

October 6, 2026

MEMO: 7-Man Mechanics at State

Football Officials,

I am excited to again announce that we will be utilizing 7-man mechanics for the 11-player classifications at State this year. This is a huge vote of confidence in our work by the WHSAA and our schools! It is vitally important that we begin preparing now, so we can show why this is a value-add for our state.

Key Points:

- This should improve the overall officiating effort from our crews for these state title games.
- The quality of our foul calls should improve immensely! Because we have better angles and more responsibility for coverage, there shouldn't be "bad angles," or "second guesses" at all.
- This is a pilot year. I'm confident things will go well; and the state is depending on us to make it so.
 - o Alternatively, if things are a mess, this opportunity will go away.
 - o It's on us to prepare well!!
- When you select your crew, and I will be reaching out on this, know that we don't want you to just "throw two more people out there because we can."
 - o We need this to be our "Best 7" on each game!
 - o If you're light a state-title-game-ready official, we'll find you someone to fill in.

Training Resources:

Included with this memo, you will find two training resources.

- o First, I have written the attached supplementary mechanics manual for your reference. This corresponds with the images in the NFHS game official's manual. The attached is your primary resource.
- o Second, included is a PowerPoint from Tait-Consul that can serve as an additional training item.

Video Training:

- Free Kicks – <https://youtu.be/cu1llh29XGM>
- Scrimmage and Scoring Kicks – <https://youtu.be/mn9G0N0aMUc>
- Scrimmage Downs and Goal Line – <https://youtu.be/6UtYR-Tfsxc>

****We will be hosting two virtual training sessions between now and the state finals.**

****All crews selected to work a final with 7-man mechanics will be required to attend a supplemental training. There will also be a mandatory walk-through at State.**

Lastly, I'd like to send a special thank you to Chris Leathers for helping with our training videos. Thanks, too, to my counterparts in neighboring states for their support, encouragement, and resource provision that made all these materials possible!

Please give me a shout with any questions! Thanks!! --TSS

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