

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2015-1 (Week 1); 8/26/15

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 900 officials. Congrats to those Contenders who attended.
2. New 2014 Format was continued in 2015 for OHSAA State Rules Interpretation Meetings: Officials had the opportunity to attend face-to-face meetings and receive credit for 2 meetings. Approximately 1000 officials took advantage of these highly informative mini clinics in Athens, Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Hamilton, Lima, Mentor, New Philadelphia, Orrville, & Toledo. A BIG thank you to those Local Associations who “stepped up to the plate” & helped us.
3. **Crew Communication:** It is imperative that the entire Crew get together & talk about any unusual & challenging situations that occur. We had a play where an official disqualified a player. When we watched the video there might have been a foul, but clearly not a DQ. Please get together & talk about any DQ. If it is warranted then DQ the player.
4. **Game Control:** We are paid to Control the game. It is one of our highest priorities when we officiate the game. The Gold Book, Section 17, Game Management, gives us the authority to suspend players if their behavior warrants it.
5. 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.
6. Defenseless Player: Nothing has changed from 2014 to 2015. 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. We MUST get these.
7. **ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!**
8. 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".
9. WWW.OHSAAFB.COM Website: A Big Thank You to Jerry Peters & Dave Ramsey for their excellent help this year creating the Quizzes that will appear on our website.
 10. Ejection Reports: Please be specific regarding the actions, language, & behavior. The Official who DQ's the person MUST file the report with OHSAA within 24 hours.
 11. **U** & Timer Meeting: Take the Point Differential Card found on the OHSAA Webpage (Click Sports then FB) to the Timer, give it to him/her, & spend some time discussing it at length. Please review during your pregame as approximately 33% of the games last year were Point Differential Games.
 12. 4 Man Mechanics: The **U**'s IP is on the End Line for Goal Line Mechanics (Ball touches the + 10YL).
 13. Reminder: UNS Fouls are Non-Contact & Personal Fouls are contact.
 14. Artificial Limb: Check Gold Book (Safety Guidelines) – HC must have a letter from OHSAA & show it to the Crew for the player to compete. The Crew does not keep the letter.
 15. Concussion: When a player has signs or symptoms of a concussion he is suspended from the game and may not reenter the game. We had a scrimmage where the **R** made a decision to suspend the player without first checking with medical professionals at the game. NO! Let them do their job first then check with them regarding the player. Obviously when there are no doctors or trainers on site then we must make the decision.
 16. Inclement Weather: If there is a forecast for possible lightning and/or thunder enlist the help of Game Management & Coaching Staffs to help the Crew observe it.
 17. **HL**: It is your responsibility to hustle to the SL & "set" the Down Box for each new set of downs. Also, instruct the Down Box Person to move to the next down at the succeeding spot, not at the previous spot. Also, chain crew cannot wear stripe referee shirts now.
 18. Play: Try-Kick. K-1 kicks, the kick hits a KT Lineman blocking at the LOS & goes thru the uprights. Ruling: Try-Kick is good.
 19. NFHS Rules Book: Delete PP. 84 - 86 regarding Overtime as OHSAA starts the OT from the + 20 YL rather than the + 10YL. Also delete P. 101 as OHSAA Policy states "any" lightning rather than "cloud-to-ground" lightning is cause to suspend the game for 30 minutes. P. 63 Penalty: 2nd line – change to 2d, e. Also, check the OHSAAFB website for a NFHS Rules Bulletin for some Case Book Play Changes and further clarification to 5-1-1b regarding correcting downs.
 20. Head Set Communications Equipment may be worn by officials.
 21. Correction: Gold Book, P. 31: Delete 2nd sentence. OT is not played in Sub varsity games. Please review this new Rule with both HC's this week in your sub varsity games.