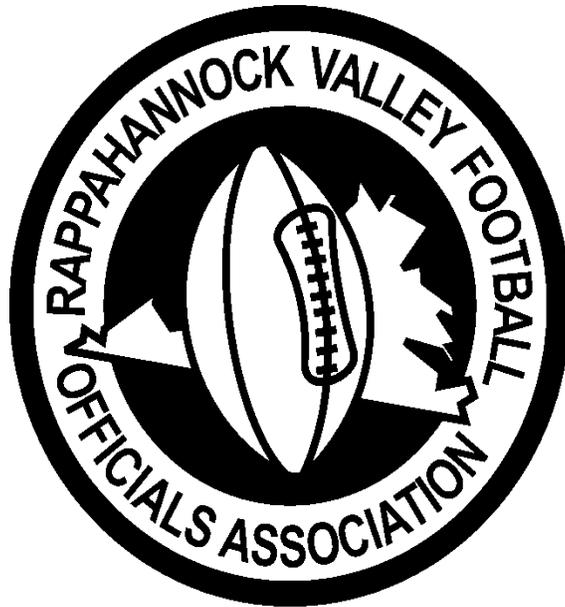


Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association

5-Man Mechanics Manual

2018 Season



**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

PRIOR TO GAME DAY

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. You are responsible for reviewing the schedule for each week and acknowledging all game assignments. If unable to work the assignment you are responsible for notifying the Commissioner in a timely manner.
2. Ensure all uniforms are clean, neat, in proper repair, all patches are displayed as required and shoes polished.
3. Verify with R what the uniform for the game will be.
4. Pack uniform and equipment to ensure you have all of the required items for the assignment.
5. Ensure all officiating equipment is working properly and in good order.
6. If you have not been contacted by R concerning travel, meeting site and time at least 2 days prior to the game, call R or other crew member for information. Call or contact the Commissioner when you are unable to contact R or other crew member.

REFEREE:

1. Contact each crew member to confirm their availability to work the assignment and providing the necessary information regarding the game assignment.
2. Prepare the appropriate game cards for coaches and the game announcers.
3. Ensure you and all crew members have directions to the game site and meeting spot.

COMMISSIONER:

1. Provide game assignments to all members and coordinate and approve any and all changes needed to the assignments for each game.
2. Coordinate with all Referees for game reports and information needed prior to the assignment which the crew needs.

**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

PRE-GAME

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. Arrive at the game site 90 minutes or as appropriate for the level of game assignment prior to kick off.
2. Verify you have the proper officiating equipment and all functions properly.
3. Actively participate in pre-game conference.
4. Penalty flags should be inconspicuous at all times on the official.
5. Enter field 30 minutes prior to kick off.
6. After completing the below listed pre-game responsibilities, meet with other officials on Linesman's side of field to exchange and record information on game cards.
7. Move to positions in preparation for coin toss.

REFEREE:

1. Determine the appropriate uniform for the game based on the conditions and weather.
2. Conduct an interactive and complete pre-game conference.
3. Confer with both coaches (home team first) and accomplish the following:
 - a. Provide information on the crew members and inform the head coach who will be working their sideline.
 - a. Obtain captains' names and numbers.
 - b. Have head coach verify all players are legally equipped.
 - c. Obtain information on unusual plays.
 - d. Obtain information regarding length of half time and any special activities.
 - e. Inform head coach of the appropriate sideline management directions and communications of necessary information will be via the official on their sideline.
 - f. Discuss the sportsmanship of all involved in the game and expectations.
 - g. Inquire if there are any questions for the crew.
 - h. Give head coach starting time, present time, and time for captains to come to coin toss.

UMPIRE:

1. Accompany Referee to confer with head coaches.
2. Rule on legality of player equipment.
3. Rule on any cast or other wraps are appropriate.
4. Inspect, approve and mark all game balls.

LINESMAN:

1. Proceed to 50 yard line and position to view both teams' warm-ups at approximately the nine yard marks on the visitors' side of field.
2. After teams are no longer using the complete field for warm-ups proceed to inspect the field as appropriate. Verify field is marked properly, goal posts are legal, and there are no safety hazards.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

3. Inspect and verify all equipment is in proper working order and safe for use. Ensure the crew has a clip and the chains have tape to mark the five yard mark.
4. Meet with chain crew and instruct them concerning their duties and responsibilities.
5. Ensure you know who the head coach is, introduce yourself and discuss sideline management, communications and timeout designation.
6. Locate ball personnel, obtain their names, and instruct them in their duties including they should stay off the field.

LINE JUDGE:

1. Proceed to 50 yard line and position to view both teams' warm-ups at approximately the nine yard marks on the home side of field.
2. After teams are no longer using the complete field for warm-ups proceed to inspect the field as appropriate. Verify field is marked properly, goal posts are legal, and there are no safety hazards.
3. Advise crew about field conditions and address any issues with the Referee for correction.
4. Ensure you know who the head coach is, introduce yourself and discuss sideline management, communications and timeout designation.
5. Locate ball personnel, obtain their names, and instruct them in their duties including they should stay off the field.
6. Escort team on your sideline on and off the field of play before the game and at halftime.
7. Have appropriate game card for recording of penalties during the game.
8. Have an accurate timing device to be used as a backup for the 25 second clock or as a backup to the field clock.

BACK JUDGE:

1. Proceed to 50 yard line and position to view both teams' warm-ups at center of the field.
2. After teams are no longer using the complete field for warm-ups proceed to inspect the field as appropriate. Verify field is marked properly, goal posts are legal, and there are no safety hazards.
3. Ensure you have an accurate timing device.
4. Locate clock operator advise of official time, review duties and responsibilities including the procedures for the point differential rules.
5. Escort team on Linesman's sideline on and off the field of play before the game and at halftime.

**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

COIN TOSS

REFEREE:

1. Enter the field on the 45yard line opposite the scoreboard from home sideline to the center of the field; face the scoreboard opposite the Umpire.
2. Signal the Line Judge and Back Judge to have their respective captains (no more than 4) proceed to the center of the field.
3. Provide the appropriate instructions to the captains regarding the game mechanics, coin toss and sportsmanship.
4. Conduct the coin toss with the visiting teams' captain making the call before the toss.
5. Provide options to the captain of the team winning the toss.
6. Signal the results of the selection made and record the choice on game card.

UMPIRE:

1. Enter the field on the 45yard line on the scoreboard side of the field from visitors' sideline to the center of the field; face the Referee with back to scoreboard.
2. Verify the instructions given by the Referee, the selection of the call by the visiting team captain and the results of the selection by the winning captain.
3. Record the results on game card.

LINESMAN:

1. Request captains for your sideline and ensure speaking captain will be on the Referee side of the field.
2. Upon signal from Referee have the captains proceed to the center of the field.
3. Observe the actions of the teams and ensure only the captains are on the field.
4. Position chain crew as appropriate from the results of the selection made.
5. Proceed to the center of the field, verify the results of the selection made and record the results on game card.

