

2023-24 Mechanics Changes

NJFOA State Clinic

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**New Jersey Football
Officials Association**

Summary of Changes

The following revisions have been approved for the 2023 and 2024 seasons:

Redefined mechanics to be used for the coin toss

Referee and Umpire will be at midfield prior to captains being escorted by Field Judge and Side Judge to midfield.

Clarified Referee's role in penalty enforcement, specifically regarding announcing of penalties

Referee will announce penalties, offending team (including offender's number), yardage assessed and number of next down. He will do this regardless of whether miked through the PA system or not.

Revised and simplified mechanics to be used by deep wing officials on punt plays

Revised positioning and pre-kick coverage of deep wings to provide consistency and reduce confusion.

Clarified that both wing officials should participate in pre-game instructions to chain crew

Added to ensure that chain crew has been introduced to both officials (L and H) who will be guiding their actions during the game.

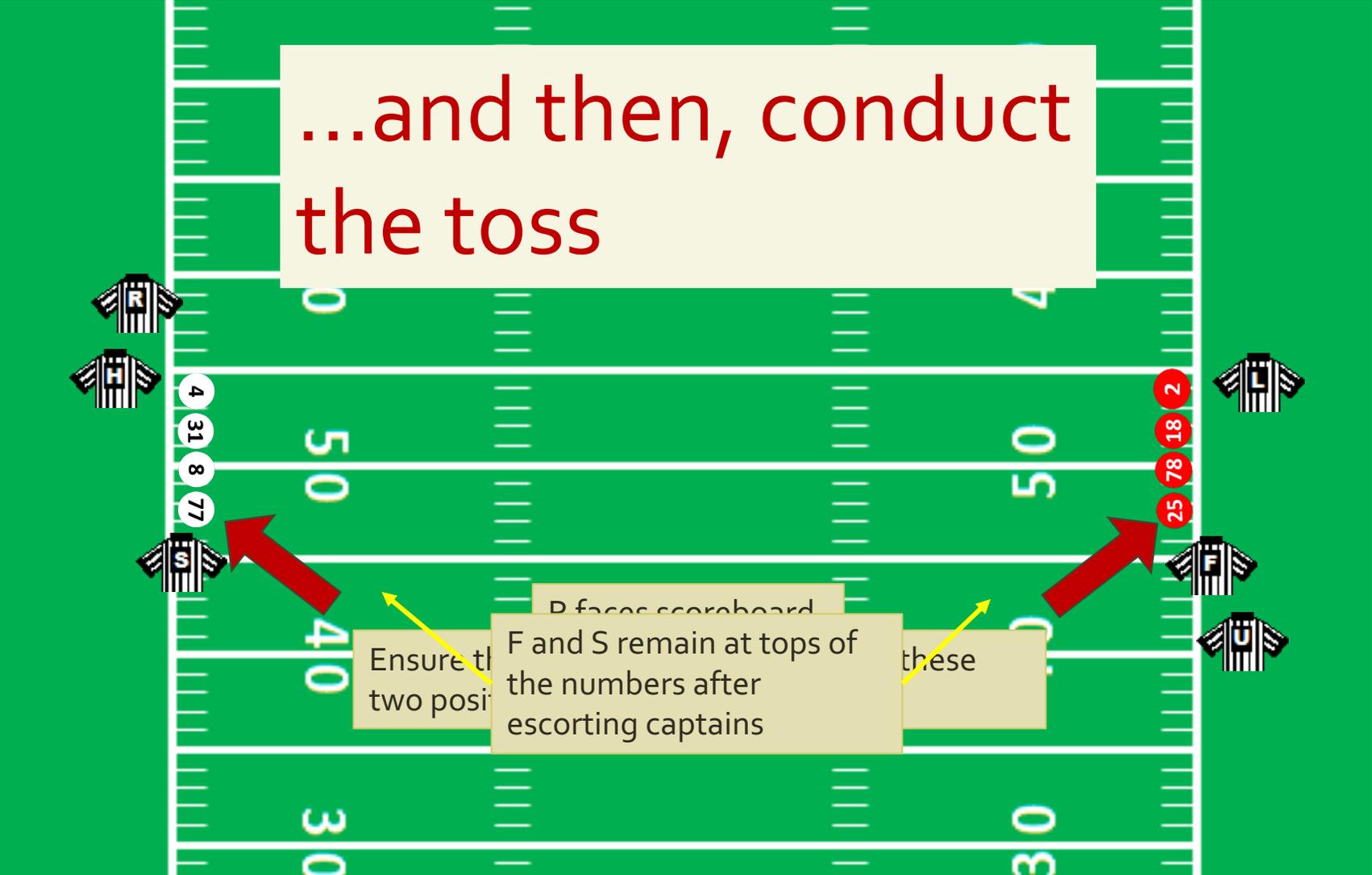
Coin Toss

pp. 14-15



Coin Toss

Press Box



Conducting the toss (Part 1)

- MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR COIN BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE LOCKER ROOM!!
- Welcome both teams. Ask captains to introduce themselves to opponents. Keep the rest short...nobody's listening to your pre-toss speech.
- Especially if using a commemorative or special coin, ensure that both 'speaking' captains are made aware of which side is heads and which is tails.
- Invite the visiting captain to select heads/tails PRIOR to tossing the coin. No more "call it in the air." Referee should confirm choice verbally before tossing: "*Sayreville chooses tails*"
- After pausing a beat to ensure everyone's on-board, toss the coin straight up, at least a foot or two above your head.
- Recommend strongly letting the coin fall to the turf. The ground can't drop the coin

Conducting the toss (Part 2)

Understand that EVERYONE watching wants to know who's doing what as soon as possible during the process and this guides how the referee should conduct the toss

- Multiple decision points during the toss

1. Who won the toss? **IMMEDIATELY** let sidelines and press box know

2. Does the winner want to choose to **not** or defer till second half?

If "Defer," IMMEDIATELY let sidelines and press box know

3. Does the team with the first half choice wish to receive, kick, or defend a goal? (99% will choose to receive)

4. What does his opponent choose (Again 99% which goal to defend)?

- After point #3 and #4 decisions are made, the referee asks each

set of captains to put their backs toward the goal they will defend.

Via short midfield meeting or via 0-2-0, each official records the results of the toss and makes special note

He will then go **ONLY** to the captains who made the first half choice tap the nearest captain and give the appropriate signal

of which team gets the second half choice (receive, kick, defend) to the press box

- Release the captains to their sidelines

Referee Announcements

p. 53

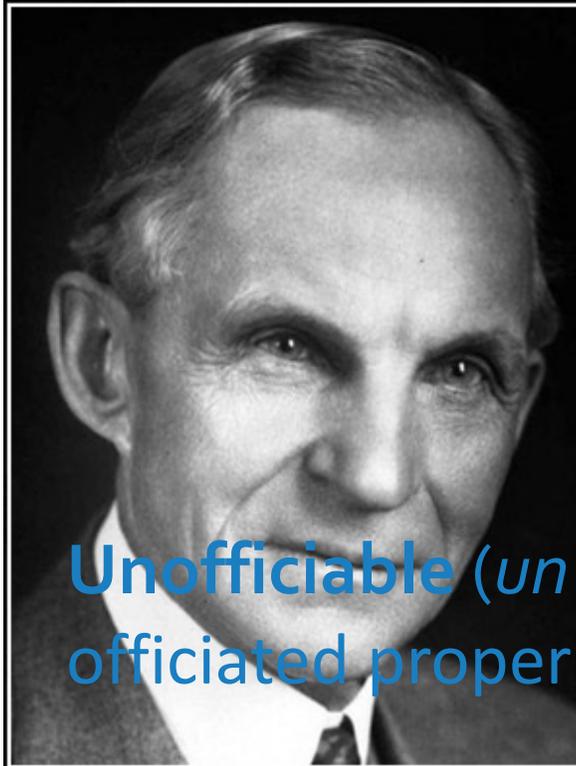


Referee's Announcements

- NFHS Mechanics manuals have included the addition of the **offending player's number** to the other information provided by the referee when announcing a penalty.
- Do NOT announce the number of a disqualified player. Just say "The offending player has been disqualified."
- Announce the penalties out loud EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT MIKED. This will get you used to doing so for that inevitable game where you are miked.

Deep Wing Positioning on Punts

p. 36



The only real mistake is the one
from which we learn nothing.

— Henry Ford —

Unofficial (*un ə fish' ē ə bul*), adj., not able to be officiated properly or consistently

HL and LJ Instruct Chain Crew

p. 36



Credit: Jason Ivester

Mechanics Points of Emphasis

The following Points of Emphasis are proposed to all training officials for the 2023 and 2024 seasons:

Sideline management and enforcement of the restricted area goal line to goal line

Not just the team box, but especially near goal lines. Keep people back behind the restraining lines

Mechanics on plays close to goal lines.

Wings to GL at snap. Stay until ball is dead. Be prepared to stay with keys as plays will develop quickly

Mechanics on punt plays

pp. 35-37. Concentrate on details of coverage

Efficient penalty administration – game flow emphasis

Clear communication between calling official(s) and referee. Every official has a role (pp.52-54).

"Thanks!"



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