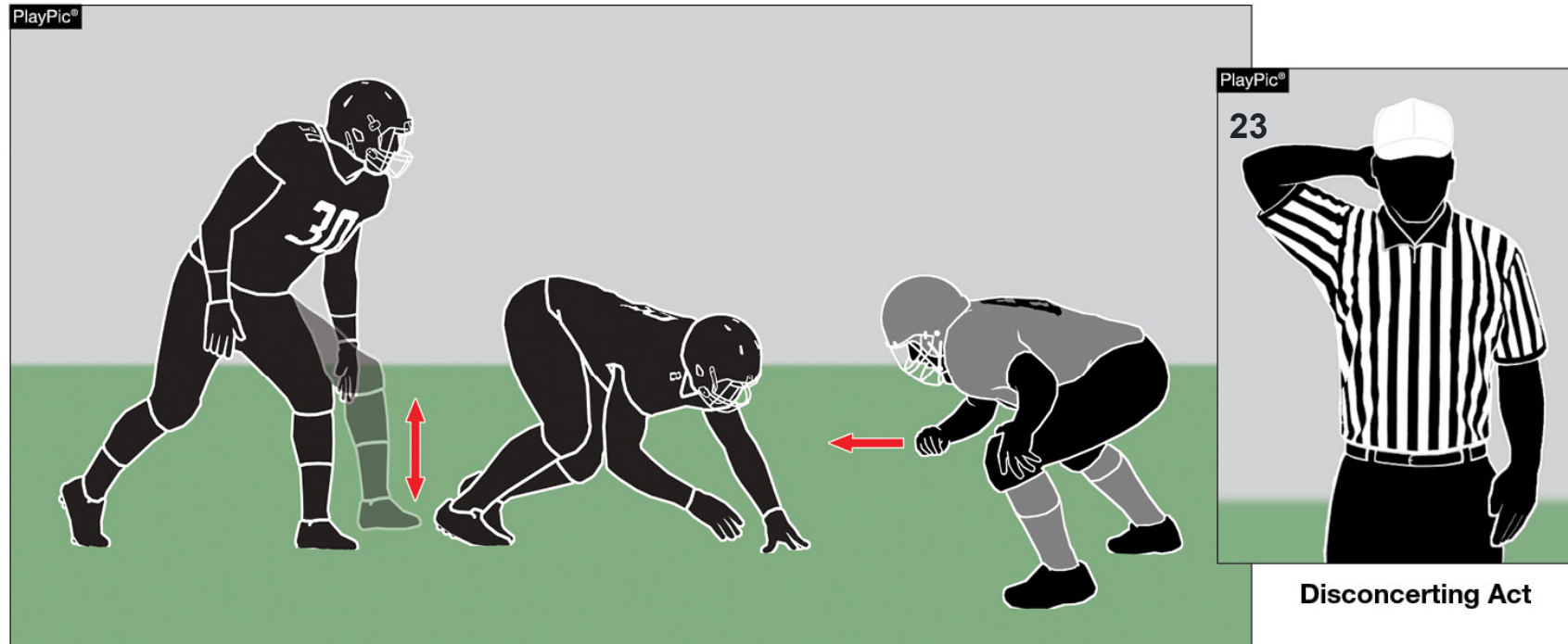
The play clock will be set to 40 seconds when an officials' time-out is initially taken for an injury to a defensive player (PlayPic A) or a defensive player has an equipment issue (PlayPic B).

# 25-SECOND PLAY CLOCK CLARIFICATION RULE 3-6-1a(1)f (NEW)



When either team is awarded a new series after a legal kick (MechaniGram A), the play clock is set to 25 seconds and starts with the ready-for-play signal (PlayPic B).

