

# WDFOA Mechanics Manual, 2009

## Addendum B Chain Crew Instructions

Prepared Spring 2009

1. Introduce yourself to chain crew (try for four people); proceed on first name basis; determine who is most capable of handling which piece of equipment (down box is most important).
2. Find chains and set up on HOME side of field; move chains out of team bench area and check chain for ten yards by using field lines.
3. Check chain mid-point for tape; mark (or re-mark) with tape if necessary.
4. Emphasize to chain crew the two most important “rules”:
  - A. Move away and drop all poles if play is anywhere near sideline  
The “drop and run” rule
  - B. Do not move until told by L (L look for signal from R)
5. L will set down box on every play with up field heel; instruct box man to only turn next down on L’s command and visual signal (particularly if a penalty has occurred).
6. Set chains once down box has been set for new series (have back chain man hold box pole if working with only a three man chain crew)
  - A. Instruct back chain man to place foot against bottom of pole to prevent pole from being pulled out.
  - B. Set clip THROUGH chain, not around chain, on back of yard line closest to back pole (L should tell clip man which yard line he wants).
7. Instruct crew that only the box man is required in goal to go situations.
8. Instruct crew about reversing chains after 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods. Record team possession, yard line, down, distance, and clip position. Confirm with R. Box man will set up on succeeding spot. L takes clip while back chain man comes around and leads chains to succeeding spot. Front man follows. Confirm proper placement of chains, clip, down, and distance.
9. On field measurements:
  - A. Move box to line to gain pole; do not change down
  - B. Be sure of clip location on yard line (should be at back of yard line) and that clip is THROUGH the chain, not around it.

- C. L leads crew to field, sets clip where LJ indicates, and announces “ready” when clip is set; line to gain pole will be taken by U and placed for R’s ruling. Be prepared to reset chain if ball is to be moved to inbounds line. Return to sideline, reset clip according to new series or not and change down on down box. Signal upcoming down to R to indicate readiness.

10. Miscellaneous

- A. Be aware if “5 will get you 10” according to down box and mid-point mark.
- B. Have chain holders retrieve ball on tries.
- C. Remind crew to return to sideline when teams return after half time.