LINE JUDGE:

1. Request captains for your sideline and ensure speaking captain will be on the Referee side of the field.
2. Upon signal from Referee have the captains proceed to the center of the field.
3. Observe the actions of the teams and ensure only the captains are on the field.
4. If your team will be kicking obtain game ball and proceed to the center of the field.
5. Verify the results of the selection made and record on game card.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

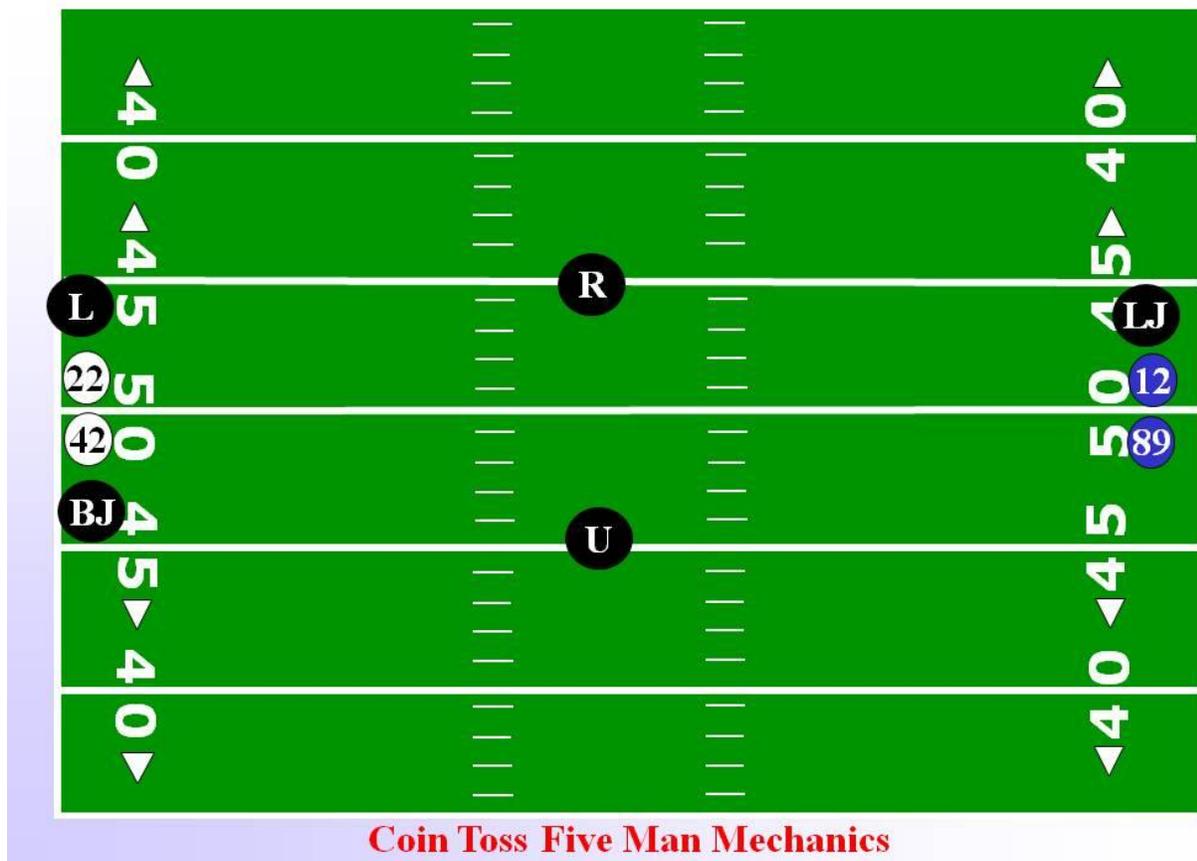
BACK JUDGE:

1. Take position on the visiting teams sideline opposite of the Linesman and assist in preparing the captains for the toss.
2. Upon signal from Referee have the captains proceed to the center of the field.
3. Observe the actions of the teams and ensure only the captains are on the field.
4. If your team will be kicking obtain game ball and proceed to the center of the field.
5. Verify the results of the selection made and record on game card.

ALL OFFICIALS:

Receive final instructions from the Referee and proceed sharply to their positions for the kickoff.

Figure 1 – Coin Toss Positions – Five Man



**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

FREE KICKS

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. When requested by Referee and when in proper position, signal ready by raising hand above head.
2. When the ball is legally touched in your area start the clock with appropriate signal.
3. The covering official should see the ball in possession of runner who is down or whose forward progress is stopped or ball out of bounds before sounding his whistle.
4. If ball becomes dead in your area, sound whistle, mark spot of forward progress and give timeout signal.
5. If kick goes out of bounds untouched, or only touched by "K" in your area, sound whistle, throw flag on spot where ball went out of bounds for kick infraction, and give time out signal, if applicable.
6. If kick goes out of bounds touched by "R" in your area, sound whistle, mark spot and give time out signal.
7. Mirror time out signal given by a fellow official where/when appropriate.
8. Whenever a fumble occurs, the covering official will mark the spot of the fumble with a beanbag.

B. REFEREE:

1. Take position on Line Judge's side of the field at the goal line or as appropriate for the level of game. Adjust for free kicks following safeties.
2. Count "R" players and confirm count with Linesman.
3. Check with all officials and get appropriate signal they are ready before sounding your whistle to mark the ball ready for play. Observe the kicker, other activity and ensure at least four players are on each side of the kicker at kick.
4. Responsible for your half of the field and the goal line from the middle of the field to your sideline. If kick crosses "R's" goal line, sound whistle and give touchback signal.
5. Once possessed by "R" in your area, responsible for the runner until turned over to the Line Judge, observing action on and immediately around the runner. Once responsibility for the runner is picked up by the Line Judge, observe action around and behind the runner. If kick possessed by "R" in Linesman's area observe action near and behind the runner.
6. Responsible for the spot of the end of the play from the goal line to the 40 yard line.
7. Responsible for sideline in your area.
8. On obvious short free kicks, request Linesman to move to "R's" free kick line and take position in middle of the field and assume responsibility for entire goal line.
9. When a field goal is attempted as a free kick after a fair catch or an awarded fair catch, take a position with kicker and instruct the kicker not to kick the ball until you have sounded the whistle for the ready for play.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

UMPIRE:

1. Initially take a position on “R’s” free kick line on the visiting teams’ sideline.
2. Count “K” players and confirm with Back Judge.
3. Assist “R” lining up and ensure all are behind the free kick line.
4. After Referee gives ready for play signal, watch for encroachment.
5. Watch for first touching of free kick by “K” and mark spot with beanbag.
6. Watch initial blocks of players.
7. After ball has gone downfield, move in that direction; observing action away from ball; assume responsibility for runner if he comes into your area.
8. Responsible for the spot of the end of the play from the 40 yard line to the goal line.
9. When a field goal is attempted as a free kick after a fair catch or an awarded fair catch, take a position on “K’s” free kick line on the home team’s side of the field.
10. Responsible for sideline and “K’s” goal line. When ball is declared dead, get appropriate ball and spot it.

