

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2015-2 (Week 2); 9/2/15

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 1 & Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. As we all know it is going to be very warm this weekend. Please start hydrating the day before the game (s), the day of the game (s), & the next day. Review the Gold Book (GB), P. 40-41, for appropriate times to stop the game for water breaks, if needed. Discuss with both HC's when you meet with them 35 minutes before KO.
2. Game Clock (GC) Late in the Game: When the score is tight it is imperative that we have a heightened GC awareness. Check the GC every play. Communicate with each other, especially the back side **Wing** & whoever is facing the GC – **R or BJ**. During a game the Crew had to reset the GC correctly three times in the last minute – well done!
3. **BJ** & Play Clock: When the GC is running KNOW when the ball is marked ready & subtract 25 seconds for any late TO by the winning team or for Delay of Game. Communicate this info to each other.
4. **BJ** & Play Clock: When the **R** marks the ball ready START your timer. There is nothing in the Rules Book or GB that says you can “wait 1 or 2 seconds” to start your timer.
5. **LJ** & Game Clock (GC): There is nothing in the Rules Book or GB that says to tell the timer to “let the last 5 seconds run off the GC on a long pass or long field goal attempt”.
6. **U**: Good “pick up” during a varsity game when he saw only 4 players numbered 50 – 79 on the LOS. Another player was #99 & the team thought that met the requirement. The team took a time-out & the player changed jerseys. Please be diligent when counting players. Remember this Rule applies only to a Varsity Game.
7. **Wings**: Ask yourself after each down do I know the down & distance for the next down. When space permits maintain a 5 YD “cushion” from the pile. There are only 2 situations when the Wings need to hustle in to the pile: A. Close play at the GL & B. Close to a 1st down.
8. **Wings**: Some reports from Coaches indicated that while watching video of upcoming opponents they saw 6 players on the LOS. Nothing has changed regarding the Rule or interpretation. Ask yourself, did I signal my Crewmate (**HL or LJ**) before the snap on every play regarding 7 on the LOS. After the down communicate when needed.
9. **Wing** & OOB Spot: When the runner touches the SL do not concentrate solely on the OOB & look down at that spot. Watched a game where we missed an obvious late hit OOB. Keep your head up & swivel it. **Be a Great Dead Ball Official!!**

10. **U**: When the runner lands near him he needs to sound his whistle. While attending a local meeting I heard of **U's** bragging that they did not need to carry a whistle since they did not use it. We do a disservice to the other Crew members & increase the chance for an inadvertent whistle. And remember we need a whistle on every play, regardless of how late it might be. Coaches expect it.
11. **KO's**: The **R** does not mark the ball ready until everyone is ready. Watched a video clip where both the **U** & **BJ** were on the same sideline. Also, make sure there are 11 players on both the **KT** & **RT**. Let's make a good first impression.
12. Prelim Signal by Calling Official: Slow Down. Slow Down. A wing official signaled False Start when actually the right side of the offensive line was clearly in the **NZ** (**ENC Foul**).
13. Victory Formation (**VF**): Review **GB**, P. 25. A Crew mistakenly applied it at the end of the 1st half. Told **B** to take it easy & not cross the **NZ**. **QB** muffs the snap & **B** made no attempt to recover the loose ball. **B's HC** was upset. Obviously, we cannot apply **VF** at the end of the 1st half. If the **A HC** says we are going to take a knee, still tell both teams to "defend themselves & play **FB**", unless the criteria are met in Section 36A.
14. **PUM** & **R's IP**: When the punter is on the **GL** or in the **EZ** the **R's IP** is on the **EL**. Why is this important? The punter was 2 **YDS** in the **EZ**. High snap was muffed by the punter. He hustles back toward the **EL**, slips, & foot is touching the **EL** when he touches the **FB**. Safety was called correctly. Mechanics put us in a position to make the right call.
15. **PUM** & **BJ**: It is imperative for him to maintain the "cushion" with the Punt Receiver (**s**) to observe first touching, holding & blocks in the back. Do not be in a hurry to hustle to the **DB** spot. We missed a late hit because the **BJ** was too concerned with the **DBS**.
16. Penalty Enforcement: Please discuss **UNS Fouls** that occur during the last timed down of the half or game that will go to **OT**. Is the period extended? Do they carry over to **OT**? Are **UNS fouls** called during the down treated as live ball fouls or dead ball fouls?
17. Dead Ball **LOS Fouls**: We throw the flag high into the air, sound our whistle, stop the clock & give a preliminary signal to the **R**. (We do **NOT** throw the flag in the direction of the fouling team.)
18. **HL**: Please do **NOT** look over your shoulder to see if it is a 1st down. Trust your **LJ**.
19. **KO** is caught by **R-1**. **R-2** then blocks **K-1** in the back at the **R 20 YL**. **K-3** tackles runner **R-1** by the facemask at the **50 YL**. What type of foul is this – which hopper? What are the options for **K** & for **R**? Does **R's foul** have a bearing on the acceptance or declination of these penalties? Please discuss as a Crew.
20. State Requirements: See **GB**, P. 44, 2E, Professional Dress (no blue jeans, no T-shirts, & no non **OHSAA** baseball hats). Let's make a good first impression.
21. **SL Control**: Please, never touch a **HC** when enforcing the Restricted Area.
22. Regulations - Bands: See **GB**, P.36, 2A. Contact Game Management when issues arise.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Labor Day Weekend & the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your enthusiasm, energy, & dedication on behalf of the approximately 78,000 Student Athletes who play OHSAA FB in Ohio. We are truly blessed to be part of such a Great Sport!!