

Notes – 9/16/19

Regarding the 3-minute MANDATORY warm up period after halftime:

This is not a judgment call for us as crews. If a team is not out when they are supposed to be, then they are supposed to receive a 15-yard Unsportsmanlike penalty charged to the Head Coach.

This should be included in your pre-game conversation with the coaches, and if it is, there should be no question on what is expected. It is their responsibility to have their teams back to the field.

It is not fair to the team that does what they are supposed if we don't penalize the team that doesn't.

Plus, you are putting the next crew that works that team in a tough spot if/when the same thing happens.

Remember, the halftime itself can be shortened by agreement of the coaches (it can't be less than 10 minutes by rule), but the 3-minute period cannot be and must run to zero before we begin the 2nd half.

Clock operators need to be aware of a signal from the Official's to start the 3-minute period (it must go on the scoreboard clock) and it must run to zero before we start the 3rd period.

As a board, we need to be consistent on this.

Regarding the 40/25 play clock:

We should not be blowing the ball ready for play when the 40 second clock is in effect.

We still have Referee's that are blowing the ball ready for play before every snap. This is not correct.

The only time you need to blow your whistle to make the ball ready for play is when you are starting a 25 second play clock (after any type of timeout, after a penalty, start of a new possession, before a kickoff, before a try).

All other plays will have the 40 second play clock started once the previous play ends. The ball is ready for play once it is set and the Umpire moves to his position, no whistle needed.

If you need to "pump up" the play clock to 25 (as we talked about in the last meeting), go ahead and do so, but it still does not require a whistle.

We will confuse teams if we continue to blow a whistle every time as they will think they need to wait for a whistle before they can snap, and that is not the case.

Umpires can and should provide reminders to the Referee.

Here is another video to show mechanics for the 40/25 play clock.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZJf7jXepNQ>

Note the upper portion of the video where it shows the play clock and a note on if there is or is not a ready for play whistle. Upper portion also shows game clock and what will happen with it based on the play. The only sound in the video is a whistle when the R needs to blow the ball ready for play, otherwise the video is silent.

Other Notes:

Referees – Remember, when you give your penalty signal, you need to face the press box so they are aware of what is going on. It is ok to give your signal twice, once to each side, but you shouldn't only give the signal to the side facing away from the press box

Wing Officials – when a player is OOB, he is OOB and we should stop the clock. We are already hearing that a few officials are winding the clock when a runner was clearly OOB and forward progress was not stopped in bounds.

DPI – Please re-read the email I sent on 9/13 regarding Pass Interference. We need to make sure we know that the rule only calls for ½ the distance on DPI inside the 30-yard line going in.

Intentional Grounding – Please re-read rule 7.5.2 d,e for clear understanding on what is intentional grounding.

7.5.2 D: A pass intentionally thrown into an area not occupied by an eligible offensive receiver

7.5.2 E: A pass intentionally thrown incomplete to save loss of yardage or to conserve time (with exception for throwing into the ground immediately after receiving a direct hand-to-hand snap)

Player Conduct – If you feel a player is acting in an unsporting manner, he should be penalized accordingly. If you feel you want to "help" the player, tell the HC that the player is in danger of an unsportsmanlike foul, and then the coach can decide how to handle the player. We should not be sending players to the sideline to "cool off" or "calm down".