LINESMAN:

1. Take position on your side of the field at the goal line or as appropriate for the level of game. Adjust for free kicks following safeties.
2. Count “R” players and confirm with Referee.
3. Responsible for your half of the field and the goal line from the middle of the field to your sideline. If kick crosses “R’s” goal line, sound whistle and give touchback signal.
4. Once possessed by “R” in your area, responsible for the runner until turned over to the Umpire, observing action on and immediately around the runner. Once responsibility for the runner is picked up by the Umpire, observe action around and behind the runner. If kick possessed by “R” in Referee’s area observe action near and behind the runner.
6. Responsible for sideline in your area.
7. On obvious short kicks, move to “R’s” free kick line opposite Line Judge, when requested by Referee. Be prepared to rule on first touching.
8. When a field goal is attempted as a free kick after a fair catch or an awarded fair catch, take a position on “R’s” free kick line on the visiting team’s sideline.
9. At the end of the down, set chains at forward progress spot (off the sideline).

LINE JUDGE:

1. Take an initial position on “R’s” free kick line on the home teams’ sideline and assist “R” in lining up.
2. Count “R” players and confirm with Referee.
3. Assist “R” lining up and ensure all are behind the restraint line.
4. After Referee gives ready for play signal, watch for encroachment.

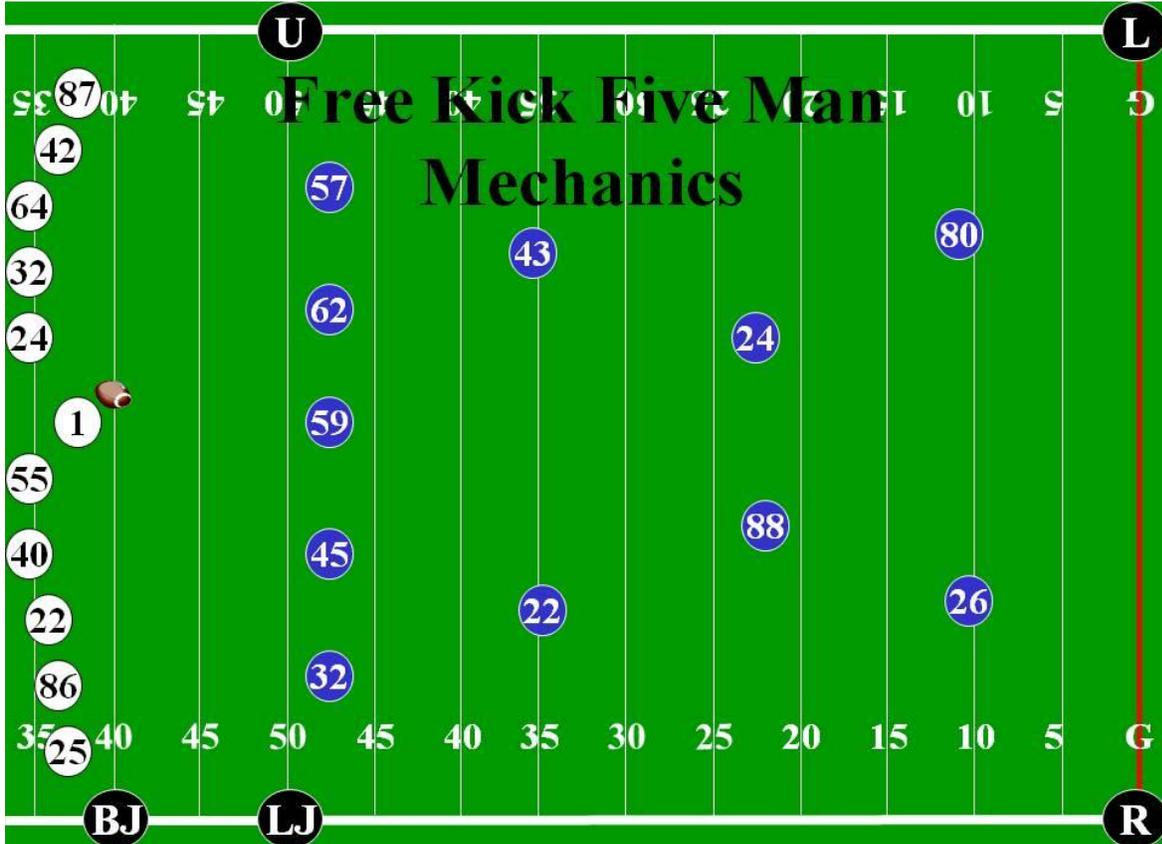
Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

5. Watch for first touching of free kick by “K” and mark spot with beanbag.
6. Watch initial blocks of players.
7. After ball has gone downfield, move in that direction; observing action away from ball; assume responsibility for runner if he comes into your area.
8. Responsible for the spot of the end of the play from the 40 yard line to the goal line.
9. When a field goal is attempted as a free kick after a fair catch or an awarded fair catch, take a position behind upright on home team’s side of field. Responsible for your upright, the goal line, and signaling results of the kick after conferring with Back Judge.
10. Responsible for sideline and “K’s” goal line.

BACK JUDGE:

1. Take a position on “K’s” free kick line.
2. Request and take control of game ball until kicker comes on to the field.
3. Responsible for timing the 25 second count.
4. Count “K” players and confirm with Umpire.
5. Assist “K” lining up and ensure all players except the kicker are no more than five yards behind the kicking team’s free-kick line. Observe the kicker, other activity and ensure at least four players are on each side of the kicker at kick. Inform kicker ball should be placed on the kick line at any point between the hash marks.
6. Instruct the kicker not to kick the ball until the Referee blows the whistle for the ready for play. Move to position on “K” free kick line on the home side of field. Observe the kicker and other activity.
7. Observe action by K after kick to ensure no blocks are initiated by K until R has initiated a block in the neutral zone or the ball may be legally possessed by K.
8. After the kick and the ball has gone downfield observe the kicker and holder for protection within five yards of the free kick line.
9. After ball has gone downfield, move to hash mark on your side; observing action away from ball.
10. Responsible for “K’s” goal line.
11. When a field goal is attempted as a free kick after a fair catch or an awarded fair catch, take a position behind upright on visiting team’s side of field. Responsible for your upright, the goal line, and signaling results of the kick after conferring with Line Judge. Sound whistle when ball is dead.
12. After the play, secure the correct ball to be used once the new series is declared.
13. Enforce the penalty for an accepted foul that is administered on the free kick.

