



Breakout Follow Up

JULY 20, 2026

Free Kicks

- ▶ Key Pieces
- ▶ There is no change for Umpires and Back Judges
- ▶ Wings will ALWAYS start at pylon, unless obvious onside situation
- ▶ Wings only push up when it's organized
- ▶ IF you push up....depth is never higher than deepest receiver
- ▶ IF you push up.....it must be parallel

- ▶ REMINDER- new movement for Back Judge after a score but prior to a free kick.....needs to move up the VISITING SIDELINE every time

Scoring Scrimmage Kicks – Umpire Position

- ▶ 90% of the time, these kicks come with a stopped clock. Umpires should spot ball, R pushes you off & R chops once the U is in position
- ▶ Umpires are still primary on Snapper Safety
 - ▶ Umpire should choose upright with best vision of snapper (BJ allow it)
 - ▶ If the Umpire needs to take 2-3 steps to L or R to improve vision of snapper... move to officiate....but you have to move back to judge the success of the kick. Remember the action on the snapper is immediate
- ▶ If the Umpire cannot get a good vision....they have to announce they have no vision and the Referee will serve as secondary
- ▶ Remember to be LOUD with your players to keep the defense “off of the snapper”. Especially if you do not have a clear vision

Scoring Scrimmage Kicks – Last Second Kicks

- ▶ 90% of the time, these kicks come with a stopped clock. Umpires should spot ball, R pushes you off & R chops once the U is in position
- ▶ If there is a running clock:
 - ▶ Recognizing the Situation. Communicate! (Tee, Tee, Tee)
 - ▶ Spotting the Ball – let the situation drive the decision but everyone needs to be ready to help
 - ▶ Back Judge needs to move quickly into position under goal post
 - ▶ Umpire – once you know it's happening, move into position
 - ▶ Referee – The plan is to not interfere with the kick. If the Umpire is still in route....allow the kick to take place. R and BJ will be responsible for Good/No Good

Q&A #1

► Question:

- If we have a 30 -35 yard FG and the Umpire cannot get back, what do we do?

► Answer:

- If the clock is stopped.....R to hold the clock till the U in place
- If the clock is running, allow the kick and the R/BJ will judge the success of the Kick

Q&A #2

► Question:

- Should Wings Line Up on the field for a FG or Try now? Should they Crash In after the kick?

► Answer:

- There is no need for the wing to start inside the field of play any more. Staying on the wing is preferred, HOWEVER, crashing in is mandatory because we need a presence on the field to separate players with the Umpire not there

Q&A #3

► Question:

- When there is a busted Kick Play, who has the Goal Line?

► Answer:

- If the original LOS is inside the 15 yard line....the wings have the Goal Line. Do to shorter field, the Umpire may need to stay back on the end line due to self preservation. Back Judge has the end line
- If the original LOS is the 15 yard line or deeper, than the BJ is responsible for getting to the Goal Line and ruling if necessary. The Umpire should also move into a standard position but they do not have a line to rule on

Q&A #4

▶ Question:

▶ Does the Scoring Kick mechanic change based if it's 1st, 2nd or 3rd Down?

▶ Answer:

▶ No. Mechanics are the same

Q&A #5

- ▶ Question:
- ▶ How do we treat swinging gate?
- ▶ Answer:
- ▶ This should be easier now. The Umpire spots the ball, the wings work the wing and the Back Judge moves with the Gate. Back Judge is primary on numbering exceptions. Once they shift to kicking formation, umpire simply shifts back to the upright and other mechanics are followed