



CHAIN CREW MECHANICS
2025 SEASON



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WORKING WITH CHAIN CREWS

INTRODUCTORY MEETING

- Introduce yourself to the Chain Crew (remember their names)
- Need MINIMUM of 3 able-bodied people to work chain crew, they need to be able to move with purpose.
- Ask if they've ever done it before
- Ask who will be the down box person, if no preference, assign whoever has the most experience & can move quickly. (possibly a 95-yard run).
- Write name of down box person on your game card (you will use their name every play)
- Stress the importance of this role, an extension of the officials, can't be a fan today
- Tell them "Rule #1 is don't do anything unless the official tell you to. If you're wrong, it will be my fault."
- Must pay attention and listen/watch for instructions from the head linesman and or the White hat. (NO cell phones!!!)

REGULAR SERIES

- Head Linesman (HL) will give you a toe on the sideline and point direction
- Box and back stake at my foot, hold tight, put your foot in front of the stake. confirm, then front stake pulls tight
- If only 3 people, then box guy has back stake guy hold box while he/she puts the clips on the backside of nearest 5-yard line,
- Clip the back edge of the first major 5-yard line in the direction we're going (I'll give you the #) (i.e., 20, 25, 40, 45 etc.).
- Do all this right on the sideline, and then move back 2 yards before snap
- 2nd /3rd /4th down official will stay out in the field, will signal you over my shoulder and by name to move box
- Move to new LOS, then Flip down box once you get to the new spot
- 1st down I'll wave you all down to move and meet you at sideline to set up again

OTHER MECHANICS

- DO NOT MOVE UNTIL YOU TOLD TO!
- Especially if there's a flag, don't move at the end of the play until we figure out enforcement
- Hold until my signal before moving chains on long plays, even if 1st down is obvious.
- If it is a long play, check with white hat.
- Hold on punts until my signal, so we make sure we have a clean play
- If play comes to our sideline, drop the stakes and run to safety. Your health is more important.
- PAT's is down box only, show 1st down, set at 3-yard line
- 1st and Goal, take stakes back and lay down about the 15-yard line 10' off the field of play.
- Be aware of hurry-up situations at end of half or game

END OF 1ST AND 3RD QUARTERS

- Hold your spot while I go verify down/distance/yard line with crew
- I'll send box guy to other yard line first
- I'll verify clip and grab it
- Back stake will move past me, then me, then front stake (there's our flip)
- I'll find the clip line and place clip
- Pull both back and front stakes tight
- Verify correct down and distance and we're good!

MEASUREMENTS

- Wait for me
- Move down box to be behind the front stake
- I'll take clip, and we'll go out to spot



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- Once clip is set, stretch back stake
- Hand front stake to Umpire
- If short, we may have to move ball before we go back and reset
- If LTG reached, we'll set up 1st and 10 on the ball

As a chain crew member, you are part of the official's crew. Please be mindful of cheering, and coaching. Cheer for your team but please remember where you are on the field. Absolutely do not coach the officials. They have been thru more training and put their free time into learning this game so all the players in TVFL can play the game.

If you find you would like to try officiating, please get a hold of TVYFL, go through the proper channels and see the game in a new and exciting way.

PFOA.US

Salem Football Officials Association

Corvallis Football Officials Association