Figure 2 – Pre-Kick Positions – Five Man



SCRIMMAGE PLAYS

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. Verify the correct down on every play and communicate with other officials.
2. The covering official who has the ball in possession of runner within his zone of responsibility, who is down by rule or whose forward progress is stopped or is out of bounds sound your whistle.
3. If the ball becomes dead inbounds near the sideline and no first down is gained, give the start clock signal using two turns of the arm.
4. When ball is declared dead and a first down is obvious, give timeout signal. NOTE: When this occurs near the sideline, give the start clock signal using two turns of the arm followed by the timeout signal.
5. If you are the covering official on out of bounds plays, turn to follow the play, sound whistle, give timeout signal, mark the spot, and observe action around runner.
6. When forward progress is near the line to gain, covering official should request the ball to be placed at the spot at the officials' feet and should request R to determine if line to gain has been reached.
7. Mirror time out signal given by a fellow official where/when applicable
8. Whenever a fumble occurs, the covering official will mark the spot of the fumble with a beanbag.
9. The Back Judge and/or Referee may give touchdown signal on long scoring plays near a sideline only after communicating with appropriate wing official.

REFEREE:

1. Communicate the proper information (down and distance) to all parties and mark the ball ready for play with signal and short blast of your whistle.
2. Count players of team A and give signal to Umpire who will acknowledge by returning signal. A clenched fist at shoulder height represents 11 players. An open hand at shoulder height in front of the body represents other than 11 players.
3. During the count if there are more than 11 players and three seconds has passed since the extra player entered sound whistle and throw flag.
4. Take a position 12 to 15 yards behind the line of scrimmage, outside the tight end and to the side of the QB (usually on the throwing side) and also in a position to observe the snap.
5. Watch for movement in the backfield prior to the snap.
6. After snap cover the ball, runner, and action around player until player enters zone of responsibility for another official's area.
7. Cover the QB on passing plays, watch for roughing the passer, place from which pass is thrown, rule on illegal passes.
8. Rule on forward or backward passes, other than quick QB pass.
9. Clean up behind plays, which go downfield, watching for illegal acts.
10. When ball is declared dead, move to the spot to determine next down. Communicate with Linesman number of next down. If line to gain has been reached signal first down.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

UMPIRE:

1. Take a position behind team “B” (usually 7 to 8 yards from line of scrimmage) and between “B’s” ends ensuring a clean view of the center and the ball.
2. Count team “A” players; give count signal to “R” who will acknowledge by returning signal. A clenched fist at shoulder height represents exactly 11 players. An open hand at shoulder height in front of the body represents other than 11 players.
3. Check numbering on offensive line, observe equipment & mouthpieces.
4. Observe action for false starts, snap infractions, and other dead ball fouls.
5. Cover action on snapper and of players at point of attack and then behind runner, watching for holding, illegal use of hands, and/or illegal blocks.
6. Pass plays step up to line of scrimmage, watch for ineligible downfield; assist R with tipped pass, pass crossing line of scrimmage and illegal forward pass; assist with passes thrown in front of side and back officials.
7. When ball is declared dead, get forward progress from covering official and spot ball on proper yard line between inbounds markers. Cover ball until R gives ready for play signal.
8. On goal line plays responsible for actions of all interior linemen. If asked by side official, and acknowledged by you, rule on forward progress from your position.
9. On goal line plays signal with a closed hand on chest when you see a downed offensive player in possession of the ball in the end zone.

LINESMAN:

1. Check position of box; verify the down number and line to gain.
2. Take a position straddling neutral zone starting on the side line.
3. Count players of the defense when your team and give appropriate count signal to Back Judge.
4. Signal to Line Judge only if position of widest “A” player is in the backfield and hold until snap. Responsible for counting and confirming there are a minimum of seven (7) “A” players on Line of Scrimmage. Verify count of offense by observing the Referee and/or Umpire and then counting number of players of the line of scrimmage to ensure a legal formation.
5. Identify the eligible pass receivers’ numbers on your side.
6. Watch for encroachment and false starts. Observe player whose initial motion is toward opposite sideline, responsible for the player in motion towards your position. Observe if movement is forward before the snap.
7. Responsible for your sideline during the entire down.
8. After snap, watch initial charge of linemen. When the play comes into your area, take responsibility for ball, runner and action around him. When the play goes to the opposite side, observe the action behind the play watching especially for late hits to QB behind the Referee.
9. During pass play: a) be ready to rule on direction of quick QB pass towards you; b) move downfield with eligible receivers, observing action around them. When pass is thrown, be in position to rule on pass completion and pass interference. If pass is incomplete in your area, sound whistle and give incomplete pass signal. Help in retrieving ball if necessary.
10. On all plays in your area, mark forward progress/spot with feet together Umpire will spot on the foot farthest downfield. When ball becomes dead in side zone, place ball on foot until next down is determined. Use Back Judge or Referee for triangle to relay ball to Umpire. Hold spot until released by Umpire.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

11. On plays between the inbound lines, hold forward progress spot with feet together until released by Umpire. When spot is near the line to gain place ball on downfield foot and await instructions from Referee.
12. When ball becomes dead, communicate with R regarding number of next down. Signal box to move to forward point of ball after ensuring there are no flags and to change down marker. If new series is declared, move to sideline and reset box, clip, and yardage chains.
13. Responsible for all goal line plays when the snap is inside B's 10 yard line.
14. On goal line plays (ball snapped on or inside "B's" 5 yard line), initial move at snap should be towards the goal line to be in position to rule on scoring play. If plane is broken by the ball sound whistle and signal score with proper signal.
15. On goal line plays going out (ball snapped on or inside "A's" 5 yard line), reverse mechanics are in play at the snap first move should be to the goal line and officiate the play. Observe the play to ensure the position of the ball at end of play remembering the ball must completely be out of the end zone to be in the playing field.

LINE JUDGE:

1. Verify the down number with the members of the crew, position of the box is correct, the box is displaying the correct down and the line to gain.
2. Take a position straddling neutral zone starting on the side line.
3. Count players of the defense when your team and give appropriate count signal to Back Judge.
4. Signal to Linesman only if position of widest "A" player is in the backfield and hold until snap. Responsible for counting and confirming there are a minimum of seven (7) "A" players on Line of Scrimmage. Verify count of offense by observing the Referee and/or Umpire and then counting number of players of the line of scrimmage to ensure a legal formation.
5. Identify the eligible pass receivers' numbers on your side.
6. Watch for encroachment and false starts. Observe player whose initial motion is toward opposite sideline, responsible for the player in motion towards your position. Observe if movement is forward before the snap.
7. Responsible for your sideline during the entire down.
8. After snap, watch initial charge of linemen. When the play comes into your area, take responsibility for ball, runner and action around him. When the play goes to the opposite side observe the action behind the play watching especially for late hits to QB behind the Referee.
9. During pass play: a) be ready to rule on direction of quick QB pass towards you; b) move downfield with eligible receivers, observing action around them. When pass is thrown, be in position to rule on pass completion and pass interference. If pass is incomplete in your area, sound whistle and give incomplete pass signal. Help in retrieving ball if necessary.
10. On all plays in your area, mark forward progress/spot with feet together Umpire will spot on the foot farthest downfield. When ball becomes dead in the side zone, place ball on foot until next down is determined. Use Back Judge or Referee for triangle to relay ball to Umpire. Hold spot until released by Umpire.
11. On plays between the inbound lines, hold forward progress spot with feet together until released by Umpire. When spot is near the line to gain place ball on downfield foot and await instructions from Referee.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

12. When ball becomes dead, observe forward progress in relation to line to gain and communicate to R the next down, if line to gain has been reached for a new series, or should 'take a look' to make a decision. If line to gain has been reached stop the clock appropriately or as instructed by Referee.
13. Responsible for all goal line plays when the snap is inside B's 10 yard line.
14. On goal line plays (ball snapped on or inside "B's" 5 yard line), initial move at snap should be towards the goal line to be in position to rule on scoring play. If plane is broken by the ball sound whistle and signal score with proper signal.
15. On goal line plays going out (ball snapped on or inside "A's" 5 yard line), reverse mechanics are in play at the snap first move should be to the goal line and officiate the play. Observe the play to ensure the position of the ball at end of play remembering the ball must completely be out of the end zone to be in the playing field.

