**KTFL Referee Guide**

**To ensure the most consistent experience the KTFL is creating this Referee Guide outlining the general responsibilities of each referee and sideline ref**

**PLEASE NOTE...The MOST important job of the referees and sideline judges is to be PAYING ATTENTION to the game AT ALL TIMES. We have all experienced the frustration of a referee of sideline judge who is not paying attention so let's all work together to eliminate this frustration by taking these responsibilities seriously. While it is acceptable to be having a drink while doing these jobs, it is NOT acceptable to be distracted, on your phone, chatting with friends, or anything else taking attention away from the game at hand.**

* **HEAD REFEREE** – One of either the Backfield or Downfield Referees will be designated as the Head Referee. The Head Referee should generally be the referee with the most experience and best understanding of the rules of the game. The Head Referee may keep game time or designate this to another referee or sideline judge.
* **BACKFIELD REFEREE** – The Backfield Referee will stand within 5-7 yards of the quarterback and has the following responsibilities:

**Primary Responsibilities**

* + Calling 'Time In' (once the bags are placed or the offense is in the huddle) loud enough that the offense can clearly hear, and then timing the 20 second play clock (this may be done with a watch or by counting)
	+ Calling '10 seconds' if the offense has yet to break their huddle with 10 seconds left on the play clock
	+ Counting down the last 5 seconds of the play clock if the offense has yet to snap the ball
	+ Calling a time clock violation penalty if the ball is not snapped prior to the play clock expiring
	+ Prior to the snap, watching the rusher to look for changing of rushing sides without the centre's knowledge (therefore negating a rusher interference penalty prior to the line of scrimmage)
	+ Ensuring receivers are at least 5 yards from the ball to allow for a clear path for the rusher
	+ Watching for rusher interference
	+ Watching the quarterback until the rusher is either fully stopped or past the quarterback to ensure no illegal contact is made
	+ Watching for a tag on the quarterback/punter relative to when the ball was released (ball must be fully out of the hand prior to the tag or it is considered a sack)
	+ Watching for the rusher contacting the quarterback's throwing arm or head (automatic penalty)
	+ Ensuring the rusher is running 'in control' at all times (diving at the quarterback/punter or accidental slipping and hitting the quarterback/punter would be considered as NOT being in control)
	+ On kickoff plays, moving with the play to watch for forward laterals and spotting the ball

**Secondary Responsibilities – only AFTER primary responsibilities are completed**

* + Assisting with ball spots
	+ Watching for pass interference or illegal contact (typically to be discussed with the downfield referee)
	+ Working with the downfield referee to set the bean bags for the next play
* **DOWNFIELD REFEREE** – The Downfield Referee will stand 12-15 yards downfield from the line of scrimmage and has the following responsibilities:

**Primary Responsibilities**

* + Watching for any illegal contact or holding
	+ Watching for pass interference
	+ Confirming the spot of the ball with the sideline judges
	+ Lining up on the back of the end zone in the case of plays near the end zone and watching for out of bounds
	+ Watching for 5 yards given on punt plays
	+ On kickoff plays, standing on the receiving team's goal line to watch for rouges scored
* **LINE OF SCRIMMAGE JUDGE** – The Line of Scrimmage Judge will stand on one sideline on the line of scrimmage and has the following responsibilities:

**Primary Responsibilities**

* + Ensuring no receiver is lined up offside and giving a warning if they are
	+ Watching for offside receivers (crossing the line of scrimmage prior to the snap of the ball)
	+ Watching for any illegal contact or holding
	+ Watching for out of bounds catches or plays
	+ Watching for the quarterback crossing the line of scrimmage and then throwing a forward pass

**Secondary Responsibilities – only AFTER primary responsibilities are completed**

* + Once the play has passed the line of scrimmage the Line of Scrimmage Judge should move downfield with the play
	+ Watching for pass interference (confirm with Downfield Referee)
	+ Watching for laterals thrown forward
	+ On kickoff plays, watching for offsides at line of scrimmage
* **RUSHING LINE JUDGE** – The Rushing Line Judge will line up on the opposite sideline of the Line of Scrimmage Judge and has the following responsibilities:

**Primary Responsibilities**

* + Ensuring the rusher is lined up onside (no part of the body can be across the rushing bag)
	+ Watching for rusher offside (moving forward prior to the ball snap)
	+ In the case of rusher offside, watching to see if the rusher returns back behind the rushing bag prior to rushing the quarterback (in which case the rusher is deemed to be onside)
	+ Watching for rusher interference (confirm with Backfield Referee)

**Secondary Responsibilities – only AFTER primary responsibilities are completed**

* + Once the rusher has passed the line of scrimmage the Rushing Line Judge should move downfield with the play
	+ Watching for pass interference (confirm with Downfield Referee)
	+ Watching for laterals thrown forward
	+ Moving immediately to spot the ball at the end of each play (confirming with Downfield Referee)
	+ In the case of plays near the end zone, watching the goal line for spots of the ball
	+ On kickoff plays, lining up at the back of the receiving team end zone to watch for rouges scored (ball goes out the back of the end zone or out of bounds in the end zone)