

2018 WOA Football Mechanics Supplement

The following are the changes and additions to the 2018 version of the Football Mechanics Illustrated:

1. **Page 36, First sentence under “Preliminary Signal and Notification:”** Should read “The Referee does not give any preliminary signal for pre-snap or line of scrimmage fouls when you are not going to consult a captain **or if the choice is obvious**”.
2. **Page 49, right column, 3rd paragraph:** It is the Back Judge that is responsible for timing the quarter change in 5-man mechanics. In the book, it erroneously listed this as a responsibility for the Referee. Also, the Line Judge monitors the team huddle on his sideline and the Back Judge is responsible for monitoring the other team huddle during the 1-minute timeout while the Linesman is moving the chains.
3. **Pages 65, 66, 67, 69, 71 – 78:** All of these diagrams show the Back Judge outside of the goalposts. He should always line up inside the goal posts for non-kick scrimmage plays.
4. **Page 73, Mechanigram:** The key for the BJ should be the split end and the key for the HL should be the flanker.
5. **Page 82, 1st paragraph, last sentence:** Incorrectly refers the reader to page 104. The correct page is 106.
6. **Page 82, 2nd paragraph, last sentence:** Incorrectly refers the reader to page 106. The correct page is 108.
7. **Page 89, play pic:** Change to read: During the timeout, the Referee and Back Judge remain in their positions in the offensive and defensive backfield respectively, the Umpire stands over the ball and the Linesman and Line Judge should take positions **near their team’s huddle, facing so that they can both monitor their huddle and have the Referee in sight.**
8. **Page 117, 2nd paragraph under “Scrimmage Kicks:”** Delete the second sentence about where the Referee lines up. That is correctly covered in the Positioning chapter and does not belong here in the Coverage chapter.
9. **Page 130, Line Judge, second sentence:** “Moves slowly towards the play” is not correct. Change to **“Moves slowly down the field”**.

10. Page 132, Referee, first sentence: “Move slowly down field and observes players in front of ball carrier.” Change to “observes players behind the ball carrier.”

11. Page 215, left column, last paragraph, last sentence: “He should start in the “Off” position more when the dead ball spot is on the far half of the field, than he would in crews of four or five because it provides a better triangle for viewing the line play.” Delete the comma and the words “than he would in crews of four or five” since 4 and 5-man mechanics do not have the Line Judge lining up on the field of play.

12. Page 215, left column, last paragraph, last sentence: “He should start in the “Off” position more when the dead ball spot is on the far half of the field, ~~than he would in crews of four or five~~ because it provides a better triangle for viewing the line play.” Delete the comma and the words “than he would in crews of four or five” since 4 and 5-man mechanics do not have the Line Judge lining up on the field of play.

September 5, 2018:

13. Page 36, Enforcing the Penalty: Item 2b was left out. Please add the following after item a: “b. Verifies that the Line Judge is holding the enforcement yard line.”

14. Page 99, Back Judge: Add the following as the first sentence after the Back Judge title: “After every score move up the sideline with the chains.”

September 11, 2018

15. Page 26, add item 24: Generally, officials should not be walking between plays while doing the accordion mechanic, after long plays to get into position, during the quarter change mechanics, or after scores. Use a light jog as a minimum.

16. Page 26, add item 25: If you start a play lined up on the sideline, you should not come onto the field while the ball is live. The exception is for the Back Judge during a free kick.

17. Page 26, add item 26: All signals by the referee except stop clock, touchdown (given as the covering official), incomplete pass, first down, and RFP start clock (in a time sensitive situation) are given facing the press box.

18. Page 26, add item 27: When the coin toss is to happen more than 5 minutes before kickoff, the Referee should advise each coach before the game. “Coin toss will be at 10:00 (or 12:00 or 15:00) on the clock and you will need to move your warmups to outside the 30-yard line for the duration of the toss.”

09-23-2018

19. **Page 26, add item 28:** When going to your pre-snap or pre-kick position, do not turn your back on the players if at all possible.
20. **Page 26, add item 29:** On all scoring plays, and plays that are attempted scoring kicks or 2 point conversions, after the covering official(s) rule on whether there was a score or not, the Referee shall verify that there were no penalties on the play, and then face the press box and give the final signal of a score (S-5 or S-6) or failed to score (S-10).

10-8-2018

21. **Page 25, item 15:** Modify to read as follows: When a scoring kick play or try is complete and the signals are given, all officials except the Referee should square out to their sideline and then go down the sideline off the field. Wing officials should stop by their team's conference and be ready to bring them out onto the field. Then they proceed to their pre-kick position. The Referee should go directly to the goal line, then go down the goal line to his pre-kick position. No official should be running down the middle of the field. Record the score and any accompanying notes once in the proper position for the ensuing free kick.
22. **Page 18, add new item under "Accessories":** In cold weather, officials may wear a hand warmer at their waist. The hand warmer must be black or black with a white manufacturer's logo.
23. **Page 149, for the Umpire:** Change to read: After the ball is kicked and crosses the line of scrimmage and both R and K linemen are moving downfield, pivot towards the action before starting slowly downfield. Observes players as they move downfield. Moves downfield with flow of players.
24. **Change the title "After the Ball is Spotted"** at the bottom of the page to "Returning to Pre-Snap Position" and delete the last paragraph on the page and replace with the following two paragraphs:

Officials who have executed the accordion mechanic after a play will be in a good position to dead ball officiate the action and players in their vicinity. When all of the players in an official's area have separated and are returning to their respective huddle or sideline, the official should begin to back out and return to their pre-snap position unless they are holding the dead ball spot for the Umpire. The return to pre-snap position should be done without taking attention from the players in the center of the field. The official holding the dead ball spot should continue to hold the spot and not begin the return to pre-snap position until the Umpire has

either spotted the ball or has released the official holding the spot. The release can be done verbally or by a signal that has been agreed upon during the pregame meeting. It is not necessary for all officials to return to their pre-snap positions simultaneously.

A word of caution when returning, be aware of players coming on to the field from your sideline. They are frequently still listening to their coaches and can easily collide with an official who is backing away from the center of the field.

This document will be updated as additional corrections are made. If you find an error in the book, please notify your RTO Liaison.