BACK JUDGE:

1. Take a position in the middle of the field always as deep as the deepest defensive back, approximately 15 to 18 yards, favoring the wide side and adjust based on the formation of "A".
2. Responsible for timing the 25 second count.
3. Responsible for game clock operation and accuracy.
4. Verify the down number with the members of the crew and the line to gain if the distance is longer than 10 yards and communicate to all with the signal for "Two Stakes" to ensure all know the line to gain status.
5. Count players of the defense and give count signal to appropriate verifying official.
6. Responsible for goal line on plays originating outside of B's 10 yard line and always responsible for the end line at all times.
7. On running plays, observe initial line charge, watching for illegal blocks by wide receivers; observe action in "B's" secondary and action in front of the runner.
8. On pass plays, retreat to be in position 12 to 15 yards ahead of deepest receiver, observe blocking downfield. When pass is thrown, be in position to rule on pass completion and pass interference. If pass is incomplete, sound whistle and give incomplete pass signal. On short passes, be in a position to assist side officials if required. Help in retrieving the ball if necessary.
9. Be in position to rule on forward progress on long plays.
10. On plays between the inbound lines, hold forward progress spot with feet together until released by other crew member.
11. Communicate with the Referee and other members of the crew on whether the clock should start on the ready or the snap based on the result of the action on the prior play. If the clock starts on the ready signal from the Referee wind the clock in.
12. Communicate with the Referee inside last minute of the quarter who has the responsibility for timing verification when facing the scoreboard/clock.

**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

SCRIMMAGE KICKS

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. Assume same pre-snap duties as outlined in scrimmage plays.
2. Mark the spot of first touching or multiple first touching with beanbag.
3. Whenever a fumble occurs, the covering official will mark the spot of the fumble with a beanbag.
4. Mirror time out signal given by a fellow official where/when appropriate.

PUNTS

REFEREE:

1. Take a position 2 to 3 yards behind the kicker and wider than the tight end on the kicking foot side to ensure a good view of the kick and all action in front of kicker.
2. Know the yard line of the snap.
3. Count players of team A and give signal to Umpire who will acknowledge by returning signal.
4. Communicate with Umpire and R players protection of the snapper is in effect.
5. After snap cover the ball, kicker, and action around player.
6. Observe and rule on all contact made with the kicker while kicker designation of the player is in place.
7. Observe with a quick look the direction and trajectory of the kick to rule on kicks, which go out of bounds in the air if requested by covering official. Raise arm and chop down at the point the covering official reach the designated yard line you determine the ball crossed.
8. Once kick is away and has crossed the line of scrimmage, watch for action behind line. Move downfield on/near hash mark closest to your position at the kick and observe action away from the ball. Be ready to pick up runner on long returns.
9. Responsible for K's goal line on scrimmage kick plays returned for score.
10. After determining there are no flags and the spot where ball will next be put in play, motion for the Linesman to move the box and chains give first down signal for the team awarded a new series.

UMPIRE:

1. Take a position behind team "R" usually 7 to 8 yards from line of scrimmage favoring Line Judge's side of the field.
2. Count players of team A and give signal to Referee who will acknowledge by returning signal.
3. Communicate with Referee and R players protection of the snapper is in effect.
4. Know interior linemen numbers to determine ineligible receivers.
5. Cover action on snapper until he is in a position able to defend himself.
6. Once kick is away, move downfield on/near the hash mark closest to your position at the time of the kick and observe action away from ball.
7. When ball is declared dead, get appropriate ball and spot it.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

LINESMAN:

1. Take a position straddling neutral zone starting on the side line.
2. Relay yard line of snap to R.
3. Observe position of the players at snap to determine eligibility of receivers.
4. Hold position to rule on kicks crossing line of scrimmage.
5. Cover short kicks to your side.
6. Once kick is away, move downfield as appropriate observing action away from ball. Be ready to pick up runner when he comes into your area.
7. Responsible for your sideline entire down.
8. When new series is declared, move to sideline and reset box, clip, and yardage chains on signal from Referee.

LINE JUDGE:

1. Take a position straddling neutral zone starting on the side line.
2. Count players of the defense and give appropriate count signal to Back Judge.
3. Observe position of the players at snap to determine eligibility of receivers.
4. Move downfield after legal snap observing action in your area away from ball. Pick up runner if player comes into your area.
5. Cover all kicks on your side.
6. Responsible for your sideline entire down.
7. If kick goes out of bounds in air, if help is needed raise arm and look to Referee to indicate the yard line for the spot the ball crossed.
8. If grounded kick goes out of bounds, mark spot and give time out signal.
9. Responsible for observing the activities of players for action around the receiver and action after possession by the receiver if in your zone of responsibility. Observe action of signaler when no fair catch is made. Bean bag any first touching observed.

