

Football Mercy Rule for Eight-Man

The running Clock Rule point differential is 32 points.

The 3rd quarter is up to the trailing coach to request the running clock, but the 4th quarter is mandatory.

If a team trails by 32 or more points at halftime or at any time during the 3rd quarter, that team may request a running clock.

If a team trails by 32 or more points at the end of the 3rd quarter, the 4th quarter must be played with a running clock. If at any time during the 4th quarter, the point differential becomes 32 or more points, then the remainder of the game would be played with a running clock.

Once a running clock is started, the remainder of the game will be played with a running clock, even if the differential is lessened.

Running Clock Rules

The clock operator will keep the game clock running except for the following situations:

- After a score and until the kickoff is legally touched
- For an injured player
- A charged team timeout is awarded
- There is a change of possession
- Any extended delay

When these instances occur the Referee will face the clock operator and give the Stop the Clock signal.

When the clock is stopped for any of the above reasons the clock will start on the Ready-for-Play by the Referee.

The Referee will face the clock operator and give the Start the Clock signal.

The game clock will run during the following:

- Incomplete legal or illegal forward pass
- Runner goes out of bounds
- For penalty administration including delay of game fouls
- When a first down is gained with no change of team possession
- When there is a change of possession and the team that had possession at the beginning of the down has possession at the end of the down.

Game officials will use all normal mechanics within the Game Shortening Period.

Game periods can be shortened if needed under *National Federation of High Schools Football Rules 3-1-3*. "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."