



## Ball Boys, Chain Crews and the Addition of the 40/25 Second Clock to UIL Football

### **Ball Boys**

With the addition of the 40/25 clock to UIL games, it will be extremely important to get the ball on the ground and ready for play as soon as possible. To that end, it will be highly recommended that game balls for *both* teams be on *both* sidelines. This means that both teams will either have to count on the opposing team's ball boys to administer their game balls, or that each team will have to place ball boys on both sidelines. Additionally, it is recommended for each team to provide a 'ball retriever' to assist the ball boys. In the ideal situation there would be two ball boys (one for each team) and one ball retriever on each sideline.

It is recommended that ball boys be at least seventh grade students or above (Freshman or JV players would be optimal). Ball retrievers (those who will 'chase' balls that are downfield or that end up on the opposite sideline) could be younger students working in conjunction with the ball boys.

### **Chain Crew**

With the addition of the 40/25 clock to UIL games, it will be extremely important to get the chains set and ready for the next play. The chain crew, but most importantly, the down box/marker must hustle (and sometimes run!) to the succeeding spot. If the school is able, it would also be recommended that there be an 'alternate' down box on the opposite side of the field that can hold the previous spot in case it is necessary to return to that spot for some reason. In that scenario, the 'alternate' down box would remain at the previous line of scrimmage until the ball was marked 'ready for play' at the succeeding spot and then move to that spot for the ensuing snap.