

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 5; 9/22/16

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

1. Referee Microphones: If there is a "stadium" & a "TV" microphone, the **R** will use only one -- the "stadium" microphone. Obviously, with everything "on our plates", we do not need to be turning 2 microphones off & on. This is a new "mechanic" that happened recently so it will not be found in the current GB. We will add it for 2017.
2. Beau travels on F to watch multiple HS games (Last year he saw approximately 180 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 passer 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** Dead Ball Officiating – there is no need to run up to the pile of players. Saw an obvious late hit missed that was 2 seconds after the DB. The **BJ** was too concerned watching the pile of players.
3. Continuous Self Improvement: Ask yourself during the pre-game, "What will I work on this first half to be a better official by half time". State this goal to your **Crew**. One good **Crew** wrote their goals on the LR white board, & then discussed them after the game. All 5 officials need to be part of this excellent process.
4. Dead Ball Officiating: Beau watched video clips forwarded by the HC. The **Crew** missed calling 8 Dead Ball Personal Fouls in the game. And as we know, many times if we call the first one this puts a stop to it. In most cases the **R/HL/LJ/BJ** need to swivel their heads & continue to officiate once the ball becomes dead. As we know the **U** is moving quickly to the pile, especially if it is nearby.
5. Dead Ball Officiating: Do not be too quick to look to the SL for a new FB. Watched 2 games on TV where **Wings** were doing this – especially on Punts.
6. Important Players: On each play we need to identify the most important players based upon their movement. Continue to work hard on this part of "our" game.
7. Hurdling: Check Rule 2-22. If the runner hurdles by definition it is a foul, regardless if there is contact or Not. Yes, this is an exception to all personal fouls must have contact.

8. Multiple OT Periods: For each OT Period bring the Captains to center of the field, obtain their choices, & then signal the PB. Please remember our role as communicators.
9. Play: Late in 2Q & A is driving for a TD. A completes a pass then runs up to the LOS & snaps the ball before the **R** has 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.
10. Sideline Coaching: Anyone coaching must remain in the Team Box (This can happen in JV/Frosh Games when members of the Varsity Staff might be in attendance).
11. 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, Wings & U** need to look at each other before making a decision if there is doubt. Get together & discuss the pass being complete or incomplete if there is a need to do so. **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!!
12. **R** (4 Man)(Punt): It is imperative that **R** not mark ball ready until **U** is at his IP, counted the RT, & signaled the **R** that he has 11 players. **U** has a lot to do before the snap.
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, KT or RT. Be specific on “what happened” so the **Wing** can communicate effectively with the HC. Rather than say “offense # 76 held”, indicate “offense, # 76 grabbed opponent with his right hand on the shoulder & turned him at the POA”.
14. KO Rules: There was an Onside KO and the KT only had 2 players on one side of the ball. And no one called this obvious foul. Please discuss KO coverage in your pre-game.
15. Whistle in The Stands: Happened last week & almost every player stopped. We treat this as an inadvertent whistle. See GB, P. 37. Section 24A.
16. Artificial Limb: Had a game where the runner had an artificial limb that came off while he was carrying the FB. Apply the same Rule as a runner’s helmet coming off – sound your whistle.
17. Point Differential: If KO goes OOB, stop the GC, enforce the penalty then wind on the “ready”. The PC is used as during other parts of the game. And we still use Extension of Period Rules.
18. Arm Brace: Similar to the knee brace all exposed hard surfaces must be covered.
19. Injury Time-outs: Teams must huddle between the field numbers & sideline & in front of their Team Box (Rules: 2-6-2, 3-5-8c & 3-5-8a (3)).
20. Number of Quarters (9 – 12 grades): Players can play a maximum of 4 quarters/day & 50 quarters/season.
21. Website & Quiz: Change answer to Rules Geek, Quiz 1, Q5 to “Ball is dead as soon as the holder goes back down to the ground (Rule 4-2-2a, Exception 2 Note).

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!! And again thank you very much for all your help!!