

# **Football Game Clock Operator Instructions**

#### **Basic Instructions**

**Length of Quarters** 

Turn off Horn (if possible)

Pregame Countdown - 30 to 60 minutes

Meet with Back Judge - 25 Minutes before Kick Off

Varsity - 12 Minutes

## **Halftime**

Start on Referee's Signal

15 Minutes (Optional 20 Minutes)

Referee may wait until teams clear field, especially if long walk to locker room

When Clock gets to 0:00 - Add 3 minutes for warmups and run automatically

# **Kickoff Rules - Starting Half & After Score or Safety**

**Start Clock** 

Covering officials Winding Signal
Ball touched legally inbounds by either
team

#### **Do NOT Start**

Kickoff into end zone/touchback
Kick out - of-bounds
If inadvertently Started - Reset to correct time

# **Scrimmage Plays - Starting with Snap**

#### **START Game Clock**

All Snaps (if not already running)

On Ready-for-Play with Ref's Wind

R's Signal - If 40 sec play is already running NO WHISTLE

Start on Snap if Ref gives
Chop on Ready-for-Play →



#### **STOP Game Clock**

Officials Signals: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

1. Stop Clock - Time Out - First Down - Out of Bounds - Penalty

2. Incomplete Pass

3. Touch Down / Field Goal

4. Safety



1. Stop Clock - Time Out



2. Stop Clock - Incomplete Pass



3. TD/FG



4. Safety

#### **General Guidelines**

Clock will re-start on R's Signal

After 1st downs, ball inbounds
Penalties when ball is inbounds
After Injuries, Measurements &
Equipment repair (if previously running)

Clock will Start on Snap

After Incomplete Passes

After ball carried or fumbled Out-of-Bounds

After Charged Team Timeouts

To begin 2nd & 4th Quarters

## **Untimed Downs Clock does not run**

Extra Points after Touchdown

Last play of quarter has replay due to penalty

#### Running Clock (35 point spread mandates use of a running clock for the remainder of the game)

Based on BOTH head coaches agreement

Key off of Referee's direction

Generally only stopped for injuries and charged team timeouts

Game officials will still use their normal signals and mechanics even though clock remains running