



2024 Mechanics Update



1. Get the WRs involved in Retrieving the Ball Directly to the Umpire
2. Use of Wireless Microphones (Goal is 70% success)
3. Common School Contact Email (See attached Sample)
4. Use of Radios in Lower-Level Games
5. Most Common Goal Areas
 - a. Physical Fitness (Cardio + Strength + Diet + Flexibility)
 - b. Draft (Have a Plan Including Backup Plan, Diversity)
 - c. Rules (Focus on Penalty Enforcement Weaknesses)
 - d. Crew Organization (Two Meeting Prior to Scrimmage + Mid-Week Meetings)
6. On fourth down with two or less yards to the line to gain and Team A not in scrimmage kick formation, the HL and LJ should be prepared to move immediately to the line to gain after the snap.
7. Remove “Philosophy” and replace it with “Officiating Standard”.
8. Remove “Keys” and replace it with “initial responsibility”.
9. The duration of initial responsibility starts at the snap and extends until the assigned receiver is moving freely in space 1) without near and immediate threat from a defender and 2) without the receiver moving directly towards an opponent for a potential pick play. This position in open field is called “free of foul.” Man-to-man defensive coverage on eligible receivers typically produce longer durations of initial responsibility since the defender sticks close after the receiver moves after the snap.
 - a. Crossing patterns that start at the snap (receivers that move immediately inside) also create longer durations of initial responsibility because of the threat of picks.
 - b. A receiver may be “free of foul” immediately after the snap if the defensive secondary is in a zone coverage and the receiver releases towards open space.
 - c. On multiple receiver sets, officials should prioritize observing any receiver that has a defender pressing him at the snap. “Press” or “pressing” is a defender lined up immediately across the neutral zone from a receiver with the intent to jam him as soon as the ball is snapped. This includes multiple officials observing this action against a single receiver if other receivers are not pressed.
 - d. An official’s initial responsibility ends when the receiver gets to a position that is “free of foul”. At this point, the official should go into zone coverage, observing receivers in their area of coverage.
 - e. An official should expect situations where they need to observe two receivers at the same time. This is especially true when receivers line up near each other and intentionally cross their patterns or when waiting for Stacks/Bunches to declare their route.
 - f. It should be expected that the duration of initial responsibility is longer when in the Red Zone. Man-to-man defense is most prevalent in the Red Zone and receivers getting to a position that is free of foul usually occurs if and only when the pass is delayed due to a scrambling passer.