

TSSAA 7-man Football Mechanics

Preparation

7-man work harder... involved in every play... MAKE A PRESENCE!!!! Communicate, be visible

5 officials box in play... watch dead ball & off ball

Don't over officiate

"accordion in" to 9-yard mark (top of the numbers) or until you feel pressure

Hustle... but don't run over each other

Lead has goal line - trail stop @ 2 yd line - Lead has forward progress inside 2 yd line

Mechanics Focus

HL/SJ work together

LJ/FJ work together

HL/SJ/LJ/FJ work starting on sidelines (work outside-in) – **HL/LJ heels on back of restricted area**

HL/LJ pinch in on short yardage & goalline plays when formation is away from you (no closer than top of #'s)

SJ/FJ work balls in/out from sideline to/from U – **must have new ball on all incomplete passes**

HL/LJ follow play (do not leave LOS until ball crosses) – remember the "shadowing or mirroring" concept in 7-man (different than rotation in 5-man)

HL/LJ – **spot at top of #'s** (but crash spot on close 1st downs, goal line, or 4th downs) – inside the #'s, turn & job to sideline – top of #'s - back out to sideline

HL/LJ don't leave line until runner crosses it or pass crosses it

R do not echo TD signal (echo only on FG & Try)

Keep old ball on field until new ball is marked if old ball is in side zone

HL/LJ/SJ/FJ may give 'winding' signal on plays close to sideline – COMMUNICATE so everyone knows status

If TV game, **FJ** goes to "Red Hat" on time-outs (sprint to position with 0:30 to go) - other judges alerts teams

Parade rest on pre-game, coin-toss, waiting on kick-off, time-outs, injury

Scrimmage down

R 12-15yds from LOS & 5-yards wider than huddle

U 6/9-yards behind B LOS, between A's tackles w/snap in view; keep ball covered if snap threatened

SJ/FJ 20-yards from LOS (key off SJ – SJ key off HL)

BJ 25-yards from LOS (take the lead of the backfield officials)

Pre-game

We all meet the coaches – except for introductions **only** R does the talking

LJ/FJ/U/ECO check **visiting team** for any illegal equipment

HL/SJ/BJ check **home team** for any illegal equipment

LJ/BJ – then position on 50-yd line on each hash mark (observe teams)

HL check chains – then position on 50-yd line hashes (observe teams)

SJ/FJ game balls, ball persons, & obtain kicking ball - then position on 50-yd line hashes (observe teams)

U check field & pylon placement (get black towel if needed) – then position on 50-yd line hashes (observe teams)

ECO check clock – then position on 50-yd line (observe teams)

R Game Admin meeting

Everyone meet in endzone when teams clear field (we may go back inside) – perform radio check

Coin Toss

SJ/FJ give kicking balls to LJ/BJ

When R gives receiving signal, toss ball to BJ for placement on 40-yd line

FJ/SJ enter on 50-yd line behind captains

HL/BJ & LJ/ECO should also enter behind captains (even with FJ/SJ)

2nd half:

- @ start of mandatory warm-up SJ/FJ get coach's choices & relay to crew
- @ 2-minute mark be in position to enter field
- @ 1-minute mark go to kick-off position - place ball on the correct 40-yd line

LJ>	45yd	<BJ
	R	
FJ	50yd	SJ
	U	
ECO	45yd	HL

Pre-Kickoff

BJ put kick ball on kicking line

Take spot so that when we break, we can move in direction of our kick-off spot

Call out & point to the spot you are going

LJ R HL
FJ 50yd SJ
BJ ECO U

Kickoff

R/LJ/HL count R & signal to each other

R gets ready signal from U/FJ/SJ

R signals BJ to hand ball to kicker (then BJ moves to sideline)

SJ/FJ count R & signal

U/BJ count K & signal

For beginning of each half & after Safety:

- FJ/SJ @ hashes, give R free kick line (stay at hash until BJ signal)
- BJ/U give K free kick line (BJ hand ball to kicker @ 15 second mark, U @ hash)
- U/FJ/SJ leave field together on BJ signal (R begins checking crew for readiness)

BJ don't leave field unless both teams have exactly 11 players

BJ don't leave field until 45-second count expires

BJ to verify 'K' formation

- at least 4 on each side of kicker
- no player other than kicker is deeper than 5 yards from kick line

BJ/U/FJ/SJ heels on back of restricted area

After score, BJ/U/FJ/SJ meet at pylon

- **BJ/U leave first, FJ/SJ follow 10 yards behind**
- **Square off at yard line & only BJ enters field (unless Safety)**

Goal Line		
LJ	R	HL
	25yd	
	35yd	
FJ	50yd	SJ
BJ	40yd	U

Post-kickoff

R/LJ/HL work up from goalline to 25-yd line

LJ/HL after ball kicked should move up to be on yard line where ball caught

R has hash to hash

FJ/SJ drift down 10-15 yards to 35-yd line

- look for illegal blocks
- watch for 1st touching
- did ball hit the ground
- fair catches

