



## Head Linesman Mechanics Test

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**KEY:** R - Referee; U - Umpire; L - Linesman; LJ - Line Judge;  
BJ - Back Judge; LOS - Line of Scrimmage; NZ - Neutral Zone;  
LTG - Line To Gain; OOB - Out of Bounds; GL - Goal Line;  
A - Offensive Player; B - Defensive Player; K - Kicking Team;  
R - Receiving Team

**True/False Directions: Place a “T” for True or an “F” for False in the space provided.**

### **Pre-Game Responsibilities**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. For varsity contests, officials should arrive at least 1 ½ hrs. before scheduled game time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A pre-game conference is optional.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The L is responsible for instruction of chain crew.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The L is responsible for providing down-marker operator with a bean bag for first-and-goal situations when the line-to-gain equipment has been removed.

### **After A Score – Prior To A Free-Kick**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The L should move up his own sideline to clear for play.

### **Free-Kicks: Kick-Offs**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. On a kickoff, the L should position himself on R’s 30 yd. line on the same side as the lineto-gain crew.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The L shares responsibility for counting R.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. On a kick out-of-bounds, untouched by R, the nearest official must throw his flag.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. On a free-kick following a safety, all officials assume same relative positions and responsibilities as they would for a free-kick after a try-for-point.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. On pooch kicks to his sideline, the U & the L must cover the catch and watch for Fair Catch and Fair Catch infractions.

### **Scrimmage Kicks: Punts**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The L must hold the LOS momentarily after the snap to know if the ball crossed the neutral zone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. There is a provision in the NFHS football rules for a player with an ineligible number to report to the Referee and become eligible
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. On a blocked punt the R remains between the numbers while the L/LJ cover the sideline. The R covers the goal line if it is threatened.

### **Scrimmage Kicks: Field Goals and PAT**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The wing (either L or LJ), who is facing the holder (R's back), gets one goal post.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The other wing (either L or LJ), who is facing the back of the holder, remains on the LOS.

### **Prior To The Snap**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Each wing official's (either L or LJ) starting position should be on the field of play.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. When an offensive player goes in motion, the flank official that the motion man starts away from will have primary responsibility for him until the snap. The opposite flank should assist if an obvious infraction occurs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Each official should be responsible for: Down, Distance, LTG, and Clock Status.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. Wing officials indicate their count by signaling: "2", "3" or "4" on their side of center.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. Wing officials are responsible for the player in motion away from you and maintain responsibility for him if he reverses direction.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Wing officials share responsibility for blocks by eligible receivers.

### **Running Plays**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. During running plays the L should stay on line of scrimmage until ball carrier crosses line of scrimmage, looking through to tackle to read run or pass.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. On quick running plays into the line, the L and LJ are to assist in marking forward progress and may mark forward progress with either foot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. On sweeps towards your sideline, the L should step back towards the offensive backfield, allow the play to pass you, then, follow the play down the side line.

## **Forward Progress**

- \_\_\_\_\_25. When the line-to-gain is the goal line, the chains shall be dropped to the ground away from the field of play with the down marker remaining in the upright position.
- \_\_\_\_\_26. When a runner's forward progress has been stopped and he is being driven backwards or sideways, a fumble may still occur if B "strips" the ball from A.
- \_\_\_\_\_27. When there is a critical LTG situation (3rd & short, 4th & short, inside the Red Zone, One Score Differential) the L and LJ will utilize Goal Line Mechanics and move to the LTG at the snap.

## **Pass Plays**

- \_\_\_\_\_28. The widest receiver on his side is always the L's primary responsibility.
- \_\_\_\_\_29. When ruling on whether a pass has gone forward or backward, the flank official to which side the ball is thrown has primary responsibility.
- \_\_\_\_\_30. When ruling on whether a pass is forward or backward, when in doubt - it is forward.
- \_\_\_\_\_31. After the snap: observe keys and read tackle to determine run or pass. Stay on line of scrimmage until ball carrier crosses line of scrimmage or until receiver(s) on your side of the field have gone at least 10-12 yards downfield.

## **Goal Line Mechanics**

- \_\_\_\_\_32. If the R/BJ has the goal line, the L/LJ are not to blow their whistles unless they have the runner OOB prior to crossing the goal line.
- \_\_\_\_\_33. If the BJ has the goal line, the L/LJ should make eye-contact with the official responsible for the goal line during pass plays near the sideline and/or end line.
- \_\_\_\_\_34. The L will remove the line-to-gain indicator from the sideline when the line-to-gain is the goal line.
- \_\_\_\_\_35. The BJ will provide the down-marker operator with a bean bag for goal-to-goal situations when the line-to-gain equipment has been removed.
- \_\_\_\_\_36. The goal line is the most important line on the playing field.

## **Penalty Administration & Enforcement**

- \_\_\_\_\_37. There are only two types of plays: loose ball plays and running plays.

- \_\_\_\_\_38. On the first sideline warning, the covering official sounds whistle, drops penalty marker, gives proper signal, and then reports infraction to referee.
- \_\_\_\_\_39. On a live ball foul, the L should drop his flag at proper yard line and continue to officiate.
- \_\_\_\_\_40. The L proceeds to the succeeding spot.

### **Overtime**

- \_\_\_\_\_41. The overtime period(s) is considered part of the 4<sup>th</sup> period.
- \_\_\_\_\_42. For overtime periods, only the down marker is used for ball position.

### **Time Out Procedure**

- \_\_\_\_\_43. Between downs, communication between players and coaches near the sideline is not an unauthorized conference.
- \_\_\_\_\_44. During a Time-Out the L must maintain proper number of players/attendants in huddle when conference is held between the inbounds lines.

### **Inadvertent Whistle**

- \_\_\_\_\_45. One of the keys to avoiding inadvertent whistles is to avoid blowing the whistle unless the ball can be actually seen in possession of a runner who is down or forward progress stopped.

### **Recommended Crew Communication Signals**

- \_\_\_\_\_46. After a FG attempt or Try, the BJ and LJ/L at the same time move one yard into the end zone in front of their upright and signal score or no score (2x) while facing the LOS.
- \_\_\_\_\_47. Touchdown signals may be given as the official is running down the field.
- \_\_\_\_\_48. Incomplete pass signals should be given after the official comes to a complete stop.
- \_\_\_\_\_49. When achieving the line-to-gain, the L/LJ should signal time-out.

### **Measurement**

- \_\_\_\_\_50. During a measurement the L grasps the line-to-gain indicator and clip at back edge of back-yard line (do not just grasp clip since clip could detach).