



Name: _____

Date: _____

Line Judge Mechanics Test

True/False

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

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 LJ is responsible for all timing situations, including 25-second count, time-outs, quarter change and the time between a score and the succeeding kickoff.
- _____ 4. The LJ has primary responsibility for instructing the ball persons.

After A Score – Prior To A Free-Kick

- _____ 5. The LJ should move up his own sideline to clear for play.

Free-Kicks: Kick-Offs

- _____ 6. The LJ positions himself on R's Free-Kick line. Prior to the kick the LJ temporarily moves to the inbounds line, then counts K players and identifies the free-kick line for the receiving team.
- _____ 7. On a kick out-of-bounds, untouched by R, the nearest official must throw his flag.
- _____ 8. 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.
- _____ 9. On a kickoff, the LJ/BJ share responsibility for knowing whether the ball is kicked into the air or directly into the ground.
- _____ 10. On a long kickoff return the BJ & LJ cover the goal line and signal TD. Prior to signaling TD the BJ and/or LJ should always check with the flank official to see if the runner has threatened the sideline.

Scrimmage Kicks: Punts

- _____ 11. On the snap, the LJ releases from the LOS and moves downfield covering his side between the NZ and the deepest receiver.

- _____ 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 punts, the LJ leaves the LOS at the snap and watches for illegal blocks beyond the LOS.
- _____ 14. 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.
- _____ 15. On punt formations, the R will line up on the LJ side of the kicker, 10 yards wider and 5 yards deeper than the kicker.

Scrimmage Kicks: Field Goals and PAT

- _____ 16. The wing (either L or LJ), who is facing the holder (R's back), gets one goal post.
- _____ 17. The other wing (either L or LJ), who is facing the back of the holder, remains on the LOS.

Prior To The Snap

- _____ 18. Each wing official's starting position should be off the field of play.
- _____ 19. 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.
- _____ 20. Each official should be responsible for: Down, Distance, LTG, and Clock Status.
- _____ 21. Wing officials indicate their count by signaling: "2", "3" or "4" on their side of center.
- _____ 22. Wing officials are responsible for the player in motion away from you and maintain responsibility for him if he reverses direction.
- _____ 23. Wing officials share responsibility for blocks by eligible receivers.

Running Plays

- _____ 24. During running plays the LJ should stay on line of scrimmage until ball carrier crosses line of scrimmage, looking through to tackle to read run or pass.
- _____ 25. Cover sideline and check for illegal offensive and defensive blocks.
- _____ 26. On sweeps towards your side line, the LJ should step back towards the offensive backfield, allow the play to pass you, then follow the play down the side line.
- _____ 27. On fumbles behind the line of scrimmage, you must bean bag the spot of the fumble.
- _____ 28. 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.

Forward Progress

- _____ 29. 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.
- _____ 30. 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.
- _____ 31. 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

- _____ 32. The U should turn and help with low passes over the middle.
- _____ 33. The widest receiver on his side is always the LJ's primary responsibility.
- _____ 34. When ruling on whether a pass has gone forward or backward, the flank official to which side the ball is thrown has primary responsibility.
- _____ 35. When ruling on whether a pass is forward or backward, when in doubt – it is forward.
- _____ 36. 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

- _____ 37. If the R/BJ has the goal line, the LJ is not to blow his whistle unless he has the runner OOB prior to crossing the goal line.
- _____ 38. If the R/BJ has the goal line, the LJ should make eye-contact with the official responsible for the goal line during pass plays near the sideline and/or end line.
- _____ 39. The LJ, on snaps inside the three yard line of the defensive team (going in), should move immediately to the goal line.

Penalty Administration & Enforcement

- _____ 40. There are only two types of plays: loose ball plays and running plays.
- _____ 41. On the first sideline warning, the covering official sounds whistle, drops penalty marker, gives proper signal, then reports infraction to referee.
- _____ 42. On a live ball foul, the LJ should drop his flag at proper yard line and continue to officiate.
- _____ 43. The LJ is primarily responsible for the enforcement spot.

Overtime

- _____ 41. The overtime period(s) is considered part of the 4th period.
- _____ 42. For overtime periods, only the down marker is used for ball position.
- _____ 43. Unused 2nd half time-outs may be carried over into an overtime period.

Time Out Procedure

- _____ 44. Between downs, communication between players and coaches near the sideline is not an unauthorized conference.
- _____ 45. During a Time-Out the LJ must maintain proper number of players/attendants in huddle when conference is held between the inbounds lines.

Inadvertent Whistle

- _____ 46. 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

- _____ 47. 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.
- _____ 48. Touchdown signals may be given as the covering official is running down the field.
- _____ 49. Incomplete pass signals should be given after the official comes to a complete stop.
- _____ 50. When achieving the line-to-gain, the LJ should signal time-out.