

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2014-8 (Week 8); 10/16/14

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Weeks 6/7 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Interview with Anthony Bourdain, CNN Reporter: "What is the best advice you've ever received? Show up on time. It is the basis of everything. Give the people that you work with the respect to show up when you said you were going to. And by that I mean every day, always and forever. I've learned there are two types of people in this world: people who live up to what they say they are going to do and people who do not." Men's Journal. (If an emergency should happen, then call ahead & let them know.)
2. Game Control: Had a game that was getting "chippy" during the 2nd half. As a Crew we talked about it during a team time-out. Sweeping the field with my vision after the ball was dead & no subsequent action I saw opponents with their face masks touching, jawing each other. Enough was enough. Called an Official's Time-out. Brought both Wings to the center of the field & indicated what each player had done. We suspended them & asked both HC's to talk with their teams. As the **R** I then talked with both teams on the field – offense & defense. We talked about "Respect the Game, Respect the Opponent, & Respect the Officials." And we appealed to their pride – you are part of a great football program – great programs do not lower themselves to this level. Fortunately, this stopped it. If we had seen a player in another player's face after that it would have been a UNS flag immediately. We are paid to control the game.
3. Week 10 Bulletin: There will be no bulletin Week 10 due to preparation & work load for the State FB Playoffs.
4. FG Mechanics: The **U** sounds his whistle once the FB crosses the GL Plane. Entire Crew must communicate with each other NOT to sound the whistle if the kick is blocked or short of the GL plane.
5. FG/Try/Punt Mechanics for **R & U**: A reminder to count 1001 & 1002 once the ball is snapped regarding the Snapper & any potential foul. **R** – Yell "stay off the holder & kicker or stay off the punter" & **U** – Yell "Stay off the center" for good Preventive Officiating.
6. Extension of Period: Crew did not extend the 2nd Period for an accepted live ball foul by the offense. Yes, we extend the period for an accepted live ball foul by either the offense or the defense if time expires during the down. We know there are a few exceptions to this such as loss of down. It is imperative that the Crew talk about this with each other. Does someone on this Crew know the Rule?

7. Player Equipment. A very good official noticed a team that had 3" X 3" "Paw Prints" on their towels. These are illegal. This took place during the Week 5 games. Rightfully so he asked why did the Crews for the Weeks 1 – 4 Games with this team not take care of this? We agree. We are all working & officiating together for the good of all.
8. **U** & Their Towels: During rain or snow (hopefully not too soon!) the **U** will stand on the LOS with a towel covering the ball as he holds it. Place it on the ground as A moves toward the LOS & move quickly to your IP. If A is in hurry up no huddle offense, then place the ball on the ground & quickly move to your IP.
9. Fair Catch Signal: Please do not confuse a receiver waving his hands/arms at waist level for his teammates to get away from the kicked ball with an invalid fair catch signal. This is not a foul. Remember the NFHS Rule is different from the NCAA Rule.
10. A Pretender Crew: Watched video including a Try & saw the following: A. **LM** has his whistle in his mouth throughout the down; B. Neither the **LM** or **LJ** hustle in toward the players once the Try is kicked; C. There are fans within the 6' restraining line & several fans walk on the field after the Try Kick is successful. Is this a Pretending Crew or a Contending Crew? After viewing this first play what impression did they leave with us?
11. Signaling Mechanics: Watched a Crew who did not signal "double stakes" to each other early in the game. Guess what happened later – yes!! Twice during the game they stopped the clock when the runner advanced beyond the back stake. There is a reason why we use this mechanic. It is very easy for the **R** to know if the runner is tackled for a loss of yardage. Communicate it soon after signaling the next down. Any officiate can initiate "double stakes" & all must mirror it to each other. It saves us from embarrassing moments.
12. Footballs: The Wilson 1005 FB is a legal ball for Weeks 11 – 15 although the Wilson GST is the official fb for the OHSAA State Playoffs.
13. Game Clocks: If the GC has tenths on it this is legal. Usually see it as part of the newer scoreboards.

Best of Luck with Week 8!!