

Football Mercy Rule for 2026 Season

35 Point Rule: An alternate timing rule is in effect for all levels (i.e., varsity, junior varsity, sophomore, freshmen) of Utah high school football games when after halftime is over, a team's lead exceeds 34 points. This applies to 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A classifications.

However, in 8-Player Football, if at any time during a game when a team's lead exceeds 34 points the clock shall run continuously.

Modified Rule: The clock shall run continuously for the remainder of the game, except for the following reasons:

- a. An official's time-out
- b. A charged team time-out
- c. After a change of possession (clock continues to run during extra point try).

If the differential drops below 35 points, the clock still runs continuously until the game is over, except for the stated three reasons. The play clock will still be utilized regardless of the score differential.

After the third quarter is over, if a team's lead exceeds 44 points the game is over. This applies to all classifications and all levels of play.