

A couple of things to remember when working the Clock, Chains, Down Marker and Clip positions at the Hartford Youth Football home games:

- *Make sure you arrive at least 15 minutes before scheduled game time. Games can and occasionally do start ahead of time, assuming both coaches agree. You signed up for the slot, and your team is relying upon you to be there. Don't be late.*
- *You're actually considered an off-field official; and as such, you should remain impartial with your communication. Refrain from commenting to or instructing players – your child/player or otherwise.*

Clock Operator – keep the following in mind:

a) Official's signals

Winding motion means keep the clock going or start the clock following a first down.

Arms together over their head means 'stop the clock'

b) Stop clock on whistle for touchdown or penalty.

c) Clock does not run on extra points.

d) Clock starts on kickoffs when officials give winding signal.

e) Your most important things to track on the scoreboard is the time, the down, the quarter and the score. Aside from that, having the 'ball on' or 'yards to go' on the scoreboard is nice; but not necessary.

f) 8-minute quarters and half-time. Shortened half-time as agreed upon by the coaches.

g) No clock needed on overtime (8th Grade only).

h) Six points for Touchdown, Two points scored for kicked extra-point. One point for run or passed extra point. Three points for made field goal.

Chain Crew – Keep the following in mind:

- a) Officials will typically tell you which team is receiving on which end of the field, so you can get a head-start on where to be. If they don't, ask.*
- b) Ideally positioned two yards off the sidelines. Not all crews will require or make you do this; but they should (for yours and the player's safety). So be prepared to do this.*
- c) Your first mark goes off of the spot by the Down Marker person. Simply put the post in right behind theirs and stand to the side.*
- d) Never pick up and move the sticks until the Head Linesman or Referee signals or tells you to (for a first down).*
- e) Be prepared to drop the sticks and get out of the way if the play comes towards the sidelines.
When they call for a first down measurement, the Head Linesman will come and get you; and you will walk out with the chains to measure for a first down. Let the Head Linesman put his clip down on the field.....you simply stretch the chains.*
- f) Watch for penalty flags.*
- g) First downs inside the 10 yard line don't require chains.*
- h) On fourth downs that result in change of possession to the other team, your starting point for the new back stick position is the spot of the down marker. The lead becomes the trail, and the trail becomes the lead.*
- i) NEVER PICK UP AND MOVE THE STICKS UNTIL THE HEAD LINESMAN OR REFEREE SIGNALS YOU TO (FOR A FIRST DOWN). Yes.....this is a repeat; but it's repeated for a reason!*

Down Marker Person – Keep the following in mind:

- a) Talk to the officials to find out how they will spot the ball (with their left foot, right foot, foot forward, foot back, etc.)*
- b) You have the first mark for the spot of the ball. Everyone else goes off you for the initial first-down spot.*
- c) Never change the number of the down until the Head Linesman tells you to, or the Referee whistles and signals the ‘ready for play’ for the next play.*
- d) When the chain crew is going out for a measurement, go to the spot of the chain crew’s first-down stick. They then know where to come back to when they come back from the sidelines. Then, go back to the spot of the ball when they get set.*
- e) NEVER CHANGE THE DOWN NUMBER UNTIL THE HEAD LINESMAN OR REFEREE TELLS YOU TO. Yes, this is a repeat; but it’s repeated for a reason.*

Clip Person – Keep the following in mind:

- a) The officiating crews should have a clip to use. Clip gets attached to the chain on the back edge of the long yard line (5 or 10) nearest the back post (back, meaning where the ball originally starts at). This will give an accurate point of reference, if it’s needed.*
- b) You are continually moving; and adjust on 1st downs.*

QUESTIONS? CALL TODD RUSNIAK @ 414-378-6853.