



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

Initiating a Replay Review

In the first few weeks we have seen a trend regarding late stoppages. In several situations the next play was run and completed before the on-field officials signaled that the previous play was under further review. This puts the on-field crew in a difficult situation and creates confusion for coaches, players, and on the TV broadcast.

A video has been posted to the CFO site to cover the mechanics for shutting the game down.

Remember once the play is over, we must work through our process as efficiently as possible.

- Establish the ruling on the field including:
 - Status of the football – loose or possessed – which team has it
 - Flags, injured players, or anything else that will create a delay before next snap
- Communicator must stay on the field and describe action for RO including:
 - Any discussion/conference between officials
 - Pace of the offensive team – rushing to the line or huddle
 - When offense is lined up and center is over the ball – snap is imminent
- RO must establish:
 - Reviewable aspects
 - Competitive effect
 - Analyze available video and make decision – stop game or move onto next down

It is critical we all understand the cutoff point to stop the game is when the snap is imminent. That means when the offense is legally lined up and in position to snap the football.

If the play occurs simultaneously with the snap the on-field officials should be demonstrative with signals and whistles to prevent the play from continuing. The Referee should announce “prior to the snap, the Replay Official stopped the game to review the previous play.”

If the Referee feels the play came too late, he/she has the discretion to not allow the review.

Please review the video and memo with your crews and contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Dean Blandino
CFO National Director of Instant Replay

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