

MECHANICS CHANGES (2024)

Training Schedule

- **August 13 - New Mechanics (2024)**
- **August 20 – Coordination of Positions**
- **August 27 – Post Game Discussion/Weekly Evaluations**
- **September 3 – Game Situations (film)**
 - Free kicks, scrimmage kicks, goal line enforcement, measurements,
 - End of quarter mechanics, etc
- **September 10 – Rules Review**
 - Intentional grounding (two years ago)
 - “Basic Spot” enforcement (last year)

Major Decisions (WOA)

- Mechanics Manual (only “on line”)
 - Can be found via WOA website
- “Observation Program” – terminated
 - Playoff officials no longer are required to pass an “observation”
 - This gives local associations control of playoff assignments through quarterfinals\
 - This does not exclude local association’s evaluation process
 - More about this on August 27

Mechanic Changes (5-Man Crews)

New Role of HL

- Traditional role of HL on scrimmage punts
 - HL remains on LOS until ball has passed the LOS
- New Role of HL on scrimmage plays (primarily passing plays)
 - HL remains on LOS on scrimmage plays
 - When ball is behind LOS, HL remains on the line
 - When ball goes beyond LOS on a running play, HL moves with the ball
 - Primary responsibility...action in and around LOS on passing plays
- Specific duties of coverage
 - Intentional grounding
 - Ineligibles downfield
 - Illegal passes thrown beyond LOS
- Reason for change
 - Loss of Umpire in the defensive backfield
 - Need for someone on the line

Scoring Plays (PATs/FGs)

- PATs/FGs inside the 10 yd line
 - BJ & Ump will determine which post to cover
 - A pre-game decision by the crew
 - Question: what if penalties take the PAT snap beyond the 10 yd line?
- FGs beyond the 10 yd line
 - LJ will always cover one goal post (along with the BJ)
 - LJ will cover the home side post
 - BJ will cover the visitor side post
 - Role of Ref & Ump
 - Ref will be responsible for “kicker/holder”
 - Ump will be responsible for snapper and interior line
 - This may cause them to switch positions

Goal Line Plays (Emphasis)

- Role of HL & LJ
 - Slow down...take your time...look to your partner across the field
 - If you determine “no TD” ...
 - Look across the field to your partner (what is he/she doing)
 - Don’t “sell the spot” until you know your partner is not signaling TD
 - If you determine “TD” ...
 - Look across the field to your partner (what is he/she doing)
 - Signal when it is clear that your partner is not making a contrary signal
- Reason
 - Loss of Ump’ presence in the middle of the field
 - Can no longer count on help from the ump.
 - (There were problems with this in a few of the “state semis & finals”)

Mechanic Changes (4-Man Crews)

Scrimmage Punts

- New positions
 - LJ...downfield covering the receiver
 - Ump...takes LJ's position on LOS (snapper & line)
 - HL...traditional role on LOS
 - Ref....HL's side of the field covering the kicker
 - Before...ref was on the LJ's side (covering the open side)
 - Now...he may/may not be on the "kicker's foot" side (as in a 5-man crew)
- Reason
 - 2 officials on the LOS
 - 2 officials on each side of the field
 - LJ & Ump on one side
 - Ref & HL on other side
- Experiment/New Mechanic
 - Our association experimented with this last year
 - It is now the "official" mechanic for 4-man mechanic punting situations

Scoring Plays

(PATs & FGs)

- Field positions (on all snaps)
 - LJ...under the goal post determining “go/no good”
 - Ump...takes LJ’s spot on LOS (snapper/interior line)
 - HL...traditional role on LOS
 - Ref...responsible for kicker/holder
- Reason
 - Consistency with role of officials on scrimmage punts
 - Consistency with roles for both 5-man & 4-man crews
 - LJ – downfield
 - HL – on LOS
 - Ump – taking LJ’s position
 - Ref – responsible for kicker/holder