

These are the specific changes from 2017 in the 2018 Officials Manual:

1. The ECO has limited time run-off requirements at any quarter's end (p. 25)
2. Goal line kickoff coverage has been enhanced for borderline touchback/no touchback calls (p. 39 & 40).
3. For option-type running plays the wings in the direction of the pitch have new forward or backward pitch responsibilities (p.35).
4. For all other passes, the Line Judge has primary responsibility for ruling on forward or backward pass direction (p. 35).
5. Activities for the 25-second clock operator are detailed (New Item M, p. 27).
6. During punt plays the wings are responsible for covering action at the kicker's blocking shield (p. 38).
7. Officials are reminded of different numbering restrictions for linemen during scrimmage kick downs on each of 4th, and 1st, 2nd or 3rd down (There are NO actual mechanics change here; this is just a reminder to all officials that exceptions to the numbering rule, 7-2-5b, apply to scrimmage kick formations under exceptions 2 and 1, respectively).
8. Goal line mechanics have changed. All officials need to review their responsibilities for snaps anywhere between the 10-yard line and the goal line. This applies to teams both going in toward and out from the goal line. Primarily, the changes involve the "trigger" field position for "goal line" mechanics to kick in. Previously, goal line triggered at the 10-yard line for teams going in; now the trigger is at the 7-yard line (p. 32 & 37).
9. Referee's pre-snap depth in 6-man has been adjusted to the tighter 7-Man values, from the old requirement of 11-15 yards off LOS to 12-14 yards off LOS (p. 32).
10. Added cross reference to GHSA on-line 7-Man manual (p. 65) .
11. Corrected number of officials required for all playoff games from "six" to "seven" (p. 6).

There are NO changes to the manual regarding the accepted terminology change from "Head Linesman" to "Head-Line-Judge."

Nevertheless, "Head-Line-Judge" is the newly accepted terminology for this position.

Future editions of the manual will address this change explicitly; for now, the new terminology preserves the frequently-occurring abbreviation for this position as "HL".

Similarly, there are NO changes made for 2018 to the 4-Man mechanics portion of the manual.