

FOULS & ENFORCEMENT

Who throws it, who enforces it, who announces it. The white marker is the **Referee**; boxed items are white-hat only.

- R

Referee (white hat)
- U

Umpire
- LM

Linesman (H/DJ)
- LJ

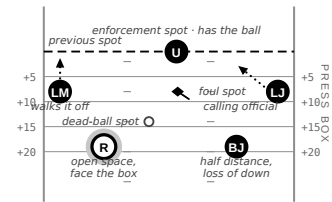
Line Judge
- BJ

Back Judge (5-man)

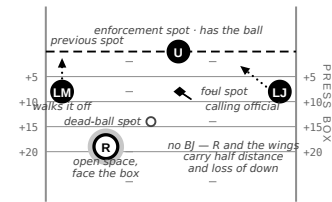
FLAG DOWN

▶you see a foul · the ball is still live

CREW OF 5



CREW OF 4



EVERYONE ON THIS

- No spot: throw it high in the air. Spot matters: throw it to the yard line. Passer beyond the line: drop it at the spot. Never throw a flag at a player.
- A dead-ball personal foul or an unsportsmanlike foul goes straight up in the air.
- Two flags on one foul: move them to the same spot, confirm the foul and the number, then one official gives the preliminary.

WHITE HAT ONLY

- Referee dead-ball action first. Penalize the first late hit — it usually ends the problem.
- Find the first open space and give your preliminary there. Do not walk around looking for a spot.
- You give one preliminary only for a simple five-yard dead-ball foul: false start, encroachment, delay, illegal substitution.

CREW OF 5

Calling Timeout twice, the preliminary to the Referee, then point at the offending team. Describe it to the wing — “#88 held” won’t sell it.

U Turn to the calling official on the whistle. Enforcement is yours from there.

LM / LJ Cover a spot foul. Keep the sideline clear.

BJ Half distance, automatic first down, loss of down.

Flag in front, tucked in — one or two, centre weighted, black ball.

CREW OF 4

R Same, and half distance and loss of down are yours.

U Same as a crew of 5.

LM / LJ Same, and the Line Judge picks up clock status to the Referee.

ENFORCING IT

▶ball is dead · flag is down

EVERYONE ON THIS

- Both wings walk off the yardage — one will get pulled into a coach’s question, so two sets of feet keep it honest.
- The wing gives the head coach the down and distance both ways: taking it, and declining it.
- Ask your question now. A wrong enforcement gets fixed on the field, not in the locker room.

WHITE HAT ONLY

- Enforcement belongs to the Umpire. Let him work it; you take the preliminary and the announcement.
- Crew goal on a simple five-yard dead-ball foul: ball marked ready inside ten seconds.
- Check the scoreboard for the right number of timeouts before you mark it ready.

CREW OF 5

U 98% of the time you already know it. On the other 2%, look to the head coach with the wing beside him. Walk it or jog it, but get it right.

LM / LJ Both walk it off. Don’t look at the Umpire until you reach the succeeding spot. Five-yard walk-off near a first down: check the chain tape.

BJ Half distance, automatic first down, loss of down — say it out loud, it gets missed.

CREW OF 4

R Half distance, automatic first down and loss of down are yours.

U Same as a crew of 5.

LM / LJ Same as a crew of 5.

ANNOUNCING IT ▶preliminary given · enforcement set

EVERYONE ON THIS

- The microphone belongs to the Referee alone. If the crew can't hear it in the stadium, nobody uses it.
- Line Judge and Back Judge signal clock status to the Referee while he faces the press box.

Ⓡ WHITE HAT ONLY

- Stand still, face the press box, be concise. Think before you talk and pause for effect.
- Announce the player's number. Keep unique rulings short and skip the technical language.
- No microphone tonight? Verbalize the foul as you signal to the press box.

SAY IT LIKE THIS

Dead ball	Dead ball, false start, #79, offense, five yards, still first down.
Live ball	Illegal motion, #38, offense, five yards, repeat second down.
Automatic first	Pass interference, #41, defense, 15 yards, automatic first down.
Loss of down	Intentional grounding, #12, offense, five yards, loss of down, third down.

ALSO ANNOUNCED

Sideline warning	Sideline warning, name the school, their first.
Timeout	Timeout, offense, their first.
Out of timeouts	Two tugs on the steamboat whistle facing the press box, then point at that team's goal line.
Disqualification	Signal the DQ for each player ejected, on each team.

COACH WANTS A CONFERENCE ▶Rule 3-5 · he thinks a rule was misapplied

EVERYONE ON THIS

- This covers misapplication or misinterpretation of a rule. Judgment calls do not qualify — say so plainly and move on.
- The rule book, the case book and the mechanics manual have to be at the field. Not in the car.
- If he still disagrees, the crew gets the books, finds the ruling and shows him. Skipping this can cost an official up to two years.

Ⓡ WHITE HAT ONLY

- Meet him at the sideline with the wing present, and listen before you talk.
- You can take it to the crew. Every official gets to speak — don't let the loudest one run the discussion.
- You explain the ruling to the coach, not the official who called it.

CREW OF 5

Ⓡ Runs the conference and gives the ruling. Facilitates the crew discussion.

LM / LJ Stay with the Referee at the sideline. Keep the coach in his box and everyone else out of it.

U / BJ Get the books, and watch the field — the players are unsupervised while this happens.

CREW OF 4

Ⓡ Same as a crew of 5.

LM / LJ One stays with the Referee, the other watches both teams.

U Gets the books.

TEMPERS UP — prevention is the job; the fight is the failure

01 Allow no talking between opponents. Stop it the moment it starts. Pinch further into the field — your presence does the work, and the Umpire matters most in the middle. 02 Penalize the first late hit. It is the single most effective thing you can do, and it usually ends the problem. 03 Two players chest up or shove: get between them and stop it, then decide on penalties. Talk to the ones on the edge of a late hit but not late enough to call.	04 Be assertive without being aggressive. Do not push a player down, tackle him, grab a facemask or pull anyone off a pile. Use the whistle. 05 Players actually swinging: stand back and take numbers, keep others away, break it up once they are on the ground. Wings own the sidelines and keep the benches from emptying. 06 After order is restored: huddle away from everyone, let every official speak, then assess penalties and disqualifications. The Referee tells each head coach at the sideline with a wing present. Signal dead ball and personal foul — not unsportsmanlike, there was contact.
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Built from the OHSAA Gold Book *Brief & Concise* mechanics for crews of 5 and 4, which follows the NFHS Officials Manual. Associations amend these, so check Vermont's guidance before teaching it. Print at 100% on Letter, two-sided, flip on the long edge.