

2. CHANGES TO MECHANICS

This edition of the *Manual of Football Officiating* has been updated to add new material and to better organise what we already had. This edition is an update on the [19th edition](#) that sets out to clarify and enhance existing mechanics and to introduce new ideas about football officiating.

Major changes or new sections are marked by a box like this. [New or modified text is marked in blue \(grey when printed in monochrome\).](#)

The changes embodied in this edition have come from a number of sources, including:

- issues discussed at international clinics and tournaments in recent years;
- annual NCAA/CFO announcements on rule interpretations and philosophies;
- the views of an international advisory group (see the foreword for a list of those involved).

2.1 - Major changes

The following is a list of the most important additions and changes:

Announce live-ball fouls before dead-ball ones	19.3.8.f
Brief punt returners on fair catch signals	8.2.10.e, 8.2.11.d
Brief QBs and kickers on play clock	8.2.6.e
C6 reaction to blocked field goals	9.8.d.4.b
C6 reaction to change in field goal formation	9.8.d.4.c
Charging timeouts for injuries	3.9.60, 6.2.6.h, 9.9.c.6.a, 10.9.c.12.a
Deep officials to read play before moving	12.2.c.4, 12.3.b.1, 12.4.b.2, 15.2.c.4, 15.3.b.1, 15.4.b.2
Details of foul to be recorded	6.11.3
F responsible for balls pre-game on 6D	8.1.7, 8.2.11.a, 8.4.3.c.iii
Give normal timing signals during a running clock session	6.5.6
Half-time procedures	20.5.1
Inadvertent whistle mechanics	6.15
Inadvertent whistle philosophies	3.8.7, 3.9.46
New points of emphasis	1.3.1, 1.3.2, 1.3.3, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6, 1.3.7, 1.3.8
New points to ponder	5.9.41, 5.9.42
New principles	5.10.16, 5.10.32, 6.1.14, 6.4.13
New when in doubt principles	3.9.56, 3.9.57, 3.9.58
Notify colleagues when pre-game duties completed	8.2.15
Noting eligible receivers on field goal attempts	9.8.d.4.a, 10.8.d.1.b, 11.8.d.2.d, 12.8.d.2, 13.8.d.1.b, 14.8.d.1, 15.8.d.1
Officials must bear scrutiny	5.2.3, 5.2.4
R and C positioning	9.2.b.2, 9.2.b.3, 9.2.b.4, 9.7.b.1
R/C/U note numbering exceptions	9.7.a.1, 9.8.a.1, 10.7.a.1, 10.8.a.1
Record result of coin toss	8.4.7.c, 8.4.14
Revised timeout mechanics	17.1.9.a, 17.1.10, 17.1.11, 17.2.3, 17.2.5
Sideline official must notify coach of time remaining	20.2.3
Starting position out of bounds	11.2.b.2, 11.5.b.1, 13.2.b.2, 13.5.b.1, 14.2.b.3, 14.5.b.1
Use radio when discussing face to face	6.4.10.a, 25.4.9

In these sections, and elsewhere, the following symbols are used to denote the reason for a change:

†	mechanic changed for better coverage
§	fill gap in existing mechanic
◊	clarification or enhancement of existing mechanic
@	change for better communication
×	previous text deleted
®	change due to rule change
λ	editorial correction/clarification or text moved

The change mark normally *follows* a change, except where there is a completely new list, in which case the change mark will be at the end of the paragraph introducing the list.

2.2 - Editorial changes

Editorial changes (those intended to clarify the presentation of particular points, fill gaps in existing guidance, improve coverage or resulting from rules changes) are listed below.

The position previously known as Linesman is now referred to as Down Judge. Changes have been marked but do not appear in this list unless something else has also changed in that item.

Chapters 3, 5 and 6 have had some of their contents reorganised.

- The "When in doubt" principles (previously in Chapter 6, "Axioms of Officiating") have moved to Chapter 3, Rules Application. This is because they form part of the way rules are interpreted.
- Chapter 5 ("General principles") has gained the remainder of the old Chapter 6, but lost those sections which were not so much principles as "General mechanics" - these are now Chapter 6. This is because we wanted to separate "principles" (what you think) from "mechanics" (what you do).

Text that has moved (but remains otherwise unchanged) is not marked as a change.