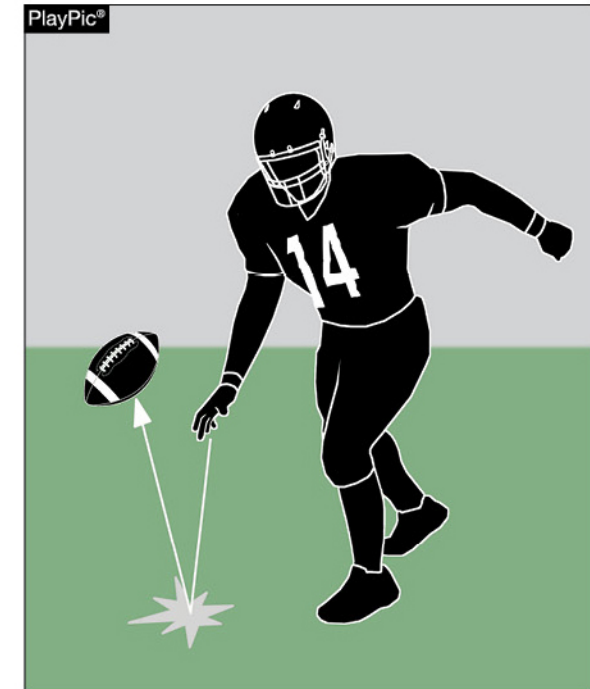
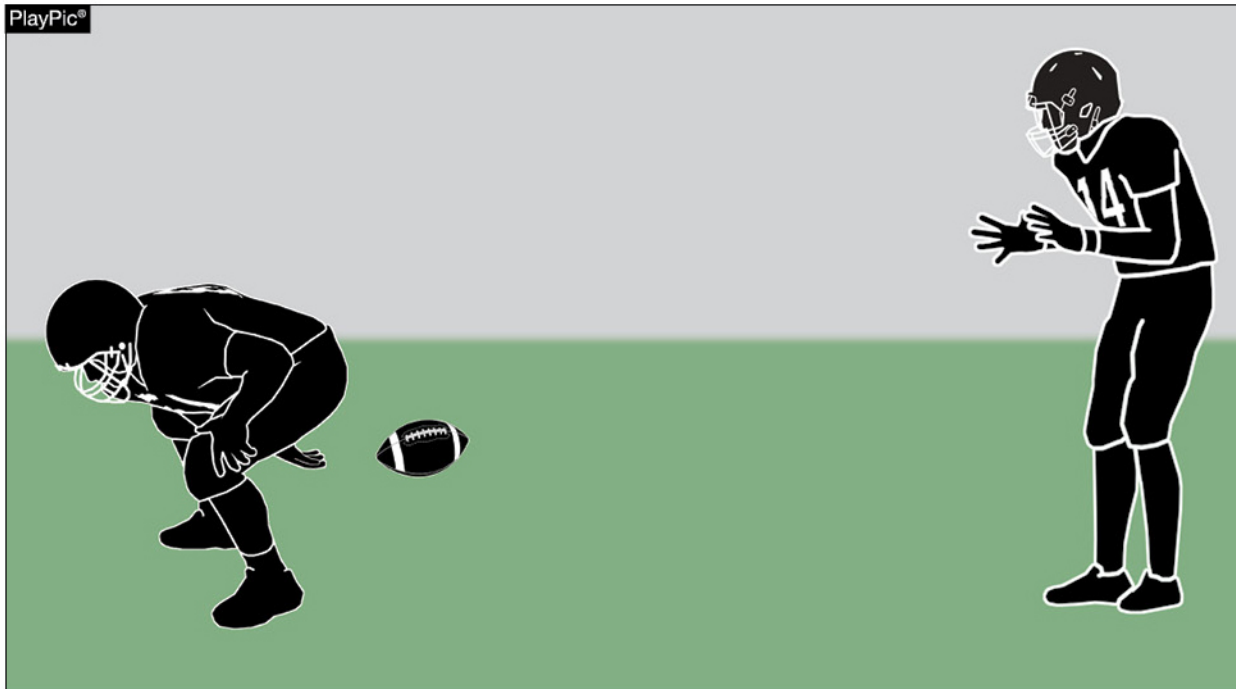
# DISCONCERTING ACT FOUL AND PENALTY RECLASSIFIED RULES 7-1-9 (NEW), 7-1-9 PENALTY (NEW)



Disconcerting acts or words by the defense has been reclassified from an unsportsmanlike foul to a disconcerting act foul, and the penalty changed from 15 yards to 5 yards. Signal 23 will be used to indicate the foul.

# SPIKING THE BALL TO CONSERVE TIME

## 7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5-2e EXCEPTION, TABLE 7-5e EXCEPTION



The exception to allow a player to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground immediately after receiving the snap has been expanded. This exception now includes snaps that are not hand-to-hand.

