

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2015-5 (Week 5); 9/23/15

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 4 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Beau travels on F to watch multiple HS games (Last year he saw approximately 175 different officials). These are some of his observations: A. Cross Field Mechanics - Any time a receiver is hit & driven back the **Back Side Wing** needs to move into the field to the hash marks, to mark Forward Progress. This would also apply to the runner being hit near the SL, driven back, & the covering **Wing** is trailing the play. B. **Wings IP & Back Side Coverage** - If A lines up with the wide-outs inside your hash mark or inside your field numbers, step out onto the field. When the runner or pass moves toward the opposite SL we expect the **Back Side Wing** to move at a 45 degree angle toward the hash mark to help officiate. By starting on the field when the formation allows it, we are in a much better position to get to the hash mark. C. **BJ's R&R** - You must be able to read the play. Saw an obvious Targeting call on the SL. The **BJ** was way too far downfield & still in the center of the field even though the QB had run to the SL. Fortunately, the **Wing** threw his flag. We expect the **BJ** to throw his.
2. Professional Dress: Saw a photo of a Varsity game where the officials are wearing the 1" & the 2-1/4" stripe shirts - NO! In the same game an official is wearing a black hat with the NFL Logo on it - NO! Saw a photo from another game where the official has a penalty flag hanging out of his back pocket - NO! See GB, P. 44, Section 3B, 3E, & 3I. Remember, we only get one chance to make a good first impression!!!! Do you really want us to email you on Monday & ask you to explain? We all have better things to do.
3. Continuous Self Improvement: Ask yourself just before the opening KO, "What will I work on this first half to be a better official by half time". State this goal to your Crew during the Pregame. All 5 officials need to do this & be part of this process,
4. Play: Late in 2Q & A is driving for a TD. A completes a pass then runs up to the LOS & snaps the ball. Only one problem - R has not marked it ready yet. R throws flag correctly for DOG. What is the GC status? This is Conserve Time & GC needs to be wound on the ready. They did not. Someone on the Crew needs to "step up to the plate" & get this corrected. Please review Consume/Conserve in your pregame.

5. Player Equipment: I have had 3 Observer Reports this past weekend of player's pants clearly above the knees & in one case the Observer saw the player pulling his pants above the knees before the snap. Call an official's time-out & send these players to the SL to be corrected. Obviously, we can correct most of this before the game.
6. Pass Play: The pass caught or trapped inside the numbers can be a very challenging call. We never give the catch signal since another official may be signaling incomplete pass. The **BJ, Wing & U** need to look at each other before making a decision if there is doubt. If no one signals incomplete with a strong signal & whistle then it is a completed pass. **Wings** - if you are not sure do not run in like you have forward progress - if you do you are indicating it is a completed pass. Go Slow!! Go Slow!! Go Slow!!
7. **R (4 Man)(Punt)**: It is imperative that the **R** not mark the ball ready until the **U** is at his IP, counted the RT, & signaled the **R** that he has 11 players. He has a lot to do before the snap.
8. **R (4 Man)(Pass/Run)**: It is imperative that the **R** not mark the ball ready until the **U** is at his IP, counted B, & signaled the **R** that he has 11 players. An Observer that the **R** marked the ball ready when the **U** was still "over the ball". Note: On both of these situations, if the **R** does this, tell the **R** that he needs to Slow Down.
9. Observers: We are all very appreciative of the wonderful job they do both during Weeks 1-10 & Weeks 11-15. If an Observer tells you something that is in direct contradiction to the GB please let me know. This because a teachable moment. I especially want to know if the Observer wants to tell you what he thinks or what he did & wants to disregard the GB.
10. Coin Toss: A HC walked with his captains to be part of the CT during Week 3. He was informed that only the captains could be there. He informed the **R** that he had done it Weeks 1 & 2. Remember, this was part of the 2015 SRI Online & Face to Face Meetings.
11. **HC & Wing** Communication: We need to know the rules before communicating with the HC. If you are not sure, check with another official prior to explaining a Rule to the HC. You can always say "Coach, I will get back with you as soon as I can".
12. Try: A lines up in a muddle huddle with the Center on the end of the line wearing # 22. A has 7 players on the LOS - it is a legal formation. Center A-1 snaps ball to A-2 who throws a forward pass to A-1 in the End Zone. Ruling:

Legal play - A scores 2 points on the Try. Please read & review Rule 7-5-6 regarding eligibility on passes. A-1 is eligible.

13. Crew Communication: After throwing a flag & the down is over, take a deep breath & think what you will do. Too often we get in a hurry & end up confusing our Crew. First & foremost, know the Official FB Signals in the Rules Book. Give a strong signal to the **R** regarding the foul & direction. When communicating with the appropriate **Wing** do NOT give color. Instead, use offense, defense, kicking team or receiving team. Be specific on “what happened” so the **Wing** can communicate effectively with the HC. Rather than say “offense # 76 held”, indicate “offense, # 76 held by grabbing the opponent with his right hand on the shoulder & turned him at the POA”.
14. Signaling Mechanics: It is very important for a **Wing** to use the “stop sign” signal &, if necessary, a light sounding of the whistle when play is NOT ready to begin or continue. One example observed was an injured player OOB very near the SL & 20 YL - 25 YDS away from the LOS. A **Wing** must keep the “Stop Sign” signal out with eye contact with the **R**. When the Wing drops the signal he is saying “we are ready to play”. See GB, P. 23, Section 32 MM.

It is hard to believe the regular season is already half over. Enjoy your crew & the experience this weekend. Before long we will all be lamenting just how fast this Great FB Season went!! Good Luck this weekend!!