

2018-19 WOA Football Mechanics Supplement

The following are the changes and additions to the 2018 version of the Football Mechanics Illustrated:

- 1. Page 36, First sentence under “Preliminary Signal and Notification:”** Should read “The Referee does not give any preliminary signal for pre-snap or line of scrimmage fouls when you are not going to consult a captain **or if the choice is obvious**”.
- 2. Page 49, right column, 3rd paragraph:** It is the Back Judge that is responsible for timing the quarter change in 5-man mechanics. In the book, it erroneously listed this as a responsibility for the Referee. Also, the Line Judge monitors the team huddle on his sideline and the Back Judge is responsible for monitoring the other team huddle during the 1-minute timeout while the Linesman is moving the chains.
- 3. Pages 65, 66, 67, 69, 71 – 78:** All of these diagrams show the Back Judge outside of the goalposts. He should always line up inside the goal posts for non-kick scrimmage plays.
- 4. Page 73, Mechanigram:** The key for the BJ should be the split end and the key for the HL should be the flanker.
- 5. Page 82, 1st paragraph, last sentence:** Incorrectly refers the reader to page 104. The correct page is 106.
- 6. Page 82, 2nd paragraph, last sentence:** Incorrectly refers the reader to page 106. The correct page is 108.
- 7. Page 89, play pic:** Change to read: During the timeout, the Referee and Back Judge remain in their positions in the offensive and defensive backfield respectively, the Umpire stands over the ball and the Linesman and Line Judge should take positions **near their team’s huddle, facing so that they can both monitor their huddle and have the Referee in sight.**
- 8. Page 117, 2nd paragraph under “Scrimmage Kicks:”** Delete the second sentence about where the Referee lines up. That is correctly covered in the Positioning chapter and does not belong here in the Coverage chapter.
- 9. Page 130, Line Judge, second sentence:** “Moves slowly towards the play” is not correct. Change to **“Moves slowly down the field”**.

- 10. Page 132, Referee, first sentence:** “Move slowly down field and observes players in front of ball carrier.” Change to “observes players behind the ball carrier.”
- 11. Page 215, left column, last paragraph, last sentence:** “He should start in the “Off” position more when the dead ball spot is on the far half of the field, ~~than he would in crews of four or five~~ because it provides a better triangle for viewing the line play.” Delete the comma and the words “than he would in crews of four or five” since 4 and 5-man mechanics do not have the Line Judge lining up on the field of play.
- 12. Page 36, Enforcing the Penalty:** Item 2b was left out. Please add the following after item a: “b. Verifies that the Line Judge is holding the enforcement yard line.”
- 13. Page 99, Back Judge:** Add the following as the first sentence after the Back Judge title: “After every score move up the sideline with the chains.”
- 14. Page 26, add item 24:** Generally, officials should not be walking between plays while doing the accordion mechanic, after long plays to get into position, during the quarter change mechanics, or after scores. Use a light jog as a minimum.
- 15. Page 26, add item 25:** If you start a play lined up on the sideline, you should not come onto the field while the ball is live. The exception is for the Back Judge during a free kick.
- 16. Page 26, add item 26:** All signals by the referee except stop clock, touchdown (given as the covering official), incomplete pass, first down, and RFP start clock (in a time sensitive situation) are given facing the press box.
- 17. Page 26, add item 27:** When the coin toss is to happen more than 5 minutes before kickoff, the Referee should advise each coach before the game. “Coin toss will be at 10:00 (or 12:00 or 15:00) on the clock and you will need to move your warmups to outside the 30-yard line for the duration of the toss.
- 18. Page 26, add item 28:** When going to your pre-snap or pre-kick position, do not turn your back on the players if at all possible.
- 19. Page 26, add item 29:** On all scoring plays, and plays that are attempted scoring kicks or 2 point conversions, after the covering official(s) rule on whether there was a score or not, the Referee shall verify that there were no penalties on the play, and then get clear of players, face the press box, and give the final signal of a score (S-5 or S-6) or failed to score (S-10).

20. Page 25, item 15: Modify to read as follows: When a scoring kick play or try is complete and the signals are given, all officials except the Referee should square out to their sideline and then go down the sideline off the field. Wing officials should stop by their team's conference and be ready to bring them out onto the field. Then they proceed to their pre-kick position. The Referee should go directly to the goal line, then go down the goal line to his pre-kick position. No official should be running down the middle of the field. Record the score and any accompanying notes once in the proper position for the ensuing free kick.