1.1.3	3.4.3.a	3.9.12	8.1.4	9.9.a.13
1.1.5	3.4.3.d	3.9.13	8.2.3	9.9.c.1
1.2.1	3.4.3.f	3.9.29	8.2.9.b	9.9.c.7.e
1.2.10	3.4.3.g	3.9.36	8.2.14.b	9.9.c.12.a.ii
1.3.9	3.4.3.h	3.9.39	8.3.3.d	9.9.c.12.b.ii
3.1.1	3.4.4	3.9.40	8.3.4.d	9.9.c.12.b.iii
3.1.7	3.4.5.a.iv	3.9.41	8.3.4.g	9.9.c.13.a
3.3.1.a	3.4.5.c	3.9.54	8.4.1	9.9.c.13.b
3.3.1.a.ii	3.4.5.e	4.1.17	8.4.3.a	9.9.d.2.b.ii
3.3.1.b.iii	3.4.6.a	5.1	8.4.3.b	9.9.d.2.b.iv
3.3.1.d	3.4.6.c	5.3.2	8.4.2	9.9.d.2.c.i
3.3.1.d.i	3.4.7	5.3.3	8.4.11.e	9.9.d.2.c.ii
3.3.1.d.iii	3.4.9.c	5.5.2.a	8.4.13	9.9.d.6
3.3.2.c	3.4.9.d	5.10.18	8.4.15	10.1.a.4
3.3.2.e	3.4.9.e	5.10.22	9.1.a.4	10.1.a.7.b
3.3.2.g	3.4.10.c	6.2.5	9.1.a.5.b	10.1.a.7.c
3.3.2.h	3.4.10.f	6.2.6.c	9.1.a.5.c	10.1.a.10
3.3.3	3.4.11.d	6.2.6.d	9.1.a.5.d	10.1.a.11
3.3.4.e	3.4.11.e	6.2.7.h	9.1.a.8	10.1.a.14.m
3.3.5	3.4.11.f	6.2.8	9.1.a.10	10.1.b.3
3.3.5.f	3.4.16.a	6.2.10	9.1.a.12	10.1.c.1
3.3.5.h	3.4.16.b	6.2.13	9.1.a.14.g	10.1.c.6
3.3.5.j	3.4.18.a	6.2.16.e	9.1.b.1.b	10.1.c.7.b
3.3.6.a	3.4.19	6.2.17	9.1.b.4.b	10.1.d.3
3.3.6.b	3.5.1.a	6.3.3	9.1.c.6.a	10.2.a.3
3.3.6.d	3.5.1.c	6.3.5	9.1.c.6.d	10.2.a.4
3.3.8.a.iv	3.5.1.d.ii	6.3.6.d	9.1.c.7	10.2.a.10.b
3.3.8.b.vi	3.5.3.c	6.4.5	9.1.c.7.b	10.2.a.10.c
3.3.8.c.ii	3.5.4.c.v	6.4.10.g	9.1.c.9.a	10.2.a.12
3.3.8.c.vi	3.5.4.c.vi	6.4.11	9.1.d.1	10.2.a.14
3.3.8.c.vii	3.5.4.d.iv	6.4.12	9.1.d.2.c	10.2.a.15
3.3.8.c.vii.2	3.5.5.d	6.5.7	9.1.d.3	10.2.c.3
3.3.9.a.iv	3.5.5.f	6.5.14	9.2.a.3	10.2.c.5
3.3.9.b.iv	3.5.7.b	6.5.14.b	9.2.a.4	10.4.a.4
3.3.9.b.v	3.5.7.c	6.5.15	9.2.a.11.b	10.4.c.5
3.3.9.b.vi	3.5.9	6.5.18	9.2.a.11.c	10.6.a.4
3.3.10.c	3.5.11	6.6.5.a	9.2.a.13	10.7.a.2.a
3.3.10.d	3.7.2	6.7.3	9.2.a.14	10.8.a.2.a
3.3.10.e	3.8.1.c	6.7.5	9.5.b.1.a	10.8.a.2.c
3.3.12.e	3.8.2.b	6.7.6.b	9.6.a.4	10.8.c.4
3.3.13.a	3.8.3	6.7.7	9.6.b.3	10.9.a.11
3.3.14.a	3.8.4	6.7.8.b	9.7.b.2	10.9.c.1
3.3.14.c.ii	3.8.4.a.ii	6.7.8.d	9.8.b.1	10.9.c.15
3.3.14.c.ii.1	3.8.5.b	6.10.3	9.8.b.1.a	10.9.d.2.b
3.3.15.a	3.8.5.e	6.10.6	9.8.b.1.b	10.9.d.2.c
3.3.17.a	3.8.5.e.i	6.11.1	9.8.b.1.c	10.9.d.8
3.3.17.c	3.8.5.e.ii	6.12.2.a	9.8.c.1	11.1.a.4
3.3.17.d	3.8.6.c	6.12.2.b	9.8.c.2	11.1.a.5.b
3.3.17.e	3.8.6.f	6.12.4	9.8.c.2.a.ii	11.1.a.5.d
3.3.18.a	3.8.7.e	6.13.3	9.8.c.2.b.iii	11.1.a.9
3.4.1.d	3.9.8	6.14.4.j	9.8.d.1.a	11.1.a.10
3.4.1.e	3.9.9	8.1.1	9.8.d.1.c	11.1.a.13.i
3.4.1.f	3.9.10	8.1.2	9.8.d.4.b.ii.2	11.1.b.2
3.4.3	3.9.11	8.1.3	9.8.d.5	11.1.b.3.a

