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## **Officials' Bulletin 2016.01**

**To:** Head Football Coaches, Big 12, Mountain West, and Southland Officiating Staff  
**From:** Walt Anderson, Greg Burks, and Byron Boston – Officiating Coordinators  
**Date:** September 1, 2016

### **Administration of Team Timeouts**

If TV does not go out for a break, the Head Coach must make a decision. The Head Coach is allowed to extend one timeout each half to a full 60 seconds if TV does not elect its break option or has exhausted its allotted breaks for the quarter. We will instruct one of the wing officials to make eye contact with him and ask for a verbal or physical signal that he wants the timeout to be (a) 30 seconds or (b) 60 seconds. Those are the only two options. Based upon verbal or visible acknowledgment of which length of timeout he (Head Coach) wants, the Referee will then announce what the length of the timeout will be. Once the Referee has made the announcement, a Head Coach cannot change the length of the requested timeout, although he can request an additional timeout if he has any remaining. One of the officials on each side will stay with the team on their sideline and give each coach a warning when 15 seconds are remaining in a 30 second timeout, and we will give them a warning when 15 seconds are remaining in a 60 second timeout. At the end of the timeout, the Referee will then make the ball ready for play. The Back Judge on the field will keep the length of the timeout and he also will signal to the Referee when 15 seconds remain in either timeout. For timeouts in which TV goes out on break, those mechanics and signals by the Red Hat and Back Judge are clearly and specifically stated and all should reference that document for those specific signals.

### **Medical Observer Authority and Procedure**

We have sent to each institution and official the different policies and procedures for handling of medical stoppages during a game. These will vary from an independently hired person who communicates directly with the Replay Official to other professionals who in some conferences will be on the sidelines and have unique identification to allow them to request a medical stoppage from the nearest official. An important point for all coaches to remember is that nothing changes from what we have done for many years regarding field officials from administering long-standing injury procedures when they see a player in distress, be it a head/neck injury, which is the only type of injury that a special medical stoppage is allowed for, or any other type of injury. When officials stop play, regardless of the type of injury, ALL rules relative to an injury apply, including a possible 10 second runoff should an injury occur in the last minute of either half. If the ONLY reason for the game being stopped is because it was ONLY requested by the Medical Observer, the 10 second runoff rule would not apply but all other injury rules, including the requirement that the player leave for one play will be enforced.



### **Coaches in the White Sideline Area**

This will be a specific Point of Emphasis by officials this season. The presence of team persons in the 6 foot border is first a safety issue and for the protection of players, officials, and other persons near the field, this area should be clear at all times during play. This area also allows officials to perform their duties without interference both during and after the play. As we have done in the past, when the ball is dead, coaches are allowed to step to the sideline, but no further, to give signals or communicate to players, but then must be back behind the white border prior to the ball being snapped. This applies only to the coaches who are charged with direct communication to players; it does not give license to groups of team personnel from leaving their designated area. Officials are directed to issue the allowed warning, which will be followed by the appropriate level of penalty depending upon the number of violations that occur; these escalate from 5 yards for the second and third infractions, to 15 yards for the fourth and subsequent infractions; these penalties and warning apply to the rule just for being present in the six foot area during play. Actual physical interference with an official that prevents him/her from doing his/her job is an automatic 15-yard penalty without warning. We have worked to apply a common sense approach, and will continue that same general philosophy understanding there is limited sideline space in some stadiums, but it is clear this latitude has been abused by too many coaches across the country and the Rules Committee is stressing enforcement of this more for this season.