

Officiating the Dead ball



Officiating the Dead ball

- Definition
- Primary Dead ball times
- Communications
- Penalty Administration
- Hints/tips - Dead ball efficiencies

Definition

- Term used to indicate the interval **between** downs
- Most of a football game is during the dead ball, therefore to be a great official, you have to be a great DEAD BALL official!
- **Jon Bible** –
“Avoid the tendency to relax ...this is when disaster can strike.”

Primary Dead Ball Times

- Before/after scrimmage plays
- After scores
- Timeouts
- Penalty administration / measurement
- Injuries
- Between periods

Communication

- Sidelines
- Crew
- Players
- Press Box

Communication - Sidelines

- Wing officials – good personal skills – develop rapport
- Communicate unusual rulings or problems w/players
- Maintain poise at all times. “...keep your head when everyone around you are losing theirs – and blaming it on you”.
- Silence can never be misquoted

Communication - Crew

- **R** calling out the down and distance on every play
- All officials counting all players on every down
- Wingmen signals to indicate 7-men on the line - unbalanced
- “Kicking Tee” or “brick” to alert the LJ / BJ of an attempted kick

Communication - Crew

- “Take a look” to alert the R of a possible first down
- “It’s my goal line...” - reminder between wings and BJ
- After a penalty occurs - toot your whistle several times
- LJ/L – Play in side zone signal live ball or dead ball to the R
- LJ / BJ communication on kicks between the uprights

Communication - Players

- Talk to players as they un-pile –
- Compliment the players - “good tackle”, “good run”
- Umpire relationship w/players is critical
- Use preventive officiating techniques ...

Communication - Press box

- Signals – make sure to watch players
- Don't oversell or become emotional in giving signals
- Plays inbounds close to the sideline wind the clock
- Penalty administration – give clear signal

Penalty Administration

- Dead ball fouls administered separately- in order of occurrence
- Never combined with live ball fouls
- Play situations ...

Hints/tips – dead ball efficiencies

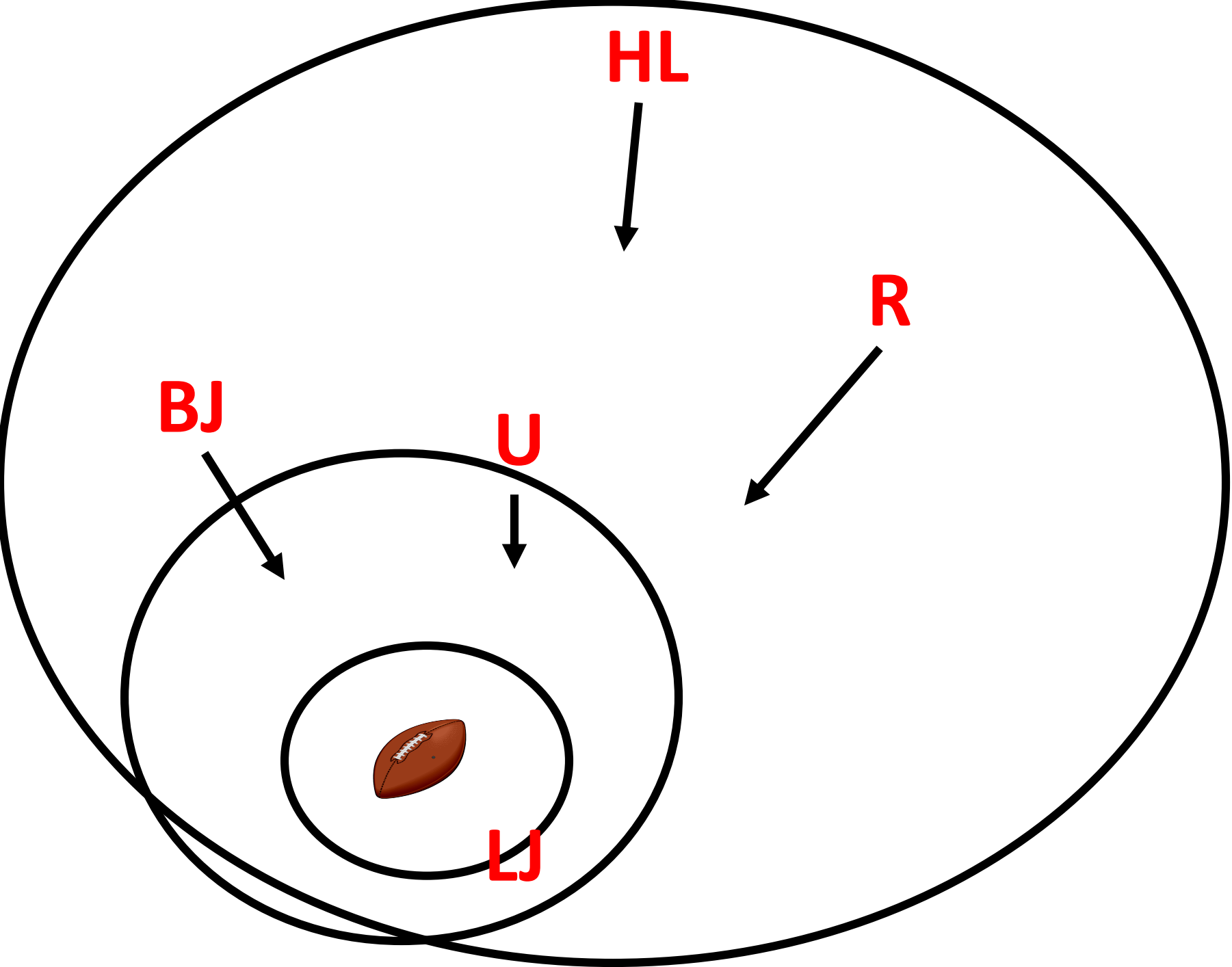
- Use **preventive officiating techniques** ...
 - Get to the pile ...
 - Line player up ...
 - Kicks going into the end-zone
 - Work as a unit
 - The type of game

Hints/tips – dead ball efficiencies

- **Spotting the ball ...**
 - Hustle but don't hurry to the spot
 - Ball relay ...
 - Off-ball officiating ...
- **Players going out-of-bounds ...**
 - Continue to watch players
 - Use the bean bag

Hints/tips – dead ball efficiencies

- **Digging for fumbles ...**
 - Only the closest official becomes the digger
 - Don't be shy – tap/pull players off the pile
 - Verbal techniques ...
- **Red Cashion – Concepts of rings in dead ball officiating**
 - Covering official responsible for the first ring
 - Rings expand with to the other officials
 - Accordion effect – creates a presence



Questions ???????