21. Page 18, add new item under "Accessories": In cold weather, officials may wear a hand warmer at their waist. The hand warmer must be black or black with a white manufacturer's logo.

22. Page 149, for the Umpire: Change to read: After the ball is kicked and crosses the line of scrimmage and both R and K linemen are moving downfield, pivot towards the action before starting slowly downfield. Observes players as they move downfield. Moves downfield with flow of players.

23. Page 28, Change the title "After the Ball is Spotted" at the bottom of the page to "Returning to Pre-Snap Position" and delete the last paragraph on the page and replace with the following two paragraphs:

Officials who have executed the accordion mechanic after a play will be in a good position to dead ball officiate the action and players in their vicinity. When all of the players in an official's area have separated and are returning to their respective huddle or sideline, the official should begin to back out and return to their pre-snap position unless they are holding the dead ball spot for the Umpire. The return to pre-snap position should be done without taking attention from the players in the center of the field. The official holding the dead ball spot should continue to hold the spot and not begin the return to pre-snap position until the Umpire has either spotted the ball or has released the official holding the spot. The release can be done verbally or by a signal that has been agreed upon during the pregame meeting. It is not necessary for all officials to return to their pre-snap positions simultaneously.

A word of caution when returning, be aware of players coming on to the field from your sideline. They are frequently still listening to their coaches and can easily collide with an official who is backing away from the center of the field

24. Page 100, Diagram: The position of the Referee is incorrect in the diagram. It should show the R in the middle of the field behind the receiver.

25. Page 102, Change first sentence for Referee: Referee: Be visible to the clock operator, in your pre-snap position wide of the huddle when marking the ball ready for play.

26. Page 119, In paragraph 3, change the sentence to read: Both officials should signal together (start signal together, end signal together) whether the kick is good or not'

27. Page 141 – MechaniGram: Add a line from the L down the goal line ending just before the first players. (Similar to the line for the LJ, but in the opposite direction.)

28. Page 117 – Missing section, add before the “Scrimmage Kicks” header:

Goal Line Plays

When the ball is snapped between team B’s 10- and five-yard lines, the Wing Officials release slowly downfield at the snap, staying ahead of the runner all the way to the goal line.

The touchdown signal is given only by an official who actually sees the ball in possession of a runner break the plane of the goal line. Mirroring the signal is dangerous; if the covering official is incorrect, the crew will find it difficult to overcome two officials making a mistake. If the covering official is correct, there is no need for a second signal.

There are very few circumstances under which the Referee or Umpire would declare a touchdown. Under most circumstances, the Wing Official will be in a much better position to rule if the ball has broken the plane of the goal line.

When team A snaps the ball at or inside its own five-yard line, the Wing Officials move quickly to the goal line and then work back to see if the runner advanced the ball beyond the goal line. If not, they cover the play and mark forward progress as usual.

29. Page 26 – add item 30: Officials should only give the touchdown signal while stopped on the goal line. However, the Back Judge may give the signal from anywhere in the end zone on pass plays.

30. Page 8 – Editorial Committee: Replace the name of Jay LaFrance with Joe Quirk, Lower Columbia.

31. Page 21 – Left Column before “additional items”: Add new bullet items:

- Remind the coach that it is the responsibility of the offense to have a game ball on the field in time for the ball to be snapped. Ball attendants should give the new ball to the nearest official. Another ball attendant can retrieve any long incomplete passes as needed.
- The 40 second clock will be used when no administrative stoppage occurs.

32. Page 21 – Right Column under Referee: Change first paragraph, second sentence to read: “He can be accompanied by the Wing Official for that sideline who can use the

opportunity to instruct the Ball Attendants as to how he would like them to work with him.