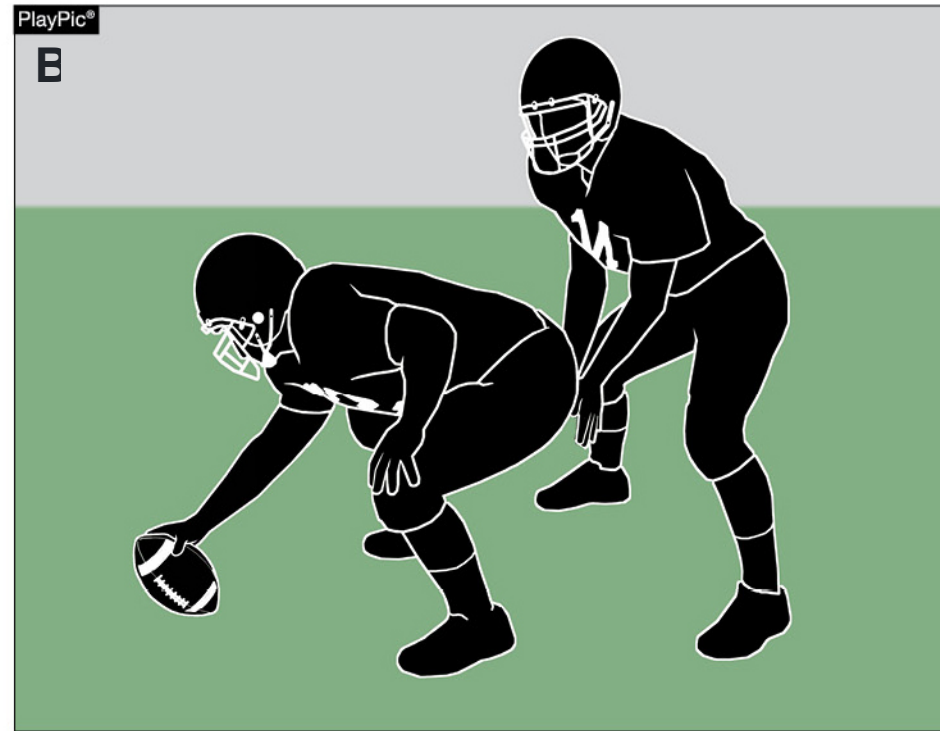


# 2020 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES





# CORRECTING PLAY CLOCK ERRORS RULE 3-4-9 (NEW)



The referee shall have the authority to correct obvious errors in timing by the play clock (PlayPic A) if discovery is prior to the snap (PlayPic B).

# 2020 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

<b>NOCSAE Warning Label</b>	Updated the language in the NOCSAE Warning Label.
<b>1-3-1d and g</b>	Added reference to “Figure 1-3-1”
<b>1-3-1i (NEW)</b>	Added a new heading for “Method of Measuring the Ball”
<b>Table 1-7</b>	Updated Table 1-7 of allowable State Association Adoptions for football.
<b>2-33-2</b>	Penalty decisions following a foul further clarified.
<b>2-41-9</b>	Further defined the spot where a run ends.
<b>3-1-6 (NEW)</b>	Added a new Article on halftime intermission that use to be in TABLE 3-1.
<b>3-1-7 (NEW)</b>	Added a new Article on three-minute warm-up period that use to be in TABLE 3-1.
<b>TABLE 3-1</b>	Added mandatory three-minute warm-up period to TABLE 3-1.
<b>3-4-8</b>	Grammar edit to the Article.
<b>7-2-5a</b>	Clarified player formation and numbering requirements.
<b>7-5-12</b>	Deleted a portion of the Article that dealt with lineman.



# 2020 NFHS FOOTBALL EDITORIAL CHANGES

<b>TABLE 7-5</b>	Clarified enforcement spots and added rules references to TABLE 7-5.
<b>8-2-4</b>	Deleted “results of the play” and added “penalty.”
<b>9-5-1d</b>	Re-lettered items under Article 1 after deleting item on disconcerting act.
<b>9-9 PENALTY</b>	Deleted a signal reference in Article 3.
<b>10-4-2 EXCEPTION</b>	Added “legal” before “free or scrimmage kick down.”
<b>10-5-1j</b>	Added “legal” before “kick.”
<b>Penalty Summary</b>	New format. Added “Disconcerting Act” foul under loss of 5-yards penalty.
<b>NFHS Official Football Signals</b>	Added New Signal 17 on play clock and revised Signal 23 for disconcerting act.
<b>Appendix H (NEW)</b>	Added a new Appendix H on “Modifications for Competition Below Ninth Grade.”
<b>Index</b>	Added Intermission, Length of Halftime to Index.

