

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2015-7 (Week 7); 10/8/15

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

1. "A Little Cardio Goes a Long Way": Five minutes of aerobic exercise a day can slash your risk of a heart-disease-related death by 45 percent and your chances of dying of any cause by 30 percent, according to a study of more than 55,000 adults over 15 years. 'Exercise is not all-or-nothing – even a small amount improves and protects the cardiac and skeletal muscles,' explains study co-author Timothy Church." Men's Journal, October 2014.
2. Importance of Games: Games between teams with average records can carry great weight with the OHSAA FB Rating System this time of year. Let's all rededicate ourselves to raising our level of concentration & communication.
3. **BJ** & Punt Mechanics: It is imperative the **BJ** maintain his cushion (8 YDS wide) with players, especially as the FB is bouncing near the GL. Watched a play where the **BJ** was knocked down by a player because he was way too close to the FB & was not straddling the GL as the ball approached it. We can always see more when we are "not too close to the play".
4. Officials: Our game is very challenging to officiate. Our role is to NOT bring attention to ourselves. Watched a game where the official correctly assessed a UNS foul on A1 who brought attention to himself just before he scored a TD. However, later in the game the official "tipped his hat" to the crowd after getting knocked down. No!!
5. Penalty Enforcement: DPI was called correctly on a TD. No options were given to the offended team & no yardage was enforced. This is a "either/or" foul. It will be enforced either on the Try or subsequent KO (Varsity Game). See Rule 8.
6. Penalty Enforcement: TD scored on last play of 2Q. Period extended for the Try. Try-Kick was good. The Kicker was roughed. HC wanted to keep the 1 point Try-Kick on the scoreboard. Does the roughing the kicker foul carry over to the 3Q Kick-Off? Please discuss. See Rule 8.
7. Professional Dress: An official was observed wearing a long sleeve all black shirt under his short sleeve stripe shirt during a sub varsity game. NO! As the weather gets colder please bring both shirts to the game site. In sub varsity games officials do not have to all wear either SS or LS shirts, but please dress professionally.
8. Signaling: We do not mirror TD signals. However, if we see a TD then we signal TD. If a HC asks you "did you see a TD" we have to be honest with him – that is why we do not mirror it.
9. Sub Varsity Games: By Rule the Halftime must be 10 minutes in length along with a mandatory 3 minute warm-up period. Even though the HC's might want to reduce it they cannot. However, if there is a suspended game due to inclement weather the HC's can decide to reduce the halftime length. If any halftime is scheduled the 3 minute warm-up is mandatory.

10. UNS & Personal Fouls: A Crew member yelled at a player “To Knock It Off” during a live ball as the player blocked an opponent OOB. The **Wing** correctly called a DB Personal Foul. The **R** changed it to a UNS Foul. NO!! Contact Fouls are Personal Fouls. They are Not UNS Fouls.
11. Try-Kick Rules: Please review CB 4.2.2 Situation A. Holder receives snap & tosses the FB over his head to the Kicker who runs across the GL. Is it a 2 point conversion? Does it matter if the holder has his knee on the ground when he tosses the FB to the kicker? Please review. The **Crew** awarded a successful 2 point Try. Was this the correct ruling?
12. Penalty Enforcement: **HL** correctly called a BIB & then a UNS for taunting. The **Crew** then took nearly 2 minutes to enforce a live ball foul followed by a dead ball foul by A. During the discussion the **U** was not involved. The **U** is in charge of Penalty Enforcement, not just walking off the penalty.
13. Ball Handling: Please spend some time emphasizing the importance of ball handling. One **Crew** told me they assess a **Crew** member \$5 for an “incomplete pass”! Before tossing the ball to a fellow **Crew** member take a few more steps toward him. Be patient with players in front of you to move rather than being impatient.
14. Low Blocks: A Crew had 2 low blocks F night. All were committed by the team we least expect: A: B-3 cut receiver A-2 who was blocking ahead of the runner. B: On a KO the KT cut the RT to “break up” the blocking wedge ahead of the runner.
15. Rule 9: A **Crew** penalized a team for Sideline Interference when a **Wing** ran into a member of the Media near the SL. NO!! Refer this issue to Game Management. It is not a foul.
16. Trapped Pass: Saw a Great example of Signaling Mechanics. A2 was 15 YDS downfield & dove to catch a low pass. **U** ruled Trap. He hustled in, gave 2 strong slow & deliberate incomplete pass signals, & then tapped the ground 2 times while down on his knee. It looked like a million bucks!! As officials we must be Great Communicators. This is an example of that.
17. OKO Signaling Mechanics: Surprise OKO. **U** did a Great job of immediately hustling into the pile, ruled KT possession, & gave a very strong & deliberate COP signal. Again, hustling in & the strength of the signal helped to “sell this judgment call”. Ask your crewmates – do I present the appearance of a “strong” official thru my movement, hustle, & signaling those “big” calls.
18. Dead Ball Mechanics: Observed a game where it was close to a first down. The **U** spotted the ball on the ground. Then the **HL** had it moved back. The coaches were NOT happy. Do NOT do this! The **Wings** have to decide who has the “best look” – which can see the FB once it is dead. Make this decision before placing the FB on the ground.
19. Bands Playing: Contact Game Management if Bands are playing when the QB calls signals or the ball is live. See GB, P.35, 2A.
20. Awareness Games: In order to recognize these games Officials can use Pink Whistles if the ENTIRE Crew uses them. This is the only pink item that can be used or worn. (GB, P. 44, 3L) As we know FB Officiating has the fewest opportunities to earn income when compared to SCR, BSKB, BB, SB, VB, etc. since the regular season is only 10 weeks & there is no out of season FB. This way we do not have some members of a Crew placing “pressure” on other members to purchase a lot of additional items.

21. Awareness Games: Teams can paint the field lines & numbers with pink paint. Rules book states that white paint is “recommended.”

Best of luck during Week 7!!