May 2025 Football Study Guide

Spring is here along with spring scrimmages.  Hopefully some of you have begun to meet as crews or began 2025 rules study.  Rule and casebooks should be out in May as well the biblical standard Reddings Guide- a publication I urge all of you to obtain.

**RULE THREE**

This is generally considered the timing rule as starting and stopping the clock, length of periods and emergency shortening of periods or games are covered.  All officials regardless of position must be aware of game clock location, if there is a visible play clock and when both are started and stopped.

**Rule 3-1**

Established length of periods in high school football.  Twelve minutes for varsity competition.  In the GHSA JV games are 10 min quarters but if any player is in the eighth grade then quarters are 8 min. In the GHSA halftimes are 20 min.

In any emergency situation either a quarter or halftime may be shortened for situations beyond game management control- weather, law enforcement issues are examples. If halftime is shortened a three minute mandatory warm up is still required.

Weather may cause suspension of a game till a later time or date. There are curfews in most jurisdictions. A team losing at suspension may accept the score/result of the game and not continue play at a later date

**Rule 3-3**

For crew discussion:

What situations require a period to be extended for an untimed down?

In what situations will a period NOT be extended for an untimed down?

When will the game clock start on the snap?

When will the game clock be stopped ?

How does first touching by K on a kickoff or scrimmage kick other than a try affect starting or stopping the clock?

**Rule 3-5**

How many time outs does a team have per half?  Length?

What is an “official’s time out”?

What is an authorized conference and when may they be held and where?

**Rule 3-6**

When is the play clock set to 25 seconds?  40 seconds?

Describe “ Ready for Play”

**Rule 3-7**

Despite its shortness this is a complex rule describing legal substitutions.

For crew discussion:

When are illegal substitutions DEAD BALL fouls?  LIVE BALL fouls?

**RULE FOUR**

With any play- before, during or after- there is a dead ball period (pre-snap)then a live ball period followed by another dead ball period (post-snap)

In high school football the ball becomes live in what two ways?

**Rule 4-2**

What ways does a live ball become dead?

What are the exceptions for place kick holders?

Define out of bounds?

What is an inadvertent whistle? How are inadvertent whistles handled during:

1. A run in bounds
2. While a pass is airborne?
3. While the ball is loose after a fumble
4. During a kick
5. How do accepted penalties affect the above?

**GHSA OVERTIME**

Discuss the GHSA overtime procedure.

How many timeouts per overtime period?

Do unused timeouts from regulation carry over to overtime?

What are the options at the coin toss?