



Mercy Rule

The National Federation Football Rules Committee made a change in playing rules which allows state associations to adopt a "running clock" when a point differential is attained.

After the first half, any time the score differential reaches 35 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. when a first down is declared
 - b. following a change of team possession
 - c. to dry or change a game ball
2. A charged time out is called
3. At the end of a period
4. A score occurs

The clock will continue to run in all other situations. e.g. Incomplete passes, out of bounds, etc.

Note: After the 35 point difference has been met, if the score drops below 35 points the clock does NOT revert back to regular timing.