

40-Second Play Clock Timing Options

The addition of the 40-second play clock has raised some questions about how the clock will be maintained. In practice, there should not be any changes in the methods of timing. This can be kept using visible play clocks or by the back judge on the field.

If a visible play clock is used, this may be done either in the press box (MHSAA recommended) or by the officials. If kept by the officials, the device provided by the school to start and stop the clock should be reasonable in size and with the ability to be worn on the belt or wrist of the official. Officials should not be expected to carry a device in their hand(s).

If the play clock is not visible, but kept on the field by the back judge, it should be kept on a wristwatch, stopwatch or timing device worn on the belt. Many of these devices were already programmed for the previous 25-second play clock system. Some can be updated to include the 40-second play clock. For those that do not, we have included below some app options for those officials that wish to keep the play clock using their smartwatches.

[Apple Watch](#)

[Fitbit](#)

[Galaxy Watch](#)