

Point Differential Rule

The National Federation Football Rules state in Rule 3, Section 1, Article 2 that “A state association may also establish guidelines to use a running clock when a prescribed point differential is met”. The following is what we have adopted in Ohio:

After the first half (or during the first half if both coaches agree), any time the score differential reaches 30 points or more for 11- man football, the following changes, and only these changes, will be made regarding rules determining when the clock will be stopped. The clock will be stopped when:

- 1) An official’s time-out is called
 - A. For an injured player
 - B. Following a change of team possession
- 2) A charged time-out is called
- 3) At the end of a period
- 4) After the Try for point, after a Field Goal and following a Safety
- 5) Any unusual delay

The clock will start again on the ready for play signal for the first play after the above situations.

Note: The clock will continue to run in all other situations.

Note: The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 3-1-3, which reads: “A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.”

Note: After the 30 point difference has been met, if the score drops below 30 points the clock reverts to regular timing.