

2009 NHFOA Mechanics Exceptions

1. The Referee will contact the home school AD at least 48 hours before kick-off to confirm the game logistics and will notify and confirm all game information with the crew.
2. When a new series is awarded after a change of possession the Linesman will give the down and direction signal using a fully extended arm above the head and pointing in the direction of the defensive team's goal line, the Line Judge will only give the first down signal using a fully extended arm above the head and not direction. Every attempt will be made to do this in unison using the arm towards the offensive side of the line of scrimmage.
3. The Referee will time the 25 second count following the ready for play signal.
4. At the end of the first and third quarter the entire crew will meet for review. The Referee will state and confirm with the crew; the yard line and position of the ball; the down and distance; what yard line the clip is on; time outs remaining for both teams; and any issues or concerns the crew may have.
5. Prior to a free kick, the Back Judge and Line Judge will be the first officials to signal that they are ready, followed by the Umpire and Linesman who next give the ready signal. The Referee will key off the umpires and linesman's ready signals to mark the ball ready for play
6. On a goal line running play, for the benefit of the other officials, the umpire may give the hand on the chest signal, when the ball is dead by rule, in player possession in the end zone. This signal does not signify a touchdown only that the ball is in the end zone and the play is dead. The umpire will not give the touchdown signal.
7. NHFOA officials will use white beanbags except the Back Judge and Line Judge who will also use blue beanbags for post scrimmage kick spots.
8. If any official is "digging" for a fumble and becomes certain who has recovered the ball that official should inform the Referee of the color and team in possession. The Referee will then use the proper mechanic to signal accordingly. If the Referee is delayed or not in the vicinity of the fumble the nearest official to the digging official may signal accordingly.
9. At the conclusion of the coin toss and as required by NHIAA policy, the Linesman, Line Judge and Back Judge will ensure that teams remain at the sidelines and do not enter the field to meet their captains.
10. Wing officials should aggressively "sell" the spot if the ball becomes dead close to the goal line or the line to gain.
11. At the end of the first and third quarters, the back judge will assist the linesman by providing the spot for the box man to set up, using his/her downfield foot, while the chains are being set.
12. On runs ending in the side zone, 5 or more yards beyond the line of scrimmage, the linesman or line judge may toss to the back judge for relay to the umpire for spotting.
13. When captains are escorted to the center of the field for the coin toss and second half choices the Linesman, Line judge and Back Judge shall remain at the 9yd mark observing the team on their sideline.