11.1.b.3.b	12.9.c.3.c	14.8.d.2.b.ii	19.3.2.a
11.1.c.5.a	12.9.c.4	14.9.b.1	19.3.3.f
11.1.c.5.d	13.1.a.3	14.9.b.2	19.3.3.h.iv
11.1.c.6	13.1.a.4.b	14.9.b.3	19.3.5.c
11.1.d.1	13.1.a.4.c	14.9.b.7	19.3.8.a
11.1.d.2	13.1.a.8	14.9.b.9.a	19.3.8.g
11.2.a.3	13.1.a.9	14.9.b.9.e	19.3.8.h.ii
11.2.a.4	13.1.a.13.h	14.9.b.13.b	19.3.8.h.iv
11.2.a.16	13.1.b.1	14.9.c.2.c	19.3.8.i
11.2.a.17	13.1.b.2	14.9.c.3	19.3.9
11.2.a.19	13.1.c.5	15.1.a.3	20.1.7
11.2.c.3	13.1.c.9	15.1.a.4.b	20.2.1
11.2.d.4	13.1.d.1	15.1.a.4.c	20.3.1
11.2.d.6	13.1.d.2	15.1.a.4.d	20.3.2
11.3.a.5	13.2.a.2	15.1.a.9	20.3.4
11.3.b.3.e.iii	13.2.a.3	15.1.a.10.j	20.3.6
11.4.a.4.f	13.2.a.16	15.1.c.4	20.5.5.a
11.4.a.5	13.2.a.17	15.1.d.2	20.6.5
11.4.a.6	13.2.a.19	15.1.d.3	20.7.1
11.4.b.2	13.2.c.3	15.2.a.7	20.7.2
11.4.b.7	13.2.d.4	15.2.b.4	20.7.3.c.v.3
11.4.b.12	13.3.a.5	15.4.b.10	21.2.1.c
11.5.c.6	13.3.b.3.e.iii	15.5.a.1	21.2.1.j
11.5.c.8	13.4.a.3.f	15.5.c.3	22.1.10
11.5.d.2	13.4.a.6	15.6.a.4	22.1.12.b
11.5.d.5	13.4.b.2	15.7.b.5	22.1.12.d
11.6.a.5	13.4.b.7	15.7.c.3.f	22.1.12.e
11.7.b.5	13.4.b.12	15.7.d.3.b	22.1.13
11.7.c.7.g	13.5.c.6	15.8.b.1	22.1.16
11.7.d.2.b	13.5.c.8	15.8.c.3	22.1.17.c
11.7.d.2.e	13.5.d.3	15.8.d.2.b.ii	22.1.17.f
11.8.a.3.h	13.5.d.7	15.9.b.1	22.1.17.g
11.8.b.2	13.6.a.5	15.9.b.2	22.1.18
11.8.c.1.c	13.7.b.2	15.9.b.3	22.2.1
11.8.d.2.f	13.7.b.4	15.9.b.7	22.2.3
11.9.c.1	13.7.d.1.b	15.9.b.10	22.2.4
11.9.c.2	13.7.d.1.e	15.9.c.2	22.3.9
11.9.c.3	13.8.b.2	15.9.c.3.c	23.2.2
11.9.c.8	13.8.d.1.d	15.9.c.4	24.2.1.a
11.9.c.11.a	13.9.c.1	16.1.1	24.2.2
11.9.c.11.e	13.9.c.2	16.1.2.c	24.2.8
11.9.d.2.c	13.9.c.3	16.2.4	24.3.5
11.9.d.3	13.9.c.8	17.1.8	24.4.6
12.1.a.3	13.9.c.11.a	17.1.9.b	24.5.6
12.1.a.4.b	13.9.c.11.e	17.1.9.b.ii	24.5.7
12.1.a.4.c	13.9.d.2.c	17.1.9.e	24.5.10
12.1.a.4.d	13.9.d.3	17.2.4	24.5.13.b
12.1.a.8	14.1.a.3	17.2.7	24.5.13.c
12.1.a.9	14.1.a.4.b	17.2.8.a	24.5.14
12.1.a.10.j	14.1.a.4.c	18.3	24.6.3.b
12.1.d.2	14.1.a.4.d	18.10	24.6.4.a
12.2.a.7	14.1.a.9	18.13	24.7.3
12.2.d.4	14.1.a.12.j	18.16	24.7.3.e
12.4.b.10	14.1.b.5.a	19.1.b.2.a	24.8.1.b
12.5.c.3	14.1.c.5	19.1.b.4.c	24.8.3.b
12.6.a.4	14.1.d.3	19.1.b.7	25.1.1
12.7.b.5	14.2.a.8	19.1.b.7.b	25.1.3
12.7.c.3.f	14.4.b.10	19.1.b.11.f	25.1.6
12.7.d.2.b	14.4.b.14	19.1.b.12	25.3.6
12.8.b.1	14.5.b.15	19.1.c.2	25.4.8.c
12.8.c.3	14.5.c.4	19.2.a.4	26
12.8.d.3.b.i	14.6.a.5	19.2.b.2	26.2.J
12.9.b.1	14.7.b.1.a	19.3.1.a	27
12.9.b.2	14.7.b.6	19.3.1.c	
12.9.b.3	14.7.c.3.g	19.3.1.d	
12.9.b.7	14.7.d.3.b	19.3.1.d.ii	
12.9.b.10	14.8.a.2.a.ii	19.3.1.e	
12.9.c.2	14.8.c.1.c	19.3.1.e.i	