

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 2; 9/1/16

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

1. Taking the Easy Way Out: Far too often Beau & I hear the incorrect interpretation of a Rule, a Mechanic, a Rules Philosophy, a Safety Policy, or a Regulation because we are “too quick” to think we know the answer, when in fact we do not know it. When one considers a 111 page Rules Book, a 104 page Case Book, & a 52 page Gold Book, it is nearly impossible for any of our 3,500 officials to know, understand, & remember all this information – especially when we only use it 3 – 4 months per year. During our postponed F night game, there were 3 times I personally checked the GB Safety Policies to be 100% sure, not 99% sure. Let’s be careful of our egos – it can get us in trouble. A Contending Official & **Crew** checks the appropriate publication to be 100% sure.
2. TV Games & Items Observed: A. Jerseys with “Team” in large letters on the back – report to Beau; B. Jerseys with the words “Long Blue Line” above the Numbers – report to Beau; C. Back Pad exposed on Player # 6 during the game on multiple plays – is this a Pretending rather than a Contending **Crew** – needed to be corrected the first time observed then the player sent off the field on subsequent occasions observed; D. **R** using 2015 Mic Mechanics rather than 2016 Mic Mechanics covered at SRI.
3. **BJ & Crew**: The **Wings** & the **U** MUST stretch their vision. Several Situations: A. watched a video clip where the **BJ** missed an obvious Kick Catching Interference – who can help? B. Watched a video clip where a B player hit a defenseless player as the receiver relaxed on an overthrown pass. The **BJ** was watching the ball as it was muffed by another receiver. Please discuss these & other situations. A Contending **Crew** & a Contending Officials “steps up to the plate when needed” & makes these **Crew** Calls!!
4. Game Clock (GC) Late in Game: When score is tight it is imperative to 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!
5. **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 & the Coaches – especially in sub varsity games when A is ahead & trying to snap the ball with a few seconds left on the PC.
6. **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.

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. 2 situations when the **Wings** must hustle into the pile: A. Close plays 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. **Wings:** If you see the A linemen before the snap lined up “looking like an airplane wing” check for Illegal Formation. Watched a video clip where the TE was clearly behind the Center. This must be called – check GB, P. 41, Rules Philosophy, – LOS # 1.
10. **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!!**
11. **U:** When runner lands near the **U** he needs to sound his whistle. While attending a local meeting I heard **U’s** bragging they did not need to carry a whistle since they did not use it. We do a disservice to our **Crew** & increase chances for an inadvertent whistle. Remember we need a whistle every play, regardless of the lateness. Coaches expect it.
12. **KO’s:** Make sure there are 11 players on both the KT & RT before **R** marks is ready.
13. Prelim Signal by Calling Official: Slow Down. Slow Down. A **wing** signaled False Start when actually the right side of the offensive line was clearly in the NZ (ENC Foul).
14. Victory Formation (VF): Review GB, P. 25. A Crew misapplied 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.
15. **PUM & BJ:** We Must maintain the “cushion” with the Punt Receiver (s) to observe first touching, holding, KCI, & 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. 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** drop the flag as seen on TV.)
17. **GC:** MS FB Game where the GC had to be corrected multiple times the 1st half. The **Crew** correctly kept the GC on the field the 2nd half. GB, P.36, # 10.

We hope everyone will have 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!!