

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin # 2016-1 (Week 1); 8/25/16

Thank you Very Much for your incredible dedication to the youth of Ohio. Indicated below are some items that have arisen during State Rules Interpretation (SRI) Meetings & Local Officials Association Meetings this year. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. **Ohio Officials are Contenders Because They Want to Get Better.** With great support by Local Associations OHSAA hosted 9 FB Clinics this summer that were attended by nearly 1000 officials. Congrats to those Contenders who attended.
2. **Rule 1 - Player Equipment:** Check the players before the game for any illegal equipment as well as mandatory equipment. Such items include, but not limited to, towels, eye shade, clear eye shields, wrist bands, legal numbers, & play cards on wrist. Remember all hard surfaces must be covered by the jersey on every down. Let's get it straight Week 1 so all teams are on the "same page". **In the area of Jerseys: If you see anything in the jersey as it relates to color or lettering that you feel is illegal, play the contest and report it to Beau at [brugg@ohsaa.org](mailto:brugg@ohsaa.org). He will take care of it!**
3. **New 2014 Format was continued in 2016 for OHSAA SRI Meetings:** Officials had the opportunity to attend face-to-face meetings and receive credit for 2 meetings. Approximately 1000 officials took advantage of these highly informative mini clinics in Athens, Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Hamilton, Lima, New Philadelphia, Orrville, & Toledo. A BIG thank you to those Local Associations who "stepped up to the plate" & helped us. Approximately half the time was devoted to video review & discussion.
4. **Gold Book, Pages 40 - 42.** Do you consider yourself as a contender or pretender? Do you consider your Crew as contenders or pretenders? Through self-study, Crew discussion, local association reviews, and video review we must all have a thorough knowledge of the Rules Philosophies & Interpretations. Learn these 3 pages just like you learn & understand the Rules Book, Case Book, & Gold Book. Discuss at your pregame.
5. **Crew Communication:** It is imperative that the entire Crew get together & talk about any unusual & challenging situations that occur. We had a play where an official DQ'd a player. When we watched the video there might have

been a foul, but clearly not a DQ. Please get together & talk about any DQ. If it is warranted, then DQ the player.

6. **Crew Communication:** We had a play where the BJ ruled catch on a TD. The FB ended up on the ground. Some other member of the Crew need to tell the BJ that the ball was on the ground & thus was not a catch & TD. Remember, if in doubt “wipe it out”.
  7. **Game Control:** We are paid to Control the game. It is one of our highest priorities when we officiate the game. The Gold Book, Section 17, Game Management, gives us the authority to suspend players if their behavior warrants it.
  8. **Targeting:** Can be either live or dead ball foul. Contact MUST occur above the shoulders. With the 100+ hours of video we have watched, look for the head to snap back on the person being hit. It is a good indicator. Use S 24.
  9. **Defenseless Player:** Nothing has changed from 2015 to 2016. OHSAA has clarified it with the 10 -15 Yard guideline which is primarily for players in a “chase” mode after the runner. For clarification purposes, blindside blocks are still legal provided they are not targeting, occur within 15 yards of the ball carrier, & are otherwise legal blocks. When ruling on defenseless watch the person being hit - has he relaxed? It can be either a live ball or dead ball foul. We MUST get these.
- 10. ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!**
11. [WWW.OHSAAFB.COM](http://WWW.OHSAAFB.COM) Website: A Big Thank You to Jerry Peters & Dave Ramsey for their excellent help this year creating the Quizzes that will appear on our website.
  12. **Ejection Reports:** Please be specific regarding the actions, language, & behavior. The Official who DQ’s the person MUST file the report online with OHSAA within 24 hours.
  13. **R & Microphone:** NEW - See P. 16, Item 23D, for change from last year.
  14. **LJ & Timer Meeting:** Take the Point Differential Card found at OHSAAFB.COM (Bulletins) to Timer, give it to him/her, & discuss it. Please review during your pregame as quite a few games last year were Point Differential Games.
  15. **Reminder:** UNS Fouls are Non-Contact & Personal Fouls are contact.

16. Concussion: When a player has signs or symptoms of a concussion he is suspended from the game & may not reenter. When any player is injured, bring available medical personnel onto the field. Let them do their job first, then check with them regarding the player. Obviously when there are no doctors or trainers on site then we must make the decision.
17. Inclement Weather: If there is a forecast for possible lightning and/or thunder enlist the help of Game Management & Coaching Staffs to help the Crew observe it.
18. HL: It is your responsibility to hustle to the SL & “set” the Down Box for each new set of downs. Also, instruct the Down Box Person to switch the next down at the succeeding spot, not at the previous spot. Also, chain crew cannot wear stripe referee shirts.
19. Officials Dress: Shoes are now predominately (more than 50%) black with black shoe laces. Shorts must be all black. Black pants must have the 1-1/4” white stripe.
20. NFHS Rules Book: Delete PP. 83 - 85 regarding OT as OHSAA starts the OT from the + 20 YL rather than the + 10YL. Also delete P. 98 as OHSAA Policy states “any” lightning rather than “cloud-to-ground” lightning is cause to suspend the game for 30 minutes.
21. Gold Book Corrections: Delete Item 17D on P. 37. Change Fair Catch - Invalid from 7-5-7 to 6-5-7, & Illegal Equipment from 1-3-5 to 1-5-3 on P. 38.
22. Sub varsity Games: All officials can wear black hats with