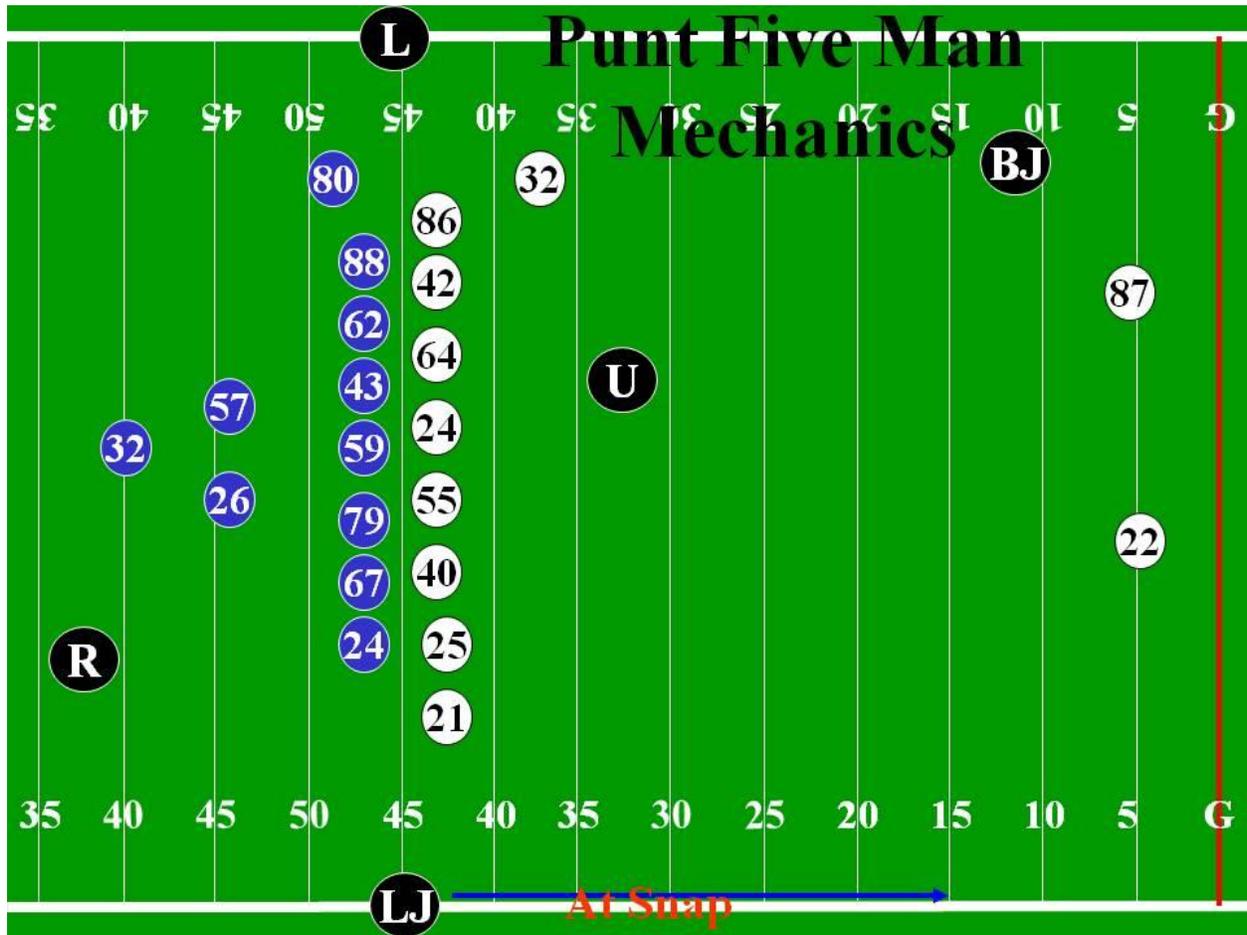
BACK JUDGE:

1. Take a position on Linesman side of field in front and outside of the deepest receiver.
2. Count players of the defense and give appropriate count signal.
3. Responsible for ruling on fair catch. When fair catch is made, immediately sound whistle and signal time out. When fair catch is not made stay with ball until kick ends.
4. Responsible for action on receiver and kick catching interference. Bean bag any first touching observed. Bean bag the end of the kick by possession (PSK spot) from sideline to sideline.
5. During a return, responsible for the ball and action around the receiver until released to the official covering the areas the runner proceeds to.
6. Once you release the runner, responsible for action behind the runner.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

7. If kick goes out of bounds in air on Linesman side, if help is needed raise arm and look to Referee to indicate the yard line for the spot the ball crossed.
8. If grounded kick goes out of bounds, mark spot and give time out signal.
9. When ball is dead, remain at spot where play ends. Communicate with Referee the status of the ball and result of the play.

Figure 3 – Punt Positions – Five Man



**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

FIELD GOALS and TRYS

REFEREE:

1. Take a position to observe action on the kicker and holder to ensure a good view of the kick and all action in front of kicker.
2. Count players of team A and give signal to Umpire who will acknowledge by returning signal.
3. Communicate with Umpire and R players protection of the snapper is in effect.
4. After snap cover the ball, kicker, holder and action around players.
5. Observe and rule on all contact made with the kicker and/or holder.
6. If pass or run play develops move with play as with any other scrimmage play.
7. After determining there are no flags give the appropriate signal for the results of the play to the press box.

UMPIRE:

1. Take a position behind team “R” usually 7 yards from line of scrimmage favoring Line Judge’s side of the field.
2. Count players of team A and give signal to Referee who will acknowledge by returning signal.
3. Communicate with Referee and R players protection of the snapper is in effect.
4. Know interior linemen numbers to determine ineligible receivers.
5. Cover action on snapper until he is in a position able to defend himself and observe line play.
6. If pass or run play develops move with play as with any other scrimmage play.
7. Obtain ball from Back Judge if appropriate for next down.

LINESMAN:

1. Take a position straddling neutral zone starting on the side line.
2. Responsible for entire line of scrimmage and legal formation.
3. Observe position of the players at snap to determine eligibility of receivers.
4. Hold position to rule on kicks crossing line of scrimmage.
5. If pass or run play develops move with play as with any other scrimmage play.

LINE JUDGE:

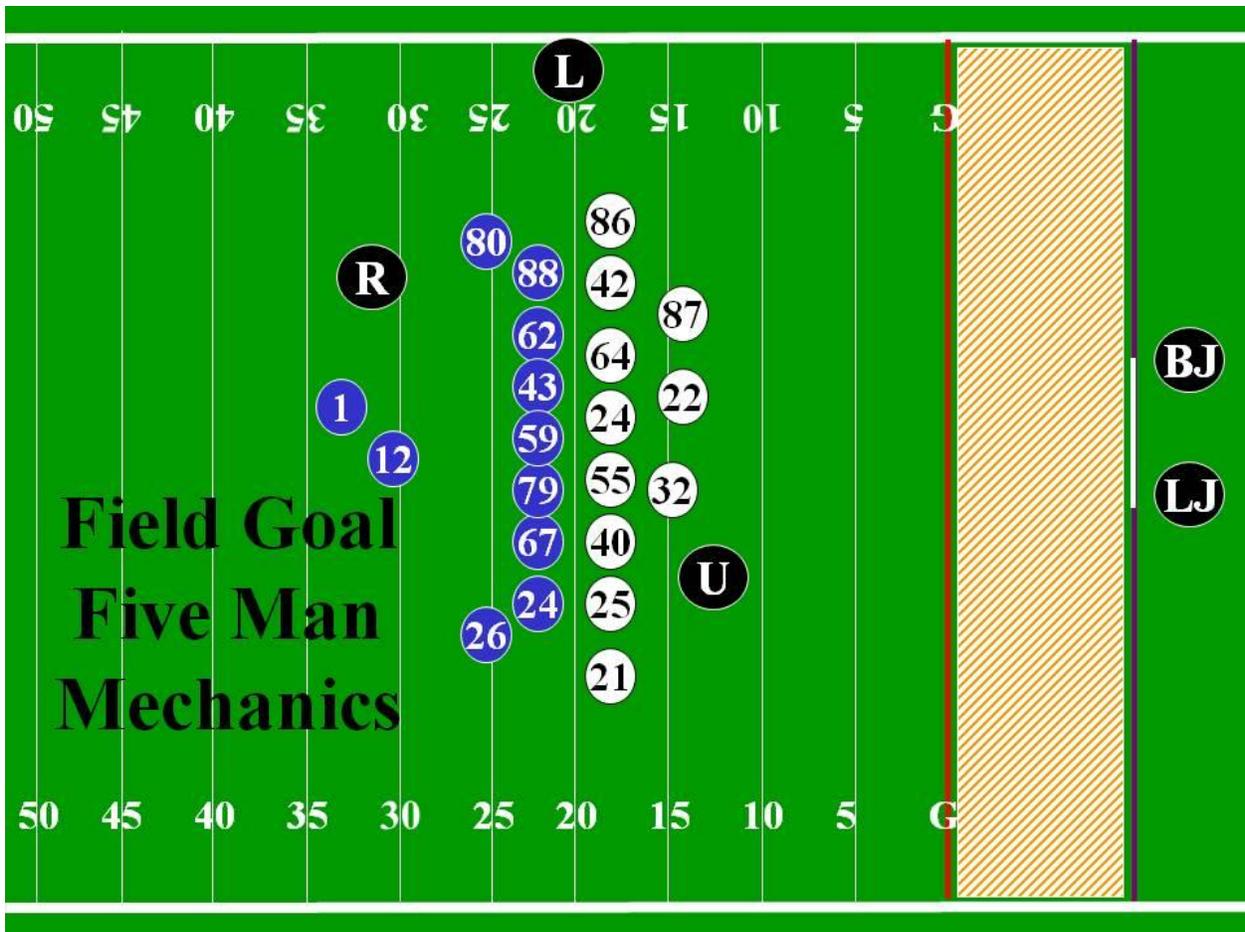
1. Take position behind upright on your side of field. Responsible for your upright and any ball contact on your upright.
2. Count players of team B and give signal to Back Judge who will acknowledge by returning signal.
3. Observe position of the players at snap to determine eligibility of receivers and communicate with other officials.
4. If pass or run play develops move to your side line at the goal line and work back to the play as with any other scrimmage play.
5. After kick ends confer with Back Judge, step forward, and give the appropriate signal for result of the play.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