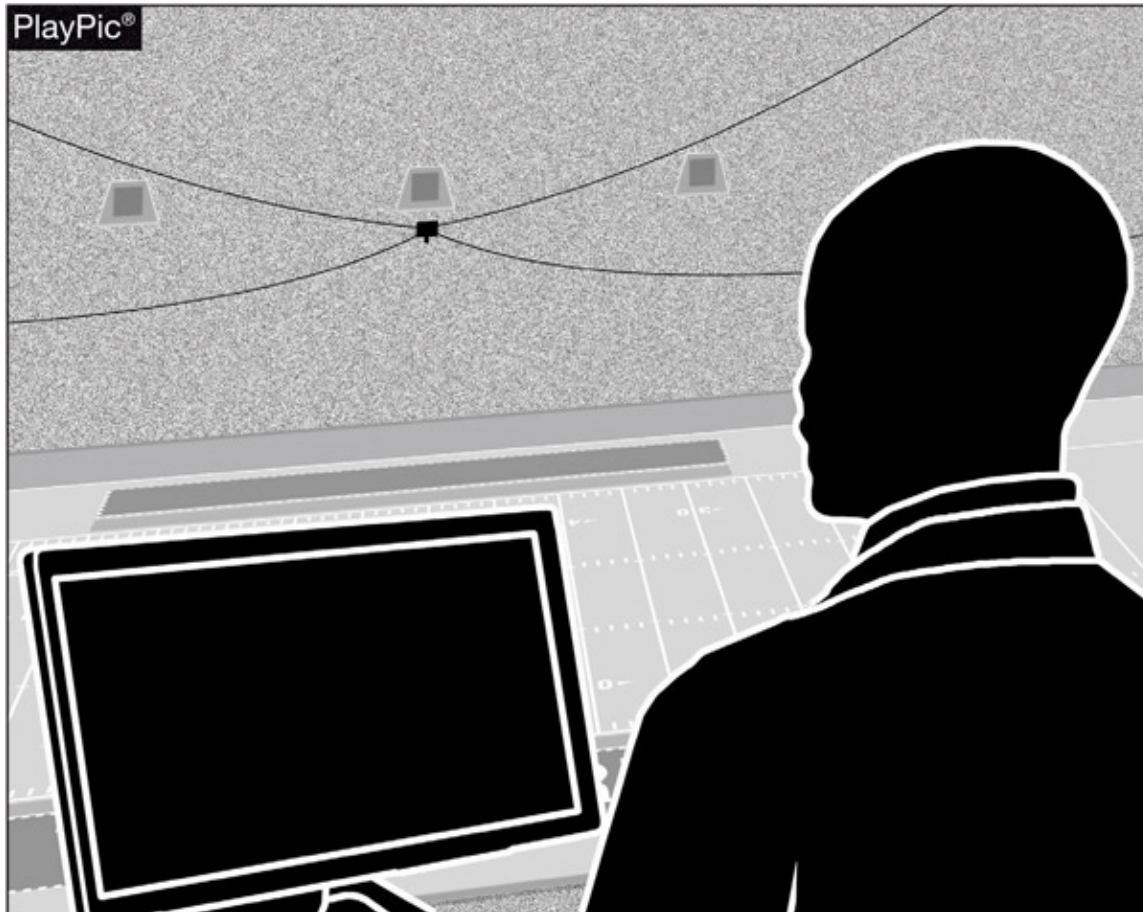




# 2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES REMINDERS



## POSTSEASON INSTANT REPLAY RULES 1-3-7 NOTE, TABLE 1-7 — 1-3-7 NOTE

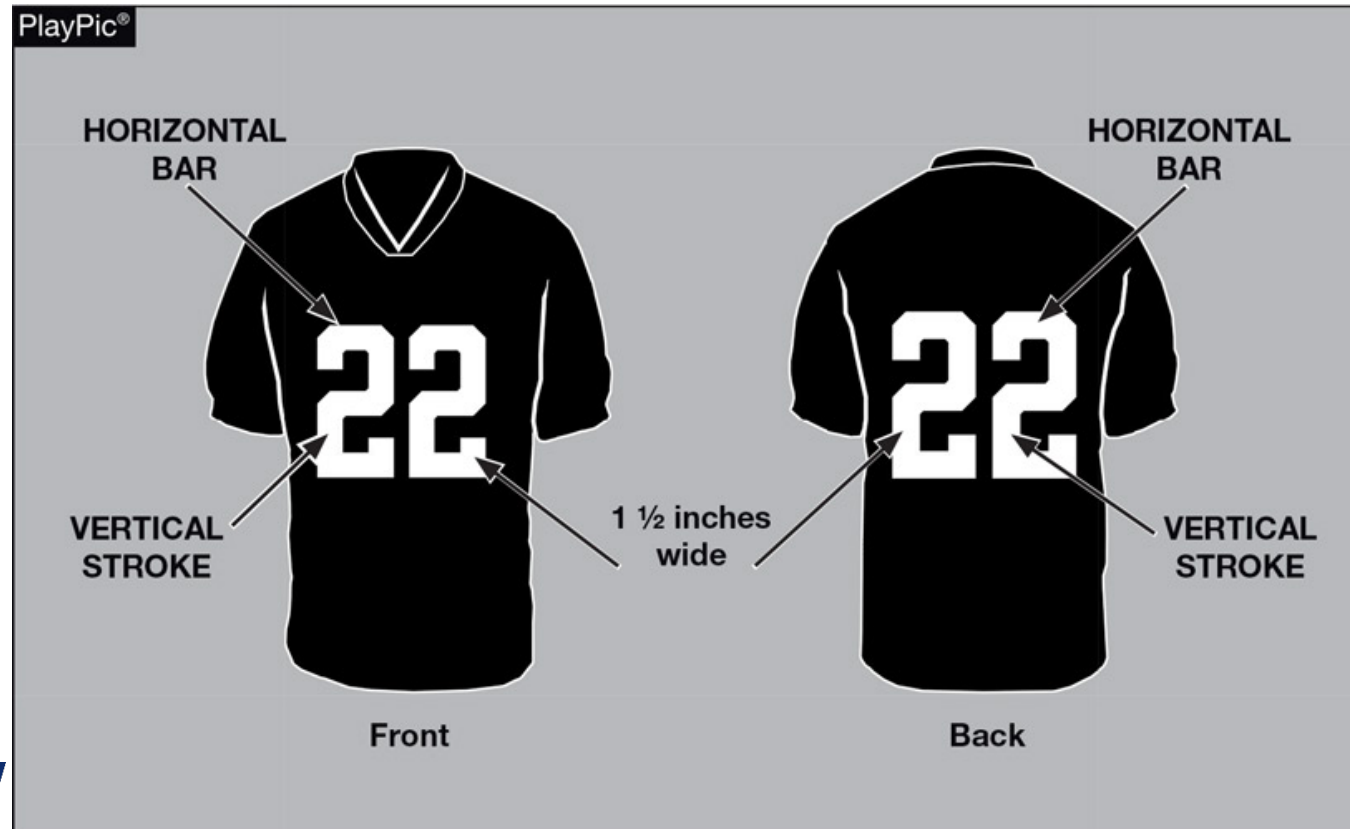


By adoption, state associations may create instant replay procedures that permit game or replay officials to use a replay monitor during state postseason contests to determine if a decision by the on-field game officials is incorrect.



# FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS

## RULE 1-5-1c



The entire body of the number (the continuous horizontal bars