



40/25 Play Clock Instructions for Timers

Reset the play clock to 40 seconds at the end of each play :

- A. The ball is declared dead in the field of play;
- B. Incomplete Pass;
- C. The ball is declared dead out of bounds.

The covering official's signal will designate when to start the play clock.

Manually set the play clock to 25 seconds when these occur:

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| A. Penalty administration | G. Start of a period |
| B. Charged team time-out | H. Start of possession series in OT |
| C. Media time-out | I. After any kick down |
| D. Injury time-out (Offense) | J. After any score |
| E. Measurement | K. Helmet Off (offense) |
| F. Team B awarded 1 st down | L. Other administrative stoppage |

Special Situations

Note – When there is a timeout for an **injury** or **helmet coming off**, the play clock will be set to 40 seconds if it is to a defensive (Team B) player. The play clock will be set to 25 seconds if it is to an offensive (Team A) player. If a combination injury or helmet is to players of both teams, the play clock is set to 40 seconds.

On a delay of game penalty, do not reset the play clock (: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 the play clocks are not synchronized, or if one fails, the clocks must be turned off and the back judge will keep the play clock on the field.

The referee is the only official that may reset the play clock by using the arm pump signal. It is common for an official to use this signal to “ask” the referee if he wants to consider resetting the play clock. One arm pump is to reset to 25 seconds. The two arm pump signal is used to reset the play clock to 40 seconds.

Look for the arm pump signal from the referee if you notice any type of administrative delay while the play clock is running, especially if the ball is spotted after the play clock gets under 25 seconds.

On kick-offs and free kicks after safety, the 25 second clock starts on the ready for play by the referee. If there is a delay, the same procedure will be followed. The officials may reset the play clock if the ball blows off the tee. Watch for the arm pump from the referee.

If the game clock is running and less than 25/40 seconds remain in any period, do not start the play clock. If the game clock is not running and less than 40 seconds remain in any period, the play clock is used normally. Remember that use of the play clock could alternate multiple times in the last 40 seconds.

If the game clock is started erroneously, it shall be stopped immediately. The play clock should then be stopped. The BJ may be asked to help restore time using the remaining time on the play clock. Do not reset the play clock until the signal is given by the referee.