BJ/U move at 45° angle to hashes (at 45-yd line), & to middle of field

- work down field 10-15 yards
- work inside-out
- observe center of field down to 25-yd line
- BJ DON'T get beat to the goalline

BJ observe action on kicker

Goal Line		
LJ	R	HL
↓	↓	↓
	25yd	
↑	35yd	↑
FJ	50yd	SJ
↗		↖
BJ	40yd	U

Passes

HL/LJ if pass is behind LOS, **"punch backward or forward"** – responsibility goes to position in direction of pass

Only covering official give 'incomplete pass' signal, everyone else 'stop-the-clock' signal

Same Official **NEVER gives incomplete & TO signal on same play**

HL/LJ move with key no more than 5-yards downfield

- Responsible for receptions between you & lead official
- SJ/FJ help with reception & out of bounds

HL/LJ stay on LOS until pass crosses (except inside 5-yd line, then U is on LOS)

- fwd/bwd pass (punch forward/backward)
- ineligibles downfield
- pass behind LOS
- passer beyond LOS

BJ DON'T get beat to the goalline

SJ/FJ keys on widest receiver, then zone coverage, then the ball

BJ help with reception (SJ/FJ out of bounds – are feet down)

Outside 20-yard line

Lead official (BJ/SJ/FJ) read keys & keep 20-yd cushion - has goalline & forward progress inside 2-yd line

Trail Official (HL/LJ) STOP @ 2-yd line & has forward progress down to 2-yd line

BJ works inside-out, all other work outside-in

On/inside B's 20-yard line (20- yard line down to 5-yd line)

BJ on endline

SJ/FL on goalline outside pylons (stay with goalline & signal touchdown)

HL/LJ on LOS move with play but STOP at 2-yd line

On/Inside 20-yd		
End Line BJ		
FJ	Goal Line	SJ
2yd		
↑	U	↑
LJ	20yd	HL
R		

On/Inside B's 5-yard line

BJ on endline

SJ/FJ on endline outside pylons (may pinch-in if necessary)

Exception: SJ/FJ if line-to-gain is inside 5-yd line on 4th down – position on goal line

HL/LJ on LOS & move to goalline at the snap

On/Inside 5-yd		
FJ	BJ	SJ
End Line		
↑	U	↑
Goal Line		
LJ	5yd	HL
R		

On/Inside A's 5-yard line

R near endline

HL/LJ backup to goalline on snap

On/Inside 5-yd		
R		
Goal Line		
↑	5yd	↑
3		1
FJ	20yd	SJ
BJ		
25yd		

FG/Try

FJ/BJ have uprights, BJ has whistle & crossbar

FJ/BJ take 2 steps **forward (no angle) & signal** 'good'/'no good' (hold signal until eye contact w/ R)

R echo signal

U/SJ on/near goalline on try (or same yard line)

U has snapper

HL/LJ crash in after kick on try to help shut play down

Everyone communicate "LIVE BALL" on FG attempt

If FG blocked or faked outside 25-yd line, BJ/FJ get to the pylons on goalline

FG/Try		
FJ	BJ	
End Line		
U	SJ	
Goal Line		
LJ		HL
5yd		
R		

Punts

HL/LJ hold position until ball crosses LOS, then drift 10-15 yards

****NOTE: HL/LG become lead officials, SJ/FJ become trail officials****

BJ middle of field

Inside the 45-yd line, BJ/SJ/FJ on goal line

Outside the 45-yd line, BJ/SJ/FJ 5-yds behind deepest receiver(s) – **same yard line**

BJ rules on touchback, 1st touching, end of kick (but everyone be alert for 1st touching)

BJ stays with ball

SJ/FJ has fair catch & stays with signaler

FG (after fair catch)		
FJ	BJ	
End Line		
LJ		HL
R's Free Kick Line		
R	K's Free Kick Line	U

End of Qtr

R/U/HL/BJ meet at ball to record information (BJ notify R at 15-second warning)

SJ/FJ record info at sideline, observe team (give 15-second warning when directed by R)

SJ get clip spot

LJ have yd line thru spot of ball

Penalty Admin

Get team to huddle

LJ hold enforcement spot

SJ/FJ hold enforcement spot

HL spot we end up after penalty administration (succeeding spot); arrive before U; be certain of down #

U/HL signal "1", "2", or "3", or "half" to 5, 10, 15 yard or half-the-distance penalty

U walk off penalties; visually confirm with HL & look to LJ before placing ball

BJ observe teams; cover flag; help obtain ball

Don't give penalty signals & don't have penalty discussion in front of coaches or teams

Measurements

LJ spot where clip will be placed

HL chains (reset if not 1st down)

SJ down marker

BJ ball

FJ clear players – obtain new ball if needed

U front stake

R declares after measurement

Leave ball in place until spot is determined (new ball spot off ball if turn-over; R take chains to spot before moving ball if next down; U gets spot before moving ball if 1st down)