and vertical strokes) exclusive of any border(s) shall be approximately 1½-inches wide, and a single solid color that clearly contrasts with the body color of the jersey starting in 2024.



## FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c, 1-5-1c(6)



The style of the numbers on all three of these jerseys are legal now and will be in 2024 as well.

# FOOTBALL JERSEY NUMBERS RULES 1-5-1c, 1-5-1c(6)

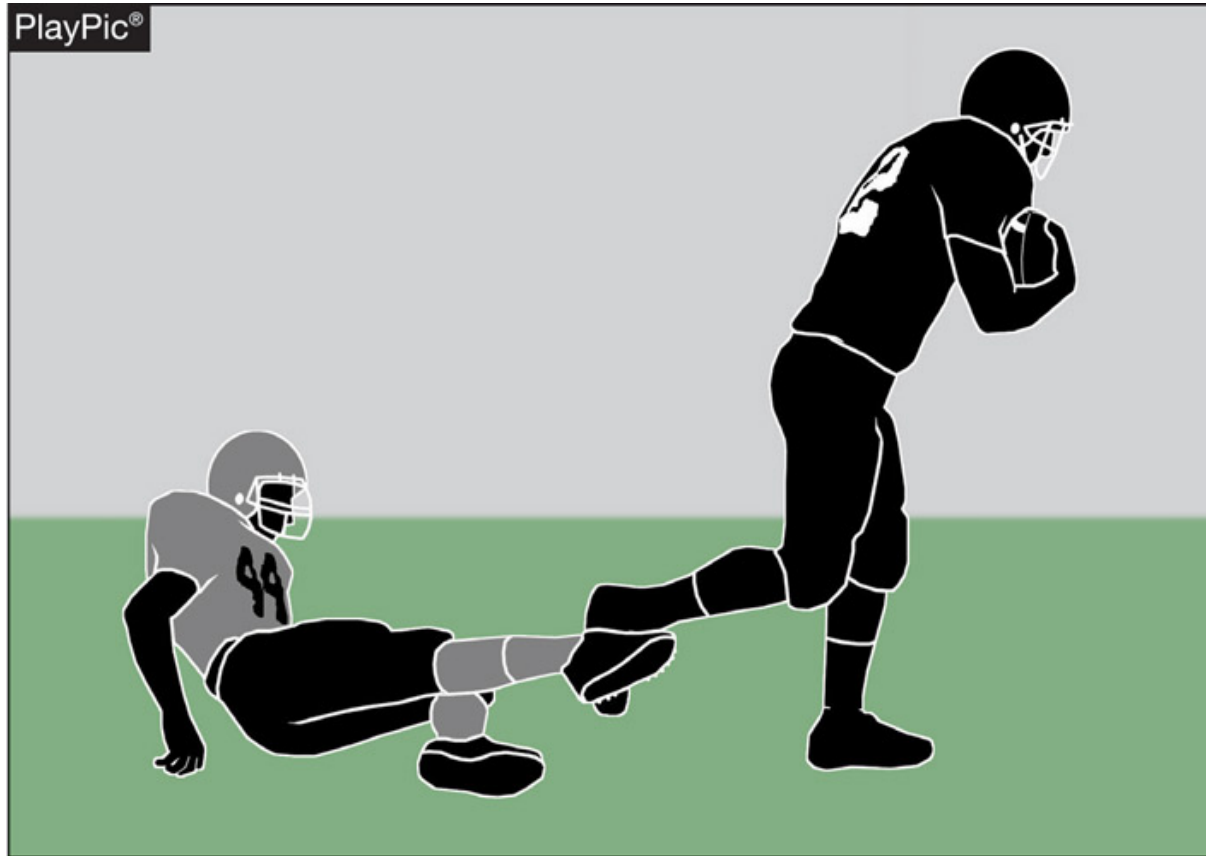


The style of the numbers on these jerseys are legal through the 2023 season. The following four types of number designs will be illegal in 2024.



