



40 / 25 Play Clock Procedures



BASIC PREMISE: The play clock will ALWAYS start with 40 seconds unless there is an **administrative stoppage**.

40 SECOND PLAY CLOCK:

REFER TO THE FOLLOWING TABLE FOR SITUATIONS WHEN THE PLAY CLOCK WILL BE SET TO 40 SECONDS:

Start as soon as play ends and the ball is declared dead.

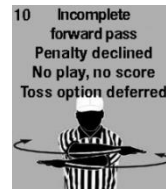
SITUATION	REFEREE SIGNAL
RELATED TO DEFENSIVE PLAYER: Officials time out to replace a Player. Repair player equipment	Chop or Wind
RELATED TO DEFENSIVE PLAYER: after a foul on defensive player only	Chop or Wind
At the end of a running play...in bounds or out of bounds	NO Signal
At the end of a pass play, complete or incomplete.	NO signal
After team A is awarded a 1 st down. (No measurement or other delay)	NO Signal or Silent Wind*
After a double change of possession & Team A snaps. (Excluding kicks)	NO Signal or Silent Wind*
Helmet off / Equipment Issue / Injury – Defense	Chop or Wind

*Silent wind is for the game clock operator only if the play ends inbounds.

STARTING THE 40 SECOND PLAY CLOCK:

Start the 40 second play clock when you see the covering official use one of the 3 following signals the end of a down:

1. Dead ball - Raise one arm straight up in the air
2. Incomplete signal
3. Time-out signal



25 SECOND PLAY CLOCK:

REFER TO THE FOLLOWING TABLE FOR SITUATIONS WHEN THE PLAY CLOCK WILL BE SET TO 25 SECONDS:

SITUATION	REFEREE SIGNAL
Administration of a penalty by Offense	Chop or Wind
Start of a period or Overtime	Chop
After a measurement	Chop or Wind
Helmet off / Equipment issue / Injury – Offense	Chop or Wind
Change of Possession – Team B Snaps	Chop
After any legal kick down	Chop
Touchdown, Try, Field Goal, Safety	Chop
Inadvertent whistle	Wind
Timeout by any team or media	Chop
Timeout by any official	Chop or Wind
Following a touchback	Chop
Untimed down	Chop

RESETTING THE PLAY CLOCK:

- The **Referee** wants the play clock reset to 25 seconds by pumping one (1) arm in the air near his head.
- The **Referee** wants the play clock reset to 40 seconds by pumping both arms in the air near his head.
- Back Judge may mirror the Referee. --

GENERAL STATEMENTS:

1. Always set the play clock back to 40 during a down in progress. You will have time to change it to 25 if is necessary.
2. **The common ready-for-play whistle/signal is not used for a 40 second play clock.**
3. It is very important that the same individual in the press box is **NOT** responsible for both clocks (Game and Play)!!!