BACK JUDGE:

1. Take position behind upright on Linesman side of field. Responsible for your upright, crossbar, including any ball contact on either.
2. Count players of team B and give signal to Line Judge who will acknowledge by returning signal.
3. Observe position of the players at snap to determine eligibility of receivers and communicate with other officials.
4. If pass or run play develops move with play as with any other scrimmage play.
5. After kick ends sound whistle and confer with Line Judge, step forward, and give the appropriate signal for result of the play.
6. Retrieve ball for next down and relay to Umpire if appropriate for new series or proceed to free kick line.

Figure 4 – Field Goal/Try Positions – Five Man



MEASUREMENTS

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. When spot is near the line to gain place ball on downfield foot and await instructions from Referee and stays with ball until Umpire arrives.
2. Mirror time out signal given by a fellow official where/when appropriate.

REFEREE:

1. Make determination as to whether a measurement is needed if so stop the clock with the appropriate timeout signal.
2. Request the Linesman to bring out the measuring device in use.
3. If measurement is in the side zone and line to gain is not made, mark the chain, grasp it at the forward most point of ball and walk with the chain to inbounds spot and spot ball.
4. Give appropriate signal for next down.
5. Based on results of measurement ensure chains are placed properly.
6. Once chains are set mark the ball ready for play and start clock if appropriate based on the result of the previous play.

UMPIRE:

1. Take a position with ball and ensure position to take front stake from chain crew member.
2. Take front stake from chain crew member.
3. Wait for Linesman to verify he has secured the spot of the clip.
4. Pull chain tight making sure it is parallel to the sideline.
5. If ball needs to be spotted at inbounds spot, carry front stake to inbounds spot and repeat steps three and four.
6. Stay with ball until the ready for play signal is given and verify the chains are reset on the sidelines.

LINESMAN:

1. Confirm from Referee a measurement is requested.
2. Grasp chain and clip at the yard line nearest the back stake and note where the clip is attached in relation to the yard line.
3. Unless a penalty occurred on the previous down, instruct box to mark position of front stake with the previous down showing. If a penalty occurred on the previous down, instruct box to maintain previous spot for possible penalty enforcement.
4. Place clip on the ground on the spot marked by Line Judge.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

5. Hold chain firmly and signal Umpire it is secure to be stretched.
6. If ball needs to be spotted at the inbounds spot, carry chain to inbounds spot and repeat steps four and five.
7. Depending on results of the measurement reset the chain in original position and communicate to box or establish the new line to gain.

LINE JUDGE:

1. Determine the yard line which the clip was set on and mark with foot for Linesman to use for the measurement.
2. If ball needs to be spotted at the inbounds spot, repeat step one.
3. Observe your team and sideline.

BACK JUDGE:

1. Transition to a position allowing observation of both teams and the activities of both sidelines.
2. After chains are set again either for the next down of the series or the establishment of a new line to gain signal to Referee the status of the clock.
3. Give appropriate signal on the ready for play if clock is to start.

END OF FIRST AND THIRD QUARTERS

REFEREE:

1. Mark game card with the down, distance, yard line, and clip of the team in possession. Be sure the information agrees with Umpire's card.
2. Determine the exact position of the ball on the field in relation to the inbounds spot.
3. At other end of field determine spot for Umpire to place ball.
4. Once all officials and teams are ready, the clock has been reset, and the chains have been moved, mark the ball ready for play.

UMPIRE:

1. Mark card with down, distance, yard line, and clip of the team in possession. Be sure the information agrees with Referee's card.
2. Determine the position of the ball on the field in relationship with the inbounds spot.
3. Carry ball to other end of field and place ball at spot determined by R.
4. Stay with ball until the ready for play signal is given and verify the chains are reset on the sidelines.

LINESMAN:

1. Confirm location and yard line with chain crew.
2. With Referee and Umpire, mark card with down, distance, yard line, and clip for the team in possession.
3. Confirm down and distance with chain crew.
4. Grasp clip and chain to ensure proper position for resetting of the chains.
5. Instruct chain crew to reverse positions and move to new location.
6. Use clip to reset chains.
7. Verify down, distance, and yard line.
8. Assume time out responsibilities.
9. Indicate to Referee when ready.

LINE JUDGE:

1. Know the yard line and field position of ball.
2. Observe as appropriate and go with teams to other end of field.
3. Stop at the yard line and assist players in huddling near proper yard line if necessary.
4. Assume time out responsibilities.
5. Indicate to Referee when ready.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

BACK JUDGE:

1. Transition to a position allowing observation of visiting team (Linesman's side of the field) and the activities of the sidelines.
2. Move to the yard line at the other end of the field.
3. Assume time out responsibilities.
4. Check to see clock has been properly reset.
5. Indicate to Referee when ready verifying the proper down for the next play.

HALF-TIME

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. At the completion of the half proceed to designated area of field or other facilities for duration of the halftime period.
2. Review first half activities and discuss any areas of concern.
3. After second half choices have been made and the captains are returning to the sidelines (if midfield option used), meet with other officials in center of field to review team choice.
4. After all officials have been informed proceed to appropriate free kick positions.

