

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

FROM: Bruce Maurer, DOD & Beau Rugg, Assistant Commissioner

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2013-3 (Week 12); 11/13/13

Greetings!! We hope you had great game and a wonderful experience during Week 11. I have received over 110 Observations and there were many positive comments along with areas where we can all improve. Bulletins will be posted weekly on www.ohsaafb.com during the State Tournaments. Please cover this info during your pre games. This bulletin will cover items that have been observed during Week 11. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Bruce at bmaurer.38@gmail.com.

1. Crew & Individual Goals: One of the best crews I was on in the NFL was led by our **R**, Gary Lane. Before each game each official would state a Goal for that game that he was personally going to improve along with a Goal to help the Crew. We stated these Goals in front of our Crewmates & discussed them openly. Then at halftime & after the game we would review them in a positive & honest environment. **R** – Please discuss during the Pregame.
2. Sportsmanship: We have seen instances of multiples UNS, especially in lopsided games. It is imperative that the Crew control the game. Beginning Week 12 if the Crew believes it is necessary to bring both HC's to the center of the field to discuss this, DO SO. This is effective beginning Week 12!
3. **Wings:** Continue to work on moving off the SL, especially when the runner moves to the opposite side zone. Otherwise, we have a Crew of 4 (pretenders) instead of a Crew of 5 (contenders). **Observers:** Email me those Wing Officials who want to be part of a Crew of 4.
4. Untimed Down: **BJ** is responsible to inform **R** at the end of period that there is no live ball foul accepted on the last timed down, and thus no extension. **Observers:** watch the **BJ** at the end of the period to see if the **B J** runs up to the **R** and informs him. A Crew extended the period due to a DOG. No, the foul must occur DURING the down. Crews: Please review this Rule.
5. Successful Try & DPI by B. The Crew gave the option of accepting the 2 point Try & declining the DPI. DPI is enforced at the KO. A "miss" is a "miss" by all 5 Officials. Please discuss it.
6. TD Pass: Be slow & deliberate!! Look to the covering official who can see the FB. On Sundays we were taught to say "Yes, it is a TD". SLOW DOWN! SLOW DOWN!
7. TD: The **BJ** should not be signaling when the catch is within several yards of the SL & GL.
8. DOG Foul: Check Rule 3. Rule Book states specifically clock starts on snap on an accepted DOG.
9. KOM: Both the **BJ & U** IP is 6' off the SL. Please review when the **R & Wings** wind the clock.
10. OKOM: If in doubt we go to OKOM. Be very careful before you sound your whistle on this play.
11. KO OOB: Ball is spotted at the near hash when we place the ball at the - 35 YL. The **R** does not signal "dead ball" since the ball becomes live when the ball is legally kicked.
12. **Wings:** When the runner goes to the opposite SZ, move at a diagonal toward the HM and attempt to stay even or slightly behind the runner. This enables you to be in perfect position to help with CROSS FIELD MECHANICS (CRM). **R** – Please discuss CFM in your pregame. When the runner is knocked back in your SZ downfield look to the back side **wing** for help.

13. Restricted Area (RA) – We have reports of coaches/players in the RA during a live ball. We EXPECT you to lead by example. Observers: Make a Special Note if the RA is NOT enforced and emails me regarding the name of the official & the Crew. We will make changes. We would prefer not to! Coaches are allowed 2 steps on the field between downs.
14. **LM**: Do NOT look over your shoulder to see if it is a first down. That is the responsibility of the **LJ**. We had several instances of **LM** stopping the clock when it was NOT a first down.
15. **OBSERVERS**: We want to personally thank them for an outstanding job this past weekend. We had approximately 110+ games observed. Many of them, including myself, sat in the cold to observe the game with the Goal to improve officiating in Ohio and make the experience for the high school athlete as wonderful as possible. Please extend a heartfelt thanks to them for volunteering their time to help us all improve. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
16. Game Clock: **LJ** will ask the HC to tell timer to adjust the clock, NOT the **R**, once Crew decides.
17. UNS Foul: Be sure & give a prelim signal for this & ALL OTHER fouls to the **R**.
18. Punts: It is very rare to have a block in the back by the KT. Suggestion: Memorize the jersey color of the RT then repeat several times after the punt. It will help us penalizing the right team.
19. TB: No need to follow the TB signal with a Time-out signal. The TB signal stops the clock.
20. KO: **R/LM/LJ** run to the – 10YL sounding whistles & signaling TB when kick crosses the GL.
21. A Near Their GL: **R** is on the GL & 10 YDS wide when the ball is between the – 10YL & - 15YL. Note that this is 10 YDS wide, NOT the usual 8 YDS wide. You MUST stay on the GL.
22. **U**: Vary your lateral position rather than stand in the same spot throughout the game.
23. Intentional Grounding: Tough call for **R** when QB is being tackled. We expect the appropriate **Wing, U, & BJ** to know whether there was an eligible receiver (& #) in the area. Teamwork!!!! This MUST be verbalized from the appropriate official to the **R**.
24. First Touching: **BJ** must tell **R** who then signals it when this spot is used. The first touching signal is NOT used by the **R** to signal a “Referee’s Time-out”. Place your hands on your chest.
25. Enforcement at KO by BJ: Place ball on 40 YL, signal foul & team, then walk off the yardage.
26. Legal footballs: Supposed to use a Wilson FB. They can use another brand but could be fined by OHSAA. If they do, indicate this on the Game Report turned into OHSAA.
27. GLM: We still have officials who do not know IP on GLM. Discuss this in your Pre-Game. Study the Gold Book before the next game. The Wings need to be 2 YDS outside the pylon prior to the snap. Close down fast if the runner goes hard into the opposite side zone.
28. **BJ** & Play Clock: Put up hand with 5 fingers, and then count down with your fingers 5-4-3-2-1 regardless of whether there is a play clock or not.
29. Forward Progress: 1 loud whistle blast by 1 or 2 officials when the runner’s progress is stopped. In most cases we do not need multiple blasts of the whistle by the same official.
30. A pitch from the QB to the Running Back is a backward pass. The R/LM/LJ need to “punch it” back & yell “back”.
31. BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS WEEKEND!!! It is a Great time of the year in OHIO. We are all truly blessed to be part of the State Playoffs. And ENFORCE the Restricted Area.

“Keeping our eyes on continuous improvement is surely the most likely way to motivate people to work on getting better.”