

Ball Handling

Random Thoughts

- Nothing makes a crew look more like bafoons than to have the ball on the ground all night
- Probably never throw the ball over hand
- Short passes (no longer than 10 yards) between crew members, run a little to shorten passes
- Create passing lanes by moving
- Keep the ball low and out of the lights
- Tip of the ball up so receiver has flat of ball to catch
- Catch it with your thumbs together (chest level) or pinkies together (below chest)

Important Considerations

- Ball is not a priority until players are on the way to their respective huddles
- Officials should never “chase after” a ball to spot

Ball Boy

- Call him by name
- Use him whenever possible to keep him attentive
 - Use him when ball goes out of bounds for a clean ball
 - Use him when other team's ball goes out of bounds; use his ball to spot and then recover original ball to be spotted inbounds
- He must stay behind the chains and off the field
- He must follow you up and down the field
- Preposition new ball behind goal post for the back judge after a try or FG
- Consider paying him at end of game

Kickoffs and Punts

- Wings anticipate clean ball requirement and notify ball boy to be ready
- Position ball boy behind umpire on kickoffs when his ball will be coming in
- Wing on sideline of team losing possession quickly take spot so other wing can enter clean ball
- Some crew chiefs do not want dirty ball spotted
- BJ removes dirty ball

Runs and complete passes

- Plays ending between the hashes the U will recover and spot the ball most of the time
- Plays ending outside the hash marks but inside the field of play
 - Wing can spot the ball or use foot to mark forward progress
 - BJ or Wing can then get clean ball from ball boy and relay to U
- Plays ending near line-to-gain or goal line
 - Wings pinch hard and call for the ball (verbally alert crew the ball is close to the LTG)
 - Hand the ball to the wing for spot

Incomplete Passes

- BJ primary for removing dirty ball
 - Wings move toward the BJ to create shorter pass
- Inbounds
 - Unless the ball rests very close to an official, always get a clean ball from the ball boy
- Out of bounds
 - BJ or Wing can request clean ball from ball boy
 - If the ball goes out of bounds on the “opposite” sideline, let the ball boys on that side recover the ball and relay it to the proper sideline through the BJ
 - Can wait to perform the relay to the sidelines on the next play

Measurements

- If outside hash; BJ get clean ball
 - If first down, BJ spot the ball inside hash
- If outside hash and short of 1st down; use chain to move ball to inside hash, BJ hands R clean ball
 - Leave dirty ball at spot until new ball is inside the hash
- Can not measure if ball is first spotted outside the hash, then is relayed to inside the hash
 - Integrity of the spot has been compromised

Referee

- On occasion will handle clean or dirty ball
 - Depends on situation

Back Judge

- Primary for removing dirty ball from field and relaying dirty ball from sideline to sideline
- Can receive clean ball directly from ball boy

Umpire

- Be mobile. Expand out to the ball
- Umpire never touches dirty ball on change of possession. Concentrate on clean ball
- Remind wings of new clean ball on fourth down scrimmage kick

Wings

- Spot ball out of bounds if play ended OOB to help Referee know about winding the clock
- Spot ball in bounds if the play ended in bounds

3 or 4 person mechanics

- 3 person
 - R will spot ball majority of the time
 - Wings can bring ball to inside hash if ball is downed outside the hash
- 4 person
 - R help spot ball if U retrieves ball deep in playing field