# TRIPPING

## RULES 2-45, 9-4-3o, 9-4-3o PENALTY



The foul for tripping has been expanded to include the runner. It is now illegal to trip any opponent. Tripping is the intentional use of the lower leg or foot to obstruct an opponent below the knee. The penalty is 15 yards.



# 2020 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS



# 2020 NFHS FOOTBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Sportsmanship
2. Intentional Grounding
3. Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage Formation

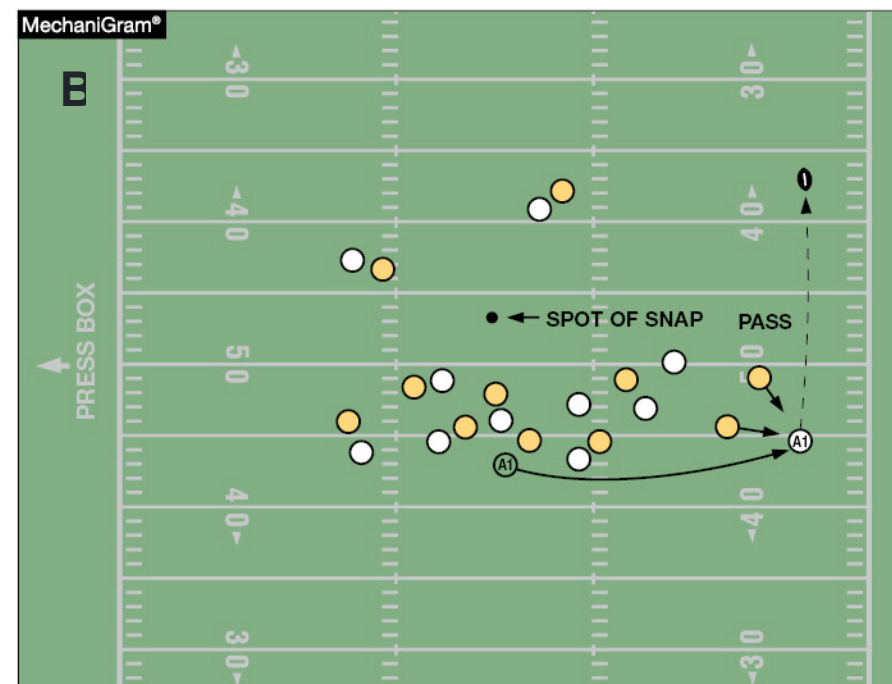
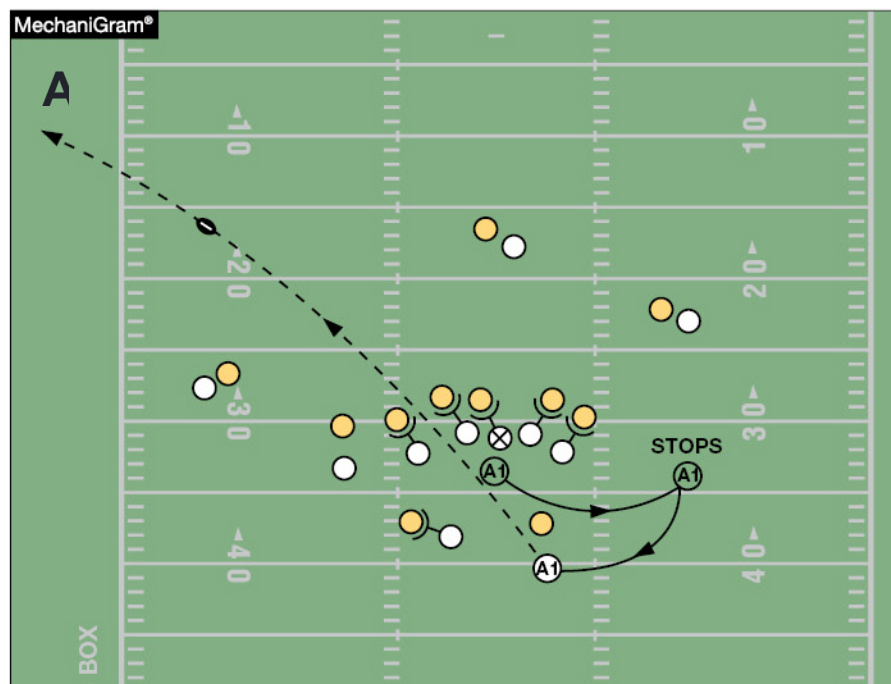


