



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

MECHANICS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF SUBSTITUTION RULE

Consistency in administering Rule 3-5-2 continues to be a challenge. Big 12 coordinator Walt Anderson has developed the following mechanics which constitute CFO policy and must be used by all crews.

To help simplify the application of Rule 3-5, consider that the elements for Team A involve either a huddle or no huddle. If Team A is in a huddle and sends in one or more substitutes, Team B must be alert and be prepared to react promptly. In the absence of Team A breaking the huddle quickly and rushing to the line, Team B is not afforded any additional time to match up. If Team A breaks the huddle with 12, it is an immediate foul; if they fail to send the replaced player out of the huddle after the substitute enters the huddle (3 seconds) it is an immediate foul. If the replaced player clearly leaves the huddle first, and then the huddle breaks and is not hurrying to the LOS before the substitute leaves the field, then Team A has met its requirements and Team B must be prepared to play in a normal manner.

If Team A is in a no-huddle formation and substitutes, or if they have already broken the huddle and a substitute then enters the field, either of these situations will trigger the administration of Rule 3-5-2-e. Team B is afforded a match up opportunity if they do so immediately (3 seconds). If Team A does not substitute and is in a hurry-up mode, Team B must be prepared to react promptly and is not afforded any match-up provisions. These are the mechanics we will use for this rule.

1. The Referee is primarily responsible to signal with extended hands/arms with closed fists straight out to his side (make a “t”) when Team A is substituting **and** Team B is allowed a match up opportunity. **No signal is needed if Team A substitutes but there is no immediate attempt by Team B to match up. This will prevent unnecessary movement by the Umpire.**
2. The flank officials on the Team A sideline should also be aware of and signal when Team A substitutes in match-up situations, as can officials on the opposite side to assist in recognition by the Referee. Because of his position deep in the

middle, the BJ can also assist greatly in recognizing substitutions and signal to assist the R.

3. The Umpire should make a habit of quickly glancing at the Referee as he is coming off the ball after placement. Should he notice the Referee with extended hands at any point, this will alert him to get back over or stay over the ball until the Referee clears him by dropping his extended hands and pointing at the Umpire. As he is waiting for the signal, the Umpire should make note of his best exit route so as to be clear of players when the ball is snapped.
4. Once the Referee activates the substitution rule by extending his hands, he should monitor the defense to allow them reasonable time to match up, position their players and allow substitutes to leave the field.
5. It is possible for Team A to substitute so late and Team B even when reacting promptly to not be in position prior to the play clock expiring that a delay of game penalty on the offense is warranted.
6. The Umpire should be alert to look back at the Referee regularly after he has spotted the ball and moved to his position to notice when the Referee has extended his hands, which will happen when late substitutes come in. At that time, just move quickly back up to the ball and hold your position there until cleared by the Referee. It is because the Umpire is most often looking toward the offense (and the Referee) and he is the person who must step in and prevent the snap that we want the Referee to be our “quarterback” in this situation.
7. If we are delayed in getting to the ball to prevent a snap, we will stop the game and give Team A a warning that it must allow Team B to match up (“Do-Over”). Further attempts by Team A to create a defensive disadvantage in this manner will result in a 15 yard unsportsmanlike penalty.
8. Any official should be prepared to step in and shut down a play that he notices falls within this substitution rule, because--especially in hurry up situations—dead-ball actions from the previous play often prevent covering officials from being fully aware that conditions have been created that trigger this rule.