

# 40/25-Second Play Clock For Timers

The play clock will be automatically reset to 40 seconds at the end of each play. The covering official's signal will designate when to start the play clock.

When the ball is declared dead in field of play on a play from scrimmage: Play clock starts when covering official raises their arm or gives a wind signal if near the sideline.

Incomplete pass: Play clock starts when covering official signals incomplete pass.

Ball dead out of bounds: Play clock starts when covering official signals to stop the game clock.

The play clock will be manually set to 25 seconds when these occur or upon signal from Referee (one hand pump above head, or the Referee's ready for play signal):

- Penalty administration
- Charged team timeout
- Media timeout
- Injury timeout (offense)
- Measurement
  
- Team B awarded first down **other than after a free kick**
- Start of each period
- Start of possession series in extra period
  
- After any score other than a touchdown
- Instant replay review
- Helmet off (offense)
- Other administrative stoppage

## Special Situations

On a delay of game penalty, keep the play clock at :00 until the penalty is completed.

If the play clock hits :00 and there is no delay of game, reset to 40 seconds immediately after the snap, then wait for the appropriate signal to start the play clock.

If play clocks are not synchronized, or if one fails, the clocks must be turned off and the appropriate official will be responsible.

On kickoffs and free kicks after a safety, the play clock starts on the ready for play signal by the Referee. If the kickoff does not occur before the 25-second play clock elapses and a delay foul is called, the same procedure will be followed. Officials have the authority to reset the play clock to 25 seconds if the wind blows the ball off the tee or other circumstances warrant. Watch for arm pump signal by Referee.

Under no circumstances should the play clock be reset to 25 seconds upon a signal by any official other than the Referee. It is common practice for officials to communicate to the Referee to "ask" if they want to consider resetting by making the pumping signal. Resetting is the sole discretion of the Referee.

Be alert for signal from Referee if you notice any type of administrative delay while the play clock is running, especially after it gets under 25 seconds.