

RYFA Breakdown Guidelines

Since 1958 the Rochester Youth Football Association (RYFA) has been driven toward teaching the basic fundamentals of football in a safe, fun and competitive level. This allows for an opportunity for youth to participate in and learn about the game of football.

These breakdown guidelines exist to prevent an intentional run-up of the score by a team that continues to use its best players and its currently most successful plays to score as many times as possible even after the game is in their favor and far out of reach for their opponents. RYFA considers this type of coaching contrary to its purposes.

The RYFA breakdown guideline is enforced when the point differential is 30 points at any time in the game. At that point the following guidelines will help to manage the remainder of the game:

- The game will officially be over - the team ahead by the breakdown guideline will be the official winner for that game. The clock will be kept per MSHSL's Modified Running Rules (attached) – but the score on the scoreboard will not change.
- RYFA Board member will communicate with both coaches.
- The winning team needs to breakdown.
- Skill position starters must be replaced whenever possible. The team that has won the game will implement a substitute offense for the skill position players (Quarterbacks, Running Backs and Receivers). Those skill position players may continue to play offense – but need to play at a different position and the coaches should inform the sideline commissioner of where those players will be playing.
- Optionally – once breakdown guidelines are enforced the following will be optional:
 - 1 coach (offense and defense) will be allowed on the field if they choose. Similar to a scrimmage situation coaching and positioning can only be done when the play is stopped.

The RYFA Board and Grade Commissioners will investigate/review all reported losses of more than 30 points. RYFA understands that not all lopsided scores are intentional and great care will be used when investigating these situations, the opponents (head coach) observations should be heavily considered, and no penalty or disciplinary action should be assessed if a team is determined to have shown restraint and respect for its opponent but is simply superior for whatever reason. However, if it is determined that a coach is violating league coaching rules and is coaching contrary to the purposes of RYFA that coach will face disciplinary action:

- 1st violation – warning
- 2nd violation – suspension of 2 games (next two games)
- 3rd violation – suspension of 1 year.
- 4th violation – lifetime ban for RYFA.

MSHSL Football Running Time Rule

- Must be used when point differential is 30 points at anytime during the game and teams should also be utilizing the breakdown rules.
- **Clock will stop for both team timeouts and official's timeouts.**
- Official's timeouts include (clock will stop for):
 - First Downs
 - Penalties
 - Conferences
 - Injuries
 - Change of Possession
 - Score
- After a score, the clock will not re-start until the ensuing kickoff (when ball is first touched).
- Clock will always start on the officials "ready for play" whistle.
- Continue running the clock during a play ending out of bounds and for an incomplete pass, unless the lead official signals time out.
- The rules still allow for a game to be shortened or terminated upon the agreement of both coaches and the referee.
- Under no circumstances will the clock go to a straight running time.

Last edited on 7/17/2019 by BFG