

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2015-10 (Week 11); 11/4/15

Greetings!! CONGRATULATIONS on your selection as one of Ohio's 560 State Tournament Officials. We hope you have great games and a wonderful experience. In order to help facilitate this experience Bulletins will be posted weekly on [www.ohsaafb.com](http://www.ohsaafb.com) during the State Tournament. Please cover this info during your pre games. This bulletin will cover items observed during Weeks 9 & 10 of the regular season & info for the Playoffs. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me.

1. Week 11 (Nov. 6 & 7) – Arrive at the Tournament game site 2 hours before game time. Why? It will take longer due to most crews not knowing each other. Beginning Weeks 12 thru Week 15 (Nov 13 thru Dec. 5) arrive at the game site 1 hr. & 30 minutes before game time.
2. **Observers:** John Crispino (SW), Ron Fuller (NE), Tom Graham (C), Tom McNerlin (E/SE), & Ken Myers (NW) have graciously volunteered to be our District Coordinators of the OHSAA State Tournament FB Observers again this year. We would like to THANK THEM VERY MUCH for their service. They have recruited over 175 OHSAA FB Observers –WOW!! We want to say THANK YOU for their volunteering to help us improve football officiating in Ohio. Almost every game will have either 1 or 2 observers at the game. Please give them the respect they deserve by giving them your attention in the locker room & NOT undressing or showering while they are sharing their thoughts. And personally thank them for taking time to help us all.
3. **Observers:** All Observers have been told to give the Yellow BOTTOM COPY of the Observation Form to the Crew after the Post Game Review. If he does not, then ASK HIM FOR IT!!!!
4. **Wings:** It is IMPERATIVE that **Wings** get off the SL, especially when the dead ball spot is inside the opposite side zone. Minimally, the **Back Side Wing** must be at the near hash mark. Otherwise, when the ball goes into the side zone we are officiating with a 4 MAN CREW. When space permits STOP a minimum of 5 YDS from the pile of players near you. **Observers:** Indicate in a separate email any **Wing** who wants to stay on or near the SL throughout the game.
5. **Restricted Area** – the 6' belongs to the officials ONLY when the ball is live. **ENFORCE IT!!** Warn, especially early, when warranted. **Observers:** Indicate in a separate email to me any **Wings & Crews** who fail to enforce the Restricted Area & Coaches who are too far out on the field.
6. **Coin Toss** (as indicated in the Gold Book, P. 45) is 20 minutes before KO. That means the coin is flipped at 20 minutes, NOT that the officials secure the captains at 20 minutes. However, if both teams are headed to the LR then do the CT earlier than 20 minutes. Meet the first available HC 35 minutes before the KO time on the field.
7. **R & Pregame:** This must be a Discussion, **NOT** a lecture by the **R**. Involve everyone please.
8. **Timer** – the **LJ** meets with the Timer. Have the Timer set the GC so it will expire 1 minute prior to scheduled KO time, so we do not have to wait for the scoreboard clock to be reset to 12:00. Kickoff at the scheduled game time.

9. If the HC wants to have a Coach/Referee conference to discuss a misapplication of a Rule, then do it. If the HC & the officials disagree on the ruling, then **EVERY CREW IS REQUIRED TO SHOW THE HC IN THE Rule Book, Case Book, or Gold Book** what the ruling is. Use the Rules Index.
10. Communication: Be exact with the Terms listed in Definitions (Rule 2) when discussing challenging situations. Take your time – even though we might “not look good”, if we get it right, that is what counts. Answer any legitimate question from the HC. Be Careful what you say and how you say it – You are there to Defuse Rather than Incite. You Can’t Misquote Silence. Talk Low and Slow. Ask that important question now, NOT at halftime or afterwards.
11. GL Mechanics: **Wings** are responsible for being at the GL prior to the ball arriving. You **MUST** start 2 YDS OOB & move to the GL quickly, especially once the ball is at the + 5YL (R&R 2).
12. Officials Uniform – All officials must wear the 2-1/4” OHSAA Shirt, Pants, & all Black Shoes.
13. Study the OHSAA Gold Book. Officials have had 62 months to learn and practice the mechanics. You have been selected as a State Tournament Official – You are expected to set the “Standard”. Some reminders include: A. The **R** must be 15 YDS from the LOS and 8 YDS wide from the QB on the Wide Side of the Field on GL, Pass & Run. Too often this year, the **R** has been too close to the QB, & then been hit or nearly hit. B. The **BJ** is at 20 YDS from the LOS until the FB is between the + 15 YL & + 10 YL, & GL Mechanics. He always lines up between the GP Uprights. For example, if the ball is snapped at the + 14YL the **BJ** will be 5 YDS deep into the EZ where he can move to the GL to help the **Wings** on a run or short pass. C. KO’s: **U & BJ** run to the hash marks at the 50 YL & stop. D. Try-Kick: **Wings’** IP is the Numbers then run in once the ball is kicked. E. Pen Enforcement: All 5 officials are responsible for it. Know the Rules. F. Pass/Run Plays: **R/BJ** – do not run up the field to the pile. Your job is to stay back 5 YDS, swivel your head, & watch for dead ball fouls. We have watched late hits missed this season due to **BJ’s & R’s** too intent on the DBS – The **U** can handle the pile by running from SL to SL.
14. Player Equipment: Check the players before the game for play cards, towels, sweat bands (wrist only), eye shade (no writing), tinted eye shields, tinted glasses (legal), & pants that cover the knee. Let’s not embarrass ourselves, our crew, or the 3,500 officials who are “our brothers”.
15. Check [www.ohsaafb.com](http://www.ohsaafb.com) for the 2015 FB TV Time Schedule for games that are televised. Follow this schedule and discuss it with the TV liaison. The **LJ** is responsible for coordinating & recording TV time-outs during the game. Be careful when timing time-outs, after scores, etc.
16. Whistles: In most cases there should only be 1 or 2 whistles on a play. **U** – We expect you to sound your whistle when the ball is dead at your feet or near you. One strong blast only. We sound the whistle multiple times ONLY for situations listed on P. 25.
17. Signaling: Review PP. 22 - 23. You are expected to use them as listed in the Gold Book. The **Wing & R** need to wind the clock (2X) when the DBS is between the numbers & SL (no 1<sup>st</sup> down).
18. Communication: Give the Prelim Signal to the **R** when a foul is called & there is 1 flag. If there are 2 flags, then the 2 officials get together, discuss, & then 1 gives the Prelim Signal to the **R**. Give strong & correct signals to the **R**. Obvious 5 YD Dead Ball False Starts, Snap Infractions, & Encroachments should be enforced & the ball marked RFP within 10 seconds.
19. Study extension of period, consume/conserve, & fouls on & after scoring plays. The **BJ** **MUST** tell the **R** at the end of each period that there is “no extension”. We missed 2 last year!!!

BEST OF LUCK to everyone!! Ask yourself, do I have the courage to “step up to the plate” and help my fellow official. And does my ego welcome the “help” from a fellow official. THEN can we both discuss it with no emotion and no ownership so we can “Get It Right”. We owe it to the teams. Take Care!!