

INSTANT REPLAY

Instant replay will be utilized in all games during the UIL Football State Championships. An overview of reviewable plays and general information regarding the instant replay process is include below.

General Purpose & Summary

The purpose of replay is to recognize and correct any obvious officiating error within the guidelines of what is and what is not reviewable by rule. To avoid unnecessary stoppages, the Replay Official will take into consideration whether a potential reversal of a ruling has a competitive impact on the game. The underlying philosophy of replay will be: **the ruling on the field is correct unless the Replay Official has indisputable video evidence that the ruling is incorrect.** Without indisputable video evidence, the Replay Official will allow the ruling on the field to stand as called. ***Exception, a disqualifying targeting foul must be either confirmed or reversed – “stands” is not an option.***

There are no coach’s challenges allowed in the UIL game, therefore a request for a replay cannot be honored from the field. **All decisions** related to whether a ruling on the field is (1) reviewable, (2) whether a game is stopped or not stopped for review, and (3) whether a ruling on the field is reversed or allowed to stand, are the responsibility of the Replay Official only – **a review cannot be requested nor initiated from the field.**

The on-field game officials will be instructed to officiate the game in the same manner as they have throughout the season, making every effort to **not alter** their rulings, work flow, or judgment, based on anticipation of what or how replay will act or react on any particular play. Likewise, it is recommended coaches and players coach and play as they have all season, without feeling a need to alter their procedures or game plans. If there is a ruling on the field that is questionable and meets the criteria of a review, the Replay Official will be responsible to recognize it & stop play. He will then call the Referee over to the sideline where there will be a Sideline Replay Assistant (SRA) who will hand the Referee a headset for communication with the Replay Official. After looking at all available video angles, the Replay Official will advise the Referee if the ruling was incorrect, and will give him the correct ruling and any necessary data as to the position of the ball, the next down, etc.

Reviewable Aspects

The reviewable aspects of UIL Replay are primarily the same as those found in Rule 12 of the NCAA Football Rulebook. There are two recognizable differences in the **UIL Rule:**

1. There are no coach challenges or requests for a review – the Replay Official only will determine if and when to stop play for a review.
2. The Replay Official cannot ***initiate*** a foul for targeting – he can only review targeting if a ***disqualifying*** foul for targeting is called by the on-field officials.

Touchdowns and Turn-Overs

Because of the potential impact, the Replay Official will review the ruling of a touchdown or a turn-over before allowing play to resume, however in most cases, this does not require a stoppage of play to where the Referee has to make an announcement and come to the headset. Rather, the Referee will not allow the offense to put the ball in play until the Replay Official instructs the Sideline Replay Assistants to signal the Referee to allow play to resume.

It is important to note on touchdowns and turn-overs, the Referee should not make the ball ready for play nor start the 25 second play clock until the Replay Official gives the “clear to play” signal. If after looking at the various camera angles available, if the RO is not comfortable that the ROF is correct, he will initiate a page to stop play, call the Referee over to the headset, and look at additional angles that will allow him to reach a decision.

Replay Stoppage

When the Replay Official thinks an obvious correctable error may have been made, and determines play should be stopped to take a closer look, he will signal the on-field officials to stop play by initiating a page through the DVSPORT paging system. When the on-field officials “feel” the page, they will stop play and the Referee will then make an announcement that the previous play is under further review. The Referee will then make his way to the sideline to communicate with the Replay Official. The Head Linesman, Line Judge, Side Judge, and Field Judge will move to the team area on their respective sideline – not for the purpose of trying to explain or discuss the review, but to expedite the process of getting the proper teams back on the field after the review has been completed. If the Replay Official does not change the ruling on the field, the Referee will announce the ruling on the field has been “confirmed” or the ruling on the field “stands”. The on-field officials will then return to their positions on the field, and play will resume with the ball placement, clock status, down and distance, etc., remaining as ruled by the on-field officials.

If the RO reverses the ruling on the field, the Referee will announce the ruling has been changed, with a brief explanation as to why it was changed. Once the ball has been properly placed and any other necessary corrections have been made, the on-field officials will return to their position, and the Referee will make the ball ready for play with the game clock starting on the ready for play or the snap as determined by the result of the replay ruling.