- 33. Page 21 – Right Column under Referee:** Add a new item to be the 3rd bullet item: In 3 & 4-man crews, meet with the play clock operator if there is one to go over the play clock timing rules and signals.
- 34. Page 21 – Right Column under Umpire:** Delete first sentence about instructing ball attendants.
- 35. Page 22 – Left Column under Linesman:** Add a new item as the first item to read: Instruct Ball Attendants as to how he would like them to work with him.
- 36. Page 22 – Left Column under Line Judge:** Add a new item as the first item to read: Instruct Ball Attendants as to how he would like them to work with him.
- 37. Page 24 – Item 3:** Insert a new second sentence to read: Do not spot the ball until you have verified that the wing officials are in or near their pre-snap position.
- 38. Page 24 – Item 4:** Change to read: On long plays downfield, if the covering official has the spot on the field and has the ball, the covering official can spot the ball and remain over it until the Umpire arrives. The Umpire will then remain over the ball until all officials are at or close to their pre-snap positions and then he will release to his pre-snap position which completes the "ready for play. Similarly, if the Umpire has moved down the field to obtain the ball after a long incomplete pass play, he can relay it to the Referee who can spot it and remain over it until all officials get at or close to their pre-snap positions. The Referee will then move to his pre-snap position which completes the "ready for play." If the offense is at or approaching the LOS, the referee may need to ask the QB to allow him to get into position before snapping the ball.
- 39. Page 26 – New item 30:** Referees should immediately start the play clock with the RFP signal and whistle when the administrative matter is concluded; and the crew is back in their pre-snap positions.
- 40. Page 26 – New item 31:** If neither the Stop Clock Signal (S3) nor the Incomplete Pass Signal (S10) were not given at the end of the previous play, the covering official should give the Dead Ball Signal (S7) to indicate that the 40 second play clock should be started. The 40 second play clock should also be started on the Stop Clock Signal (S3) and the Incomplete Pass Signal (S10).
- 41. Page 28 – Heading “After the Ball is Spotted”:** Change to read “Spotting the Ball”.
- 42. Page 28 – First paragraph under “Spotting the Ball”:** change to read: The crew should move back to their regular positions when the Umpire has the ball, however this should be done without turning their back to the ball or players. The Umpire or whoever is

spotting the ball should not place it on the ground until the other officials are in or near their pre-snap positions.

43. Page 29 – First paragraph, second sentence: Change to read: Umpire will leave the ball and go to his pre-snap position once the ball is spotted.

44. Page 31 – Ready for Play: Change the first sentence as follows: The RFP whistle and Signal when used, should not be given...

45. Page 31 – Reminder: Delete this entire paragraph.

46. Page 33 – Prior to How to Use the Beanbag: Add new item #8: After a long play resulting in a first down, if the chain crew is unable to be in position before the ball is spotted, the Head Linesman should use his second beanbag to mark the spot of the first down. Once the chain crew is in position, one of them can hand it back to him.

47. Page 41 – S7: Change heading to include “start 40 second play clock”.

48. Page 43 – Insert at S17: Insert the picture below with the title “Reset Play Clock” and the subtitle of “push palm towards the sky 2 times”.



49. Page 48 – Left Column, first bullet item: Change to read: Referee uses the whistle and the “ready for play signal” (signal #1) to indicate the ball is ready for play after an administrative stoppage,...

- 50. Page 51 – Right Column, under “Movement”.** Add the following sentence at the end of the paragraph: Advise the crew that after a long play, the Head Linesman will drop a beanbag to mark the line of scrimmage in the event that the chain crew is not in position. They should setup 2 yards off the field using the bean bag as a reference.
- 51. Page 57 – Right Column: last sentence:** Change to read: If team A has recovered, the covering official gives the dead ball signal to start the 40 second clock, then the Referee announces the next down and restarts the...
- 52. Page 83 – Right Column, last paragraph, first two sentences:** Change to read: The Back Judge is responsible for the play clock timing. During the 25 or 40-second count, hold your arm straight up with five seconds to go. ~~Reminder that the 5-second count may start at 20 seconds (critical), 22 seconds (noncritical), and 25 seconds (dead ball, no advantage for flag).~~
- 53. Page 84 – Left Column, second paragraph.** Change start of first sentence to read: With an on-field play clock, the Back Judge...
- 54. Page 161 – Left Column, first paragraph, fifth sentence:** change to read: The Referee keeps track of the play clock and provides a visible and verbal count for the last five seconds of the 25 or 40-second count.
- 55. Page 161 – Right Column, third line:** Change to read: team A has at least five players on the...
- 56. Page 223 – Left Column, first paragraph, second & third sentences:** Change to read: Time the 40 or 25-second count. Referee provides a visible count for the last five seconds of the 40 or 25-second play count.
- 57. Page 225 – Left Column, first paragraph:** Insert new first paragraph: Because any official may spot the ball, the spotting official should make sure that the other crew members are close to their pre-snap positions before placing the ball on the ground. If appropriate, the spotting official can tell the offense not to snap the ball until he is back in position. Once in position, he can verbally alert the offense that it is OK to snap the ball.
- 58. Page 88 – left column, last paragraph:** change last sentence to read: If they are conferring on the field, the Wing Official must make sure that they are between the 9-yard marks and that only one coach and 11 players are in the...

This document will be updated as additional corrections are made. If you find an error in the book, please notify your RTO Liaison.