REFEREE:

1. Determine all administration of rules has been completed and declare the half ended.
2. After the mandatory warm up period is over, proceed to center of field with the Umpire (if midfield option used) and request captains to center of the field and give options to the teams.

UMPIRE:

1. After the mandatory warm up period is over, proceed to center of field with the Referee (if midfield option used), observe options being given to the captains and confirm the selection made.

LINESMAN:

1. Inform coach on your side of the length of half time and time to return to field.
2. Escort the team on your side from the field of play and upon their return at the end of the half.
3. Upon return to the field for the second half, meet with chain crew to discuss concerns or positive points.
4. After the mandatory warm up period is over, find at least one captain (if midfield option used). After receiving the appropriate signal from the Referee have the captain proceed to the center of the field.
5. Stay on sideline while team captains exercise choices for second half and observe the actions of the teams and ensure only the captains are on the field.

Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics

LINE JUDGE:

1. Inform coach on your side of the length of half time and time to return to field.
2. Escort the team on your side from the field of play and upon their return at the end of the half.
3. After the mandatory warm up period is over, find at least one captain (if midfield option used). After receiving the appropriate signal from the Referee have the captain proceed to the center of the field.
4. Stay on sideline while team captains exercise choices for second half and observe the actions of the teams and ensure only the captains are on the field.

BACK JUDGE:

1. Proceed to an appropriate position to observe the teams leaving the field and other actions by any player, coach or others.
2. Ensure the game clock is set to the appropriate/agreed upon time for the halftime. Once both teams have left the field signal the clock operator to start the clock.
3. Upon return to the field position yourself near the 50yd line and the nine yard marks and as appropriate signal the clock operator to beginning of the three minute mandatory warm up period.
4. Stay on sideline while team captains exercise choices for second half (if midfield option used) and observe the actions of the teams and ensure only the captains are on the field.
5. Request and receive the ball to start the second half as appropriate.

TIME OUTS

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. Give time out signal as appropriate.
2. If time out request is made to you, note the players's number or ensure the head coach or designee has requested.
3. Record the period, time remaining, team, and number of the player calling the time out on your game card. Communicate with the other officials the time outs remaining in the half for both teams.
4. Take appropriate position and observe all actions in area of responsibility. Avoid huddling with other officials.

REFEREE:

1. Signal to press box the team charged with the time out.
2. When notified by Umpire ask for teams to get ready for the next play.
3. Mark the ball ready for play.

UMPIRE:

1. Secure spot of the ball and ensure teams return to appropriate sides at completion of time out.
2. Responsible for timing the length of the time out.
3. Stay with ball until R marks ball ready for play.

LINESMAN:

1. Move to appropriate position to observe conference.
2. Observe and determine all substitutions are proper for team on your sideline.
3. Assist Referee in asking team on your side to get ready for the next play.

LINE JUDGE:

1. Move to appropriate position to observe conference.
2. Observe and determine all substitutions are proper for team on your sideline.
3. Assist Referee in asking team on your side to get ready for the next play.

BACK JUDGE:

1. Move to appropriate position to observe conference.

**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

PENALTY ENFORCEMENT

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. Give time out signal.
2. Make sure the spot of the ball and flag are covered. Ensure the spot of the ball first and the flag second.
3. If you called the penalty adjust flag if necessary, to the correct yard line. Know the status of ball, type of play, the player committing the foul. Stay close to R to ensure penalty options are given correctly.
4. If you called the penalty, provide the appropriate information to the Referee including the number of the player, team, status of the ball and what the action was causing the foul.

REFEREE:

1. Get from official(s) calling the penalty (ies): status of ball, type of play, team committing the foul, number of the player, and result of the play.
2. Give preliminary signal to press box.
3. Explain options to the appropriate captain.
4. Notify Umpire of the decision, spot of enforcement and number of yards.
5. Give signal to the press box.
6. Give the ready for play signal and start the clock as appropriate from result of the play.

UMPIRE:

1. Secure ball and walk off penalty per R's instructions.
2. For 5 yard penalties by the defense when measured from back stake, mark off penalty and confirm spot with the Linesman by observing the position of the box.
3. Secure spot and cover ball until R marks ball ready for play.

LINESMAN:

1. Ensure box and chains do not move.
2. Be prepared to move box and chains as appropriate.
3. For 5 yard penalties by the defense which are to be measured from the back stake, after confirmation from the Referee of acceptance instruct the box man to move the box and position at the tape to assist Umpire on spot .
4. Observe enforcement.
5. Communicate penalty information to coaches.

**Rappahannock Valley Football Officials Association
5 Man Mechanics**

LINE JUDGE:

1. After confirmation from Referee of acceptance assist in the enforcement by marking penalty yardage from position on sideline with the Umpire to verify proper spot.
2. Communicate penalty information to coaches.
3. Record the appropriate penalty information on game card, time, quarter and whether accepted or declined.

BACK JUDGE:

1. Move to appropriate position to cover side of field not covered by reporting official.
2. Observe team actions and be alert for substitutions, team attendants on field, and player-coach conferences.
3. Observe enforcement.

**PROCEDURE FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF PLAYER/COACH
AND NONPLAYER**

In the event a situation arises where a player, coach, or non-player disqualifies himself, officials are to follow the following steps:

1. Report the infraction with details as to what happened or what the actions were to cause the infraction, player number or coach's name that is disqualified to the Referee.
2. All officials should record the information on their game cards to include the number or name of coach.
3. The Referee along with the official who has disqualified the individual will accompany the Referee and disqualified player to the sideline and explain to the Head Coach the events causing this disqualification ensuring all parties understand the process and what is expected.
4. All other officials should take appropriate positions to observe the activity on the field as the process is completed.
5. Administer the penalties as appropriate.
6. After completion of the game, before leaving the game site, ensure the Referee has all pertinent information regarding the disqualification for filing of the report on the disqualification. If in the opinion of the R the situation warrants additional statements and information, these should be obtained in writing from the crew members before leaving the game site and include in the game report.
7. Referee is responsible for notifying the Commissioner either after the game or the next morning as appropriate and informs the Commissioner or designee of the situations surrounding the disqualification(s).

Comment: As officials we are expected to maintain a level of composure during situations that at times are difficult. Certain acts of conduct must always be practiced and they are to avoid contact with the player/coach, communication in a professional manner and function as a crew at all times.

POST-GAME

ALL OFFICIALS:

1. **Ensure all officials exit the field as a group**, make sure all equipment brought out is gathered and returns with crew.
2. Do not seek out coaches or players but do not avoid coaches if they have questions. If coaches wishes to discuss an issue or has a question should be directed to the Referee who can determine appropriate manner to handle.
3. Do not discuss game on field or make any public statement about game to news media.
4. Discuss as a crew any plays, questions or points of emphasis occurring during the game.
5. Provide any pertinent information to the Referee about the conduct of coaches, players or other situations to include in the game report.
6. Leave the game site as a group.