

PREGAME

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Sync Watches - Verify KO Time
- Injury rotation
- Loss of scoreboard or game clock
- SRI Bulletins
- MWFOA POE
- Coaches certification
- Player equipment
- Game balls
- EMS location
- Instruction for chain crew
- Instruction for ball personnel
- Instruction for clock operator
- Instruction for press box
- Field inspection
- Monitoring warmups
- Weather & misc delay protocols

COIN TOSS

- First half
- Second half
- Overtime

FREE KICKS

- Positions
- Keys
- Instruction to Teams (BJ or HL)
- Starting the clock
- Momentum into End Zone
- Touchback
- Untouched Kick OOB - 4 options
- Kick catch interference
- Fair catch - valid, invalid, illegal
- Forward handing
- Onside kick - first touching
- Free kick after a safety
- Coverage of fumbles, fumble piles ups and ensuing advances on fumble.

SCRIMMAGE GENERAL

- Positions
- Crew communication
- Count players
- Substitutions
- Formation criteria
- Eligibility of receivers
- Motion
- Dead-ball fouls
- Legality of Snap

SCRIMMAGE RUN

- Coverage of runner in backfield
- Action in front of runner
- Between tackles, sweep, pitchouts
- Clean up coverage
- Goal line short yardage/ fwd prog
- Coverage - fumbles

SCRIMMAGE PASS

- Coverage of passer - Roughing
- Passer LOS responsibility
- Ineligibles
- Coverage - Keys - Zones
- Complete/Incomplete
- OPI vs DPI - MIBT
- Interception
- Momentum into End Zone
- Ball relay after incomplete

PUNTS

- Positions
- Blocked or touched at LOS
- Kick catch interference
- Fair catch - valid, invalid, illegal
- Untouched into End Zone
- Out of bounds on the fly
- First touching
- Fakes
- Coverage of backfield
- Watch for BBW, BSB, IBB
- Coverage - fumbles

FIELD GOAL & TRY

- Positions - Coverage of posts
- Coverage of Kicker/Holder
- Swinging gate
- Running into vs roughing
- Blocked kick
- Snap over kicker/holder head
- Ball beyond/behind neutral zone
- Fakes

FOULS & ENFORCEMENT

- Reporting - Foul, #, team, location, clock status - ball status.
- Options
- Accept/Decline process with wings
- Signals
- Enforcement & 1-2-3 = 5-10-15

TIMEOUTS

- Positions
- Monitoring
- Duties
- Flow

END OF QUARTER

- 1st and 3rd
- Halftime
- End of the game

MISC

- Measurements
- Overtime
- Inadvertent whistle administration



Pregame Conference

The great importance placed on the pregame conference with officiating partners has made the concept almost cliché. Nearly everyone in officiating — camp directors, clinicians, book authors, columnists, veteran game officials — all say a pregame conference is a significant ingredient of success. They're all right: If you can talk about it before it happens on the field, you're better prepared to deal with it.

There are as many different pregame conferences as there are game officials. There is no magic formula for a “successful” pregame conference. There are a number of topics, however, that should be included:

Rules Changes/Major Differences

Cover recent rules changes, especially in the beginning of the season when the rules and interpretations may still be a bit unclear. Cover major rules differences when you work different levels of play — for example, going from high school to small college games or high school to youth ball.

Special Coverage

Discuss what to do in the event of hurry-up offense, obvious onside kick situation, etc. If the weather is threatening, discuss how the crew will handle a suspension of play due to lightning. The crew should also decide how it will handle fights or similar altercations.

Making the Call

Go over signals between game officials (receivers on or off the line, “two sticks” for a first down, etc.). Discuss which crew members are responsible for counting players and what signals will be used to indicate a team has enough, too many or too few players. Remind game officials who are sharing coverage to make eye contact and to practice good dead-ball officiating.

Reporting Fouls to the Referee

Referees should tell crew members how they want fouls reported. Should the game official identify the offending team by uniform color or by referring to them as offense and defense? Remind game officials to indicate the status of the ball at the time of the foul (loose ball, dead ball, etc.) and the result of the play (incomplete pass, scoring kick was good, etc.). Remind wing officials they are to tell the coach who committed the foul, the nature of the infraction and any special enforcement (loss of down, quarter extended for an untimed down, etc.).

Time-out Responsibilities

Who's timing the time-out? Where are the game officials positioned during the time-out? How are you going to inform the teams that the time-out is over? Who will tell the coach how many time-outs each team has remaining? Coaches should be told how many time-outs each team has left after every charged team time-out.

Bench Decorum

This is a key element, often overlooked in pregame conferences. It is especially important if the crew does not work together often. Make sure that the game officials involved have roughly the same idea about what conduct is out of line and what isn't. Remind wing officials to find the “get back” coach, the assistant who will help keep players and team personnel out of the coaching belt.

Injured Game Officials

Discuss how the crew will adjust assignments if a game official is injured or becomes too ill to work. Which game officials will move where is up to the crew, but generally a crew of four works without a line judge and a crew of five works without a back judge when a crewmate is ill or injured. When a crew is reduced to two game officials, one game official should work as the referee and the other as a head linesman.

Halftime Intermission

Are you going to let the coaches and teams leave the field before heading off yourselves? A recommended procedure is for the game officials to meet at a designated place on the field, allow the teams to leave and have the referee signal the timer to start the clock. Also, someone needs to make sure the game officials and teams are properly notified of the time on the clock so they can return in time. The game manager should let the game officials know if someone has been designated or if the game officials will be responsible.

Leaving the Field

Will the crew leave the field together or is each game official to leave on his own?

Game Expectations

If you know of some team history that may affect the game, discuss it. For example, if the two teams were involved in a fight the last time they met, you may want to talk about those ramifications on the game and the players' and coaches' attitudes.