

2023 WOA Football Mechanics Supplement

The following are the changes and additions to the 2023 version of the WOA Football Mechanics Illustrated:

- ❖ Page 10 Right column, 5th Quarter item Paragraph should start with “In High School non-varsity contests. . .the regular contest.” Add new sentence at the end of the section “For Varsity contests a 5th quarter requires a waiver and must be scheduled with the assignor.”
- ❖ Page 17 Right column, Officiating Accessories Add to the first item “Each official will carry a second flag out of sight in a pocket.”
- ❖ Page 17 Right column, Officiating Accessories Revise the last sentence to read “The wing officials and Back Judge shall each have a second beanbag for marking the end of scrimmage kicks, it may be either color but all 3 officials should be using the same color.”
- ❖ Page 22 In both the Linesman and the Line Judge sections change the item regarding yard markers to read “. . .no closer than 5 yards outside the sidelines.” Ref rule 1-2-2
- ❖ Page 47 Correct the caption on signal 23 to read “Disconcerting Acts”
- ❖ Page 60 Left column, third paragraph. Delete this paragraph completely as the Umpire is no longer located in the “midst of players streaming downfield.”
- ❖ Page 102 The referee starting position for a free kick is incorrectly shown and described. First sentence of text under Referee should read “Starting position is on the side of the field on which the chains are stationed, **at the hash marks** on team R’s goal line.” The Mechanigram should be corrected accordingly.
- ❖ Page 103 Line Judge section, correct the 5th sentence to read “The Line Judge’s starting position is on the side opposite the chains, at team R’s **free kick** line.”
- ❖ Page 113 SWINGING GATE. Replace entire text with: The “Swinging Gate” is a formation generally used for a try; and it primarily affects the mechanics of the Umpire and the Referee (the wing officials and the Back Judge do not need to adjust their pre-snap positions). When the offense sets up in a swinging gate formation, the Referee takes a normal scrimmage play presnap position, the

Umpire takes a presnap position behind the defense, at the back of the end zone on the End Line from which he can officiate the line play if the ball is snapped from this formation. If the offense shifts into a scrimmage kick formation for the try, the Umpire shifts to their normal position beneath a goal post and the Referee shifts to their normal scrimmage kick position facing the holder. As they shift into these positions, the referee and Umpire can remind the defense and each other that the snapper is protected in this formation.

- ❖ Page 116 Left column, 3rd paragraph, second sentence. Delete “If required to enhance coverage on a long run to the opposite side,” The Back Judge is required to come off the sideline during a free kick play.
- ❖ Page 118 Left column, 3rd paragraph. Replace entire paragraph with:
“The Referee is the **sole** guardian and protector of the passer, kicker, and holder **with the umpire taking over this responsibility when the quarterback moves past the umpire. The referee has initial coverage responsibility on the quarterback. When the quarterback stays in the middle of the offensive formation or moves to the referee’s side of the field, the quarterback remains the referee’s responsibility. If the quarterback moves past the umpire, the umpire now assumes responsibility for the quarterback while the referee assumes responsibility for the line play.** Do not release your eyes from these players until they are out of jeopardy. DO NOT follow the ball when released by the passer — continue to focus on the passer until he is not threatened.”
- ❖ Page 118 Left column, 6th paragraph. Add to the sentence so that it reads:
“The Referee is responsible for action around the runner until he crosses the neutral zone **or until he crosses in front of the umpire when the umpire will take over coverage.**”
- ❖ Page 118 Left column, 7th paragraph. Replace the 3rd sentence with:
“If the play goes to the opposite side, **The referee shall turn over coverage to the umpire when the runner passes the umpire.**”
- ❖ Page 136-138 Line Judge should move down the sideline and not come onto the field until the ball becomes dead. Mechanigrams incorrectly show the Line Judge coming on to the field during live ball action.
- ❖ Page 152 Referee action should read “Moves toward the spot of the kick as players action allows. If kicker is no longer threatened, observes flight of the ball.”