# SPORTSMANSHIP



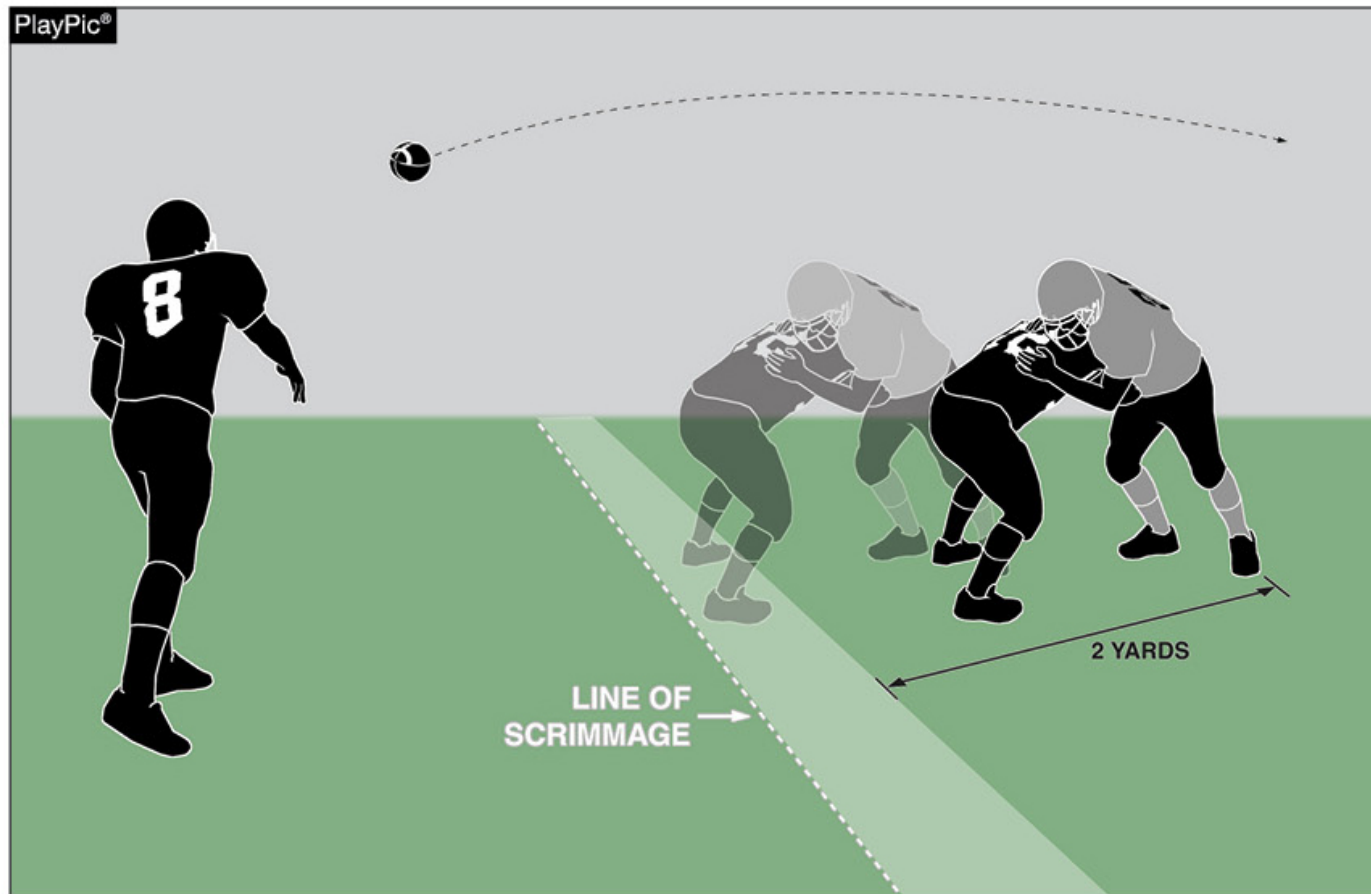
When considering sportsmanship, many may first think only of the game participants (athletes and coaches) within the timeframe of the game. Although players and coaches are the most visible in their displays of sportsmanship, proper sportsmanship also includes public address announcers (PlayPic A), bands (PlayPic B) and spectators (PlayPic C).

# INTENTIONAL GROUNDING



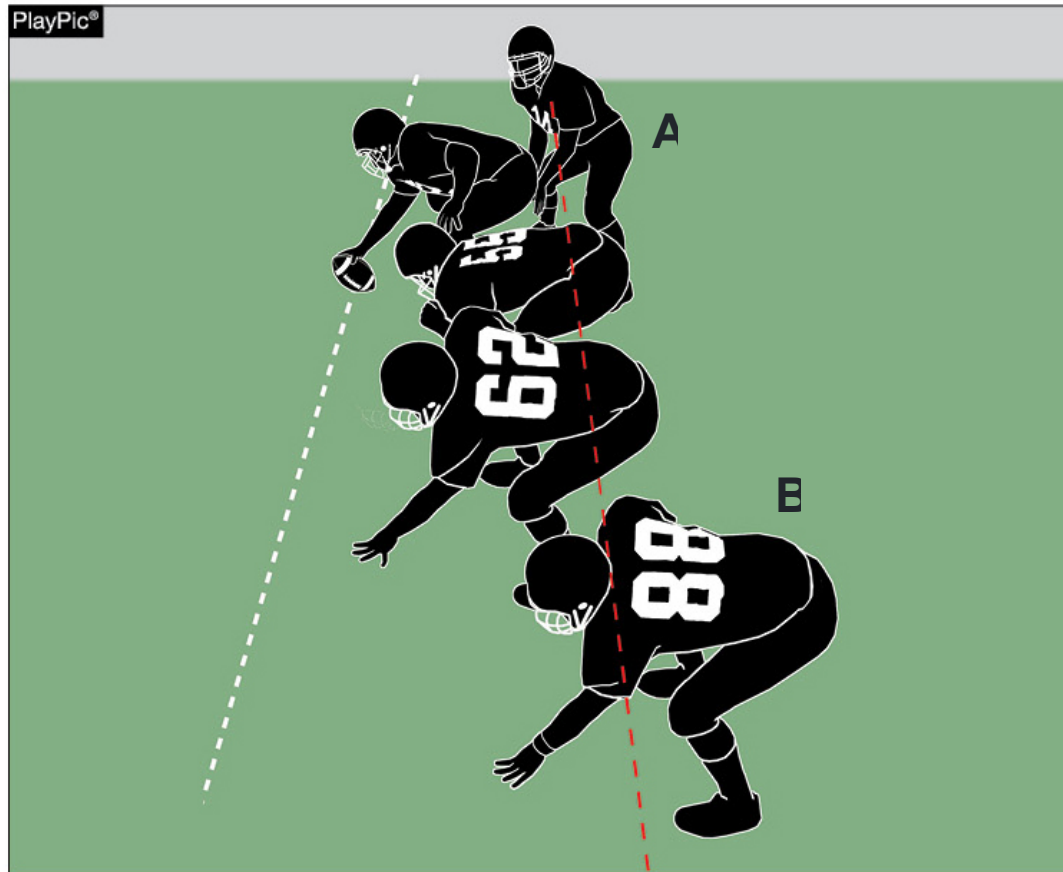
Under NFHS rules, unless using the legal exception in Rule 7-5-2e, intentional grounding is a foul whenever a forward pass is thrown to prevent a loss of yardage or to conserve time (PlayPic A) or to an area not occupied by an eligible receiver (PlayPic B). High school referees need to be aware of these situations and, with the help of the line judge and linesman, make the correct call under NFHS football rules.

## INELIGIBLE DOWNFIELD



Ineligible A players may not advance beyond the expanded neutral zone on a legal forward pass play before a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone is in flight. The neutral zone expands two yards behind the defensive line of scrimmage following the snap. When identifying A players who are illegally downfield it is important to make sure that the A player is clearly beyond the expanded neutral zone (2 yards) at the moment that the pass occurs.

## LINE OF SCRIMMAGE FORMATION



Only one player may not be on the line but still penetrate the vertical plane through the waistline of his nearest teammate who is on the line. This player (A) must be in position to receive a hand-to-hand snap, but does not have to actually receive it. By rule, he is the only player allowed to be positioned in “no man’s land” at the snap. All other players not on the line must be clearly positioned as backs. The player marked (B) is in an illegal position.



# 2020-2021 NFHS FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL







# 2020-2021 NFHS FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REMINDERS

- 2020 is a print year for the NFHS Football Game Officials Manual.
- 2020-2021 Game Officials Manual Points of Emphasis (See pages 91-93 of the 2020-2021 NFHS Football Game Officials Manual):
  1. Clock Management Communication
  2. Respectful Communication Between Coaches and Game Officials
  3. Preventing Inequities Due to Illegal Substitution and/or Illegal Formation
  4. Responsibility for Minimizing Risk in the Game





# 2020-2021 NFHS FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REMINDERS

- The Game Officials Manual Committee added and/or updated the following items for 2020-2021:
  1. Added new NFHS General Instructions for Football Game and Play Clock Operators.
  2. Changed NFHS Official Signal 23 to Disconcerting Act in the signal chart.
  3. Updated the Pregame Conference Responsibilities for the Crew.
  4. Game officials' uniforms updated.
  5. Strongly recommend that Line-to-Gain Crews be adults.
  6. The referee should have the ball marked ready for play in three to five seconds following the placement of the ball.
  7. In five-person officiating crews, the line judge will now time the game if a visible game clock is not available.





# RESET PLAY CLOCK-SIGNAL 17 (NEW) NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS



**Reset play clock to 25 seconds**  
(Use both hands to have play clock  
reset to 40 seconds.)





# 2020-21 NFHS FOOTBALL INFORMATION



# 2021 NFHS FOOTBALL RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL ONLINE FORM

Due:

**November 1, 2020**

**Must be submitted to  
your state association  
office for approval.**

