

2017 Mechanics Experiment FAQ

<p>Why are we doing this experiment?</p>	<p>This mechanic experiment is a continuation from last year. The vast majority of coaches are proactively seeking to improve communication with officials, (2016 and 2017 Coaches Survey). The data and information collected from experiments will be reported to and utilized by the NFHS rules committee in order to determine the viability of future rule and mechanics changes.</p>
<p>What's different from last year?</p>	<p>The chains will remain opposite the press box side of the field. The flank officials will switch at halftime.</p>
<p>Will the chains move like last year?</p>	<p>No, the chains will remain on the sideline opposite of the press box.</p>
<p>I'm a Line Judge, will my mechanical responsibilities change on punts?</p>	<p>No. Your mechanical responsibilities will stay the same. You will be positioned downfield during punts.</p>
<p>I'm a Head Linesman, will my mechanical responsibilities change on punts?</p>	<p>No. Your mechanical responsibilities stay the same. You will hold the line of scrimmage until the ball crosses.</p>
<p>Will my responsibilities as an H or an L change on a field goal or try?</p>	<p>No. Your mechanical responsibilities stay the same. H will be positioned on the line of scrimmage and L will be under the upright.</p>
<p>If there is a penalty on a punt play in the first half, who will communicate with the chain crew?</p>	<p>The L is responsible for the chains in the first half. Chain crews should be instructed not to move until signaled by the wing official. The R can assist on making sure the box moves correctly as R will be positioned in close proximity.</p>
<p>If there is a penalty on a field goal or try in the first half, who will communicate with the chain crew?</p>	<p>The L is responsible for the chains in the first half. Chain crews should be instructed not to move until signaled by the wing official. The R can assist on making sure the box moves correctly</p>
<p>If the chains unexpectedly move, what do we do?</p>	<p>The chains can be reset using the clip. Proper pregame with the chain crew and use of the clip will minimize potential issues.</p>

Should the L still line up even with the B, on punt plays?	Yes. On a punt the L will be positioned back deep and even with the B.
Will the mechanical responsibilities change for the Umpire or Referee on a punt play?	The Referee and the Umpire will continue to shade to the exposed sideline.
Who is responsible for stopping the clock if there is a fake punt?	All officials should be stopping the clock following 4th down. The H will be in best position to rule on the line to gain on a fake punt.
Should the Head Linesman and the Line Judge meet together with the ball boy and the chains prior to the football game?	If time permits, both officials should meet the ball boys and chain crew. If time does not permit, or the chain crew is running late, the H will speak with the chains and the L with the ball personnel.
Who is responsible for keeping time if the clock goes out?	In the rare occurrence that a field clock stops working the Line Judge will have this responsibility.
Who is responsible for getting which teams in pregame and at halftime?	The B will be responsible for getting the Home team throughout the game. The L will be responsible for getting the Visiting team throughout the game.
Which wing official will have primary responsibility for stopping the clock when the ball has made the line to gain?	Both wing officials are responsible for stopping the clock when the line to gain is made. The official opposite the chains will be primary, as that official will often have the best view. The wing official with the chains should know the line to gain prior to every play so that the official is not turning his/her back to the field.