

Instructions to Assistants

Pregame Duties (98:5-8, 4G)

Organize your assistants, locate yardage chain and down marker and have assistants ready with all equipment on the sideline opposite the press box. Remain on the same side throughout the game. Check the chain for kinks, knots and weak spots. Check chain against 10-yard measure on field. Check chain against 10-yard measure on the field. Review all procedures with chain crew at this time.

Chain Procedures (98:5-8, 4H)

Set down marker, rods and clips where indicated by HL. Position ground markers adjacent to sideline. Box operator places down marker on sideline where indicated. Chains are then set on sideline and clip attached on side of yardline closest to rear chain rod. When chains are set, box operator retreats six feet and establishes spot where chains are to be reset after clip has been attached. Emphasize that your assistants should move only at your direction (except for safety considerations), and to step lively when a move is indicated.

NOTE: Be prepared to give complete and thorough instructions to assistants if a different line to gain device is to be used in the game.

See that the chain is taut and unkinked at all times.

Make no remarks to players nor express opinions concerning any ruling.

Never move chains or line-to-gain indicator or down markers (except for safety considerations), or change the number of the down unless so directed by the HL. The HL will check with the R

Remove themselves and all equipment outside the limit line for free kicks.

Chains are to be laid down away from the field and only the down marker is to be used when there is a first down inside Team B's 10-yard line.

Remain neutral and follow instructions at all times.

HL is responsible for the conduct and performance of the assistants.

Emphasize to assistants that safety considerations preempt these procedures whenever necessary, and that assistants should be alert at all times to possible safety situations.

After Each Scrimmage Down (98:5-14, 6.3L-P)

Check down marker for correct number and indicate placement to assistant. Be sure that there are no fouls or other reasons for holding spot of previous down before signaling the assistant.

Signal number of each down by holding one arm aloft with correct number indicated by extended finger(s). Closed fist indicates fourth down.

Measurements (98:5-40, 18.1J-L)

Instruct assistants on procedures to be followed when a measurement is required. Chainmen should go with HL to spot on field provided by LJ. Forward chainman should hand chain to U, and take it back when measurement is done. Box man should mark line-to-gain in case of need.

Anticipate any call for measurement and be off sidelines ready to bring in chain when signaled by R.

Each time a new line-to-gain is established, personally mark the spot on the sideline where the down indicator is to be set and be sure that it is set correctly and then moved off the sideline.

When a first down is awarded inside the 10-yard line, ONLY the down indicator will be used. The chain crew will insure that the down indicator is returned to the proper spot if forced to move.

Change of Periods (98:5-45, 21.1H)

Instruct assistants on procedures to be followed on change of periods. Determine the yard line which intersects the chain between the rods. Record the down, distance and yard line upon which the ball rests. Grasp the chain at the back edge of the marked yard line, reverse the chain and the assistants holding the rods, and move to corresponding line in the other half of the field. Hold the point on the chain at the intersection of that line with the sidelines while the assistants tighten the chain. The assistants will then move the chain approximately six feet off the sideline.

Additional Responsibilities

Boxman should be prepared to inform officials if a possible intentional grounding pass went beyond the sideline extended.

Box and chains, when they relocate, should remember the yard line where they were previously located until the next play begins.

Boxman can assist Linesman verbally with LOS/5-yd tape, and down/distance.