



MHSAA Football 2017

Protocols for the :40/:25 Second Play Clock

In 2017 with opponent and/or league agreement, schools may request MHSAA permission to conduct contest using this timing option.

The 40- second play clock will provide more consistency as the ball must be snapped within 40 seconds after the end of the previous play and is not dependent on the referees' subjective signal.

In the case where play is continuing with no stoppage or interruption, the offense will have 40 seconds from the end of the previous play to snap the ball. If play has been stopped (timeout or penalty), the offense will have 25 – seconds from the time the umpire sets the ball and the referee starts the ready for play following the administration of the timeout or penalty.

Basic Premise: The play clock will **ALWAYS** start at :40 seconds (started by BJ within 3 seconds of the end of the previous play) unless there is an administrative stoppage. The following administrative stoppage situations are when the play clock will be set at :25 seconds under varsity timing rules.

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Play Clock</u>	<u>Referee Signal</u>
Administration of a foul & penalty	25 Seconds	Chop or Wind
At the start of a period	25 Seconds	Chop
Measurement	25 Seconds	Chop or Wind
Helmet Comes Off	25 Seconds	Chop or Wind
Injury	25 Seconds	Chop or Wind
Defense (Team B) awarded a 1 st down	25 Seconds	Chop
After any score	25 Seconds	Chop
Start of Team A's possession in OT	25 Seconds	Chop
Inadvertent whistle	25 Seconds	Wind
Timeout by either team	25 Seconds	Chop
Timeout by official	25 Seconds	Chop
Touchback	25 Seconds	Chop
Untimed down	25 Seconds	Chop
Period Extension	25 Seconds	Chop

Notes:

- This change only affects the play clock, not the game clock.
- The Back Judge has primary responsibility for the play clock and will signal at :10 left and will visibly count the last :05 seconds.
- Following the end of a down the Back Judge will (after seeing there are no penalties or other delays) start the 40-second play clock. The back Judge will start the 40-second play clock by raising hand over head and **twirl index finger**.
- All members of the crew will react to ball movement and ball placement as efficiently and as accurately as possible. (there are no warnings for waiting on the ready for play)

- If the: 40 - second play clock has started and runs down below :25 seconds remaining and the ball is not yet placed on the ground and ready for play through no fault of the players (long run, long pass and ball is being relayed back, etc.), the referee shall sound the whistle, reset the play clock to :25 seconds and start the play clock (and possibly the game clock) on his whistle/signal.
- If the referee is re-setting the :40 play clock, he will signal with **both palms** open in an over-the-head pumping motion to the back judge to reset the :40 play clock. If the referee is re-setting the :25 play clock, he will signal with **one palm** open in an over-the-head pumping motion to the back judge to reset the :25 play clock.
- Pre-game discussion is a must. Discuss procedures and 40-second clock start signals with head coaches. Identify that the play clock will start within 3 seconds after the previous play ends.
- Be consistent in starting the 40-second play clock, ball movement, spotting the ball and being in position for the snap.



MHSAA Football 2017
:40 Second Play Clock Approval Form

Requesting School: _____

Date of Contest: _____

Home Team AD Name: _____

Email: _____

Opponent: _____

If League/Conference – Submit game schedules

Date	Home Team	Opponent
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Officials Contracted:

Name: _____

ID: _____

Scan to email: Tricia@MHSAA.com or Fax: 517-332-4071

MHSAA Approval:

Date: _____

Staff: _____



MHSAA Football 2017
:40 Second Play Clock Required Report – Home Team

Game Format: 11-Player _____ 8-Player _____

Host School: _____ Opponent: _____

Person Filing Report Name: _____ Position: _____

Game Date: _____

Start Time _____ End Time _____ Length of Game _____

Yes ___ No ___ Did you find more consistency in getting the ball in play using a :40 second play clock?

Yes ___ No ___ Were the officials consistent in getting the ball in position for the snap?

Yes ___ No ___ Would you prefer the :40 second format to the traditional :25 second clock?

Additional comments:



MHSAA Football 2017
:40 Second Play Clock Required Report – Officials

Game Format: 11-Player _____ 8-Player _____

Host School: _____ Opponent: _____

Person Filing Report Name: _____ Position: _____

Game Date: _____

Start Time _____ End Time _____ Length of Game _____

Yes ___ No ___ Did you find more consistency in getting the ball spotted using the :40 second play clock?

Yes ___ No ___ Was the crew efficient in getting the ball marked for the snap?

Yes ___ No ___ Would you/crew prefer the :40 second format to the traditional :25 second clock?

Have you experienced more _____ or fewer _____ delay penalties?

Have you experienced more _____ or fewer _____ pre-snap infractions?

Additional comments: