

SECTION 19. MEASUREMENTS

(R) Remember that a measurement can be requested by a Captain at any time, but it can be denied if, in your opinion, it is obvious the first down has or has not been made. However, when a measurement becomes necessary, give the OFFICIALS'SS timeout signal and beckon the LINESMAN to bring the chain onto the field. Motion the players away from the ball and position yourself near the ball to give the result of the measurement. Allow opposing Captains to observe measurement. Always measure the ball at the spot, if this is in the side zone or at the side line, measure before moving the ball to the inbounds line. If short of first down and ball is in side zone, use chain to position ball at inbounds spot.

(U) Take immediate charge of the ball. Rotate ball so its long axis is parallel to the side line by placing one end against your hand marking the foremost point. Take forward rod from the chain crew person and tighten it carefully after the LINESMAN calls "ready." Hold the rod perpendicular until the REFEREE announces his ruling. DO NOT MAKE THE CALL FOR THE REFEREE. Return the rod to the chain crew person after the ball has been spotted for the next play. Remind REFEREE of down and clock status.

(L) Go to the chain and make sure that the chain is clipped at the intersection of the side line and the marked yard line closest to the rear rod. Move the down marker to the forward rod, grasp the clip and direct the chain crew persons to move the chain onto the field. Place clip at yard line spot indicated by the LINE JUDGE and call "ready." If not a first down, when released, return the chain to its original spot on the sideline.

(LJ) Take a position behind the point of measurement at the yard line that the chain is clipped. Align yourself with the ball and extend your foot to provide the LINESMAN with the correct alignment for the clip. Observe Team areas for illegal substitutions or unauthorized time out privileges. If the ball has to be spotted at the inbounds line, repeat procedure for aligning the clip. Remind REFEREE of down and clock status. Be alert for bringing in a new ball.

(BJ) Go to the forward line to gain stake and set up the down box at this point. Maintain this position while the other officials complete the measurement. If it is a first down, the LINESMAN will release the chain crew for you to set them up for the next series. If it is not a first down, remain on the sideline until the LINESMAN resets the chain and then you set up the down box on the ball. Make sure the correct down is then displayed. Reset the 25 second clock for resumption of play if you are keeping the 25-second clock and remind Referee of down and clock status. Be alert for bringing in a new ball.