

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

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

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Weeks 6/7 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Interview with Anthony Bourdain, CNN Reporter: “What is the best advice you’ve ever received? Show up on time. It is the basis of everything. Give the people that you work with the respect to show up when you said you were going to. And by that I mean every day, always and forever. I’ve learned there are two types of people in this world: people who live up to what they say they are going to do and people who do not.” Men’s Journal. (If an emergency should happen, then call ahead & let them know.)
2. Knee Pads (Basketball & Wrestling Type Pads): Please review 1-5-1, 3d2. From Beau Rugg – “The fact is they have pads that cover the knee & the pants are over the pads, not necessarily entirely over the pad is legal”. This is our guideline. Please follow it & do not send me emails about this guideline. We need to use common sense on this.
3. Week 10 Bulletin: There will be no bulletin Week 10 due to preparation & work load for the State FB Playoffs.
4. UNS & Taunting: A2 broke a great run down the field for a TD. However, as A2 approached the GL he turned & taunted the opponent. The **BJ** missed the obvious call. Fortunately, the **HL** saw it from a distance, huddled with the **Crew** near the GL & asked if anyone else had seen it. The **R** confirmed that he saw it. The **HL** threw his flag. This was a very good “Crew call”. Talk about it when it happens rather than wait until we are in the LR.
5. **R** Signaling: QB A1 in shot gun formation dropped back approximately 7 YDS behind the LOS & threw a pass to A2. The **R** saw the pass, punched backward, & most importantly yelled loudly “BACK”. The pass went over A2’s hands & B1 possessed the grounded backward pass very near the SL. **LJ** signaled B’s ball. Afterwards, the **LJ** remarked to the **R** “man, I am glad I heard you yell “back”. This play was very well officiated. Unfortunately, in 2 other games the **Crew** did not signal & ruled incomplete pass on backward passes recovered by B – in fact one of them would have gone for a TD. Using our basic Gold Book Mechanics can keep us out of trouble. Please discuss.
6. “See Leather” Mechanics: A2 ran forward into the line & a mass of players. He fumbled the ball. No player saw the fumbled ball lying on the ground for 3 or 4 seconds. The **Crew** did a great job of holding their whistles in a very tight game. Be PATIENT!! Ask yourself, did I “see leather” with the ball dead by Rule before I sounded my whistle. Too

often we hear too many whistles being sounded on plays. In most cases only 1 or 2 whistles need to be sounded.

7. **R/HL/LJ** Signaling on KO: The **Wings** will wind the GC by Rule when the ball is in their side zone only. The **R** will wind the GC by Rule anywhere on the field. Why? So the Timer can see the officials & knows to start the GC.
8. **Crew** Is A Team: Unlike other sports we help each other when ruling on fouls, kicks, passes, etc. There is no “my area” or “your area”. Why? There are 22 players & we can be “screened” at any time. A1 throws pass to A2 in the middle of the field. As A2 is attempting to catch the pass he rolls away from the **BJ** so the **BJ** is screened. The **Wing** sees the ball hit the ground as A2 is unable to hold it. It was an incomplete pass but the **Crew** ruled completed pass. When the observer asked the **Wing** about the play, he said it was the **BJ’s** call, not his. We are a TEAM working together to “get the play right”. We need to be ready to help our fellow officials.
9. **U** (4 Man): Remember the **U’s** IP is 7 YDS from the LOS unless in Punt or GL Mechanics.
10. **R** Reverse Mechanics: Once you are certain the EL will “not be threatened” feel free to move up field. But remember, if the runner fumbles you are responsible for the EL.
11. **R** Signals: Check the Rules Book for roughing the passer. Unlike other levels we do not signal Personal Foul before signaling roughing the passer.
12. **R** Microphone Announcements: The **R** said “Illegal Procedure” when rolling his hands. As we know Illegal Procedure was eliminated from the Rules Book many years ago.
13. Extension of Period: **Crew** extended the 2Q for an accepted dead ball foul by the defense on a late hit OOB & time expired. We do not extend for a dead ball foul. It is imperative that the **Crew** get together & talk about this with each other. This did not happen. The **R** needs to be assertive & have all officials huddle to discuss it. Do not be concerned if this takes some time. The most important aspect is “to get it right”.
14. **Wings** Signaling: We do not wind the GC near the SL then signal time-out for a 1<sup>st</sup> down. The **LJ** needs to slow down & look at the LTG first, then make a decision. Think about how many seconds go off the GC that might be important near the end of either half if we are winding the GC then stopping it.
15. **Observers**: There is no need to time the interval between the Try & the KO. We know the Rule. However, there are too many variables – did the ball person have a ball ready for the **BJ**; did the **Crew** have something important to discuss briefly; did the coaching staff have a question for the **BJ** as he was coming up the SL; was the KT or RT confused regarding substitutions & having the correct number; did the Kicker take a lot of time to place the ball on the tee & then adjust it. A general comment can be made but NO TIMING after every Try. We have far more important things to do & cover.
16. **LJ** Punt Mechanics: Ball snapped over the Punter’s head. The **LJ** MUST stay on the LOS until there is no punt possible or the punt crosses & stays across the LOS.

17. **BJ** Signaling: If you see an incomplete pass near the SL, signal incomplete pass. With crowded sidelines, sometimes it is difficult for the Timer to see the **Wings** signals.
18. **Onside KO** Signaling: As we know touching precedes possession. During an onside kick the covering officials need to wind the GC when the kick is first touched.

Best of Luck with Week 8!!