

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2014-1 (Week 1); 8/27/14

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during State Rules Interpretation Meetings & Local Officials Association Meetings this year. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Ohio Officials are Contenders Because They Want to Get Better. With great support by Local Associations OHSAA hosted 9 FB Clinics this summer that were attended by nearly 1,000 officials. Congrats to those Contenders who attended the clinics.
2. New 2014 Format for OHSAA State Rules Interpretation Meetings: Officials had the opportunity to attend face-to-face meetings and receive credit for 2 meetings. Approximately 800 officials took advantage of these highly informative mini clinics in Athens, Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Hamilton, New Philadelphia, & Toledo. A BIG thank you to those Local Associations who “stepped up to the plate” & helped us.
3. **BJ** & Visible Play Clock. When communicating with Game Management this week please communicate the new OHSAA Policy that the school must have someone operate it.
4. **BJ** & Coaches Meeting: Ask him the number of the player kicking off.
5. **LJ** & Timer Meeting: Take the Point Differential Card emailed earlier by OHSAA to the Timer, give it to him/her, & spend some time discussing it at length.
6. Targeting: Can be either live or dead ball foul. Contact MUST occur above the shoulders. With the 100+ hours of video we have watched, look for the head to snap back on the person being hit. It is a good indicator. Use S 24.
7. Defenseless Player: Nothing has changed from 2013 to 2014 other than NFHS has defined it in Rule 2-32-16. OHSAA has clarified it with the 10 -15 Yard guideline which is primarily for players in a “chase” mode after the runner. For clarification purposes, blindside blocks are still legal provided they are not targeting, are not against a defenseless player, occur within 15 yards of the ball carrier, & are otherwise legal blocks. When ruling on defenseless watch the person being hit – has he relaxed? It can be either a live ball or dead ball foul.
8. Rules 6-1-3b/c: Leave the Locker Room a little early for the Week 1 game. Why? Make sure both HC's know & understand these new kick off rules. Such has not been the case when officials have asked during the scrimmages. Please keep it simple with them & let them ask the questions rather than giving them a bunch of “what if's”.
9. Rule 6-1-3b: If all 11 KT Players are inside the 5 YD belt, we do not know who the Kicker is until he kicks the ball. Therefore, to rule on 4 KT Players on each side of the Kicker the **BJ & U** might have to make this decision just before the ball is kicked. This becomes an

issue when a KT uses a “starburst” or “bunch” formation. When the KT huddles during the “starburst” they must have a minimum of 4 KT Players on each side of the ball once the **R** marks the ball Ready.

10. Rule 6-1-3b: KO Holder, if used, is 1 of the 4 KT players required on each side.
11. Straight arm: A normal straight arm that does not deliver a blow to the opponent is not a foul for targeting or any other foul. It is legal.
- 12. ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!**
13. Rule 1 – Player Equipment: Check the players before the game for any illegal equipment as well as mandatory equipment. Such items include, but not limited to, legal towels, eye shade, clear eye shields, wrist bands, legal numbers, play cards on wrist, legal mouth pieces, etc. Let’s get it straight Week 1 so all teams are on the “same page”.
14. Concussion: When a player has signs or symptoms of a concussion he is suspended from the game and may not reenter the game. This is based upon Ohio House Bill 143.
15. Heat & Humidity: It will be hot this weekend for games. Please discuss “additional breaks” with Head Coaches during the Pre-Game Meeting. However, do not take breaks when a team’s momentum could be broken. Officials should start to hydrate ASAP.
16. OHSAAFB.COM Website: We now have many more items on the website including 7 quizzes, videos, Mechanics by Position, PPT’s, rulings, bulletins, etc. This week alone we have had 606 people visit the site, 3,153 pages viewed, & visitors from Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Romania, & Turkey. In the US we had visitors from 29 of the 50 states!!
17. NFHS Rules Book: Delete PP. 83 - 85 regarding Overtime as OHSAA starts the OT from the + 20 YL rather than the + 10YL. Also delete page 99 as OHSAA Policy states “any” lightning rather than “cloud-to-ground” lightning is cause to suspend the game for 30 minutes. P. 90: Signals # 18, # 19, & #20 under 15 YD penalties – add S 8 for First down under the signals column.
18. NFL Like Head Set Communications Equipment may be worn by officials.
19. Drones can be flown over the FB Field.
20. Correction: Gold Book, P. 20, # 30, B-4: BJ’s IP is 20 YDS off LOS in Reverse Mechanics.
21. Corrections: Mechanics by Position: **R**, Section 35,B-1 – **R**’s IP is 5 YDS Deep, not 3 YDS Deep; **LM**, Section 35, C-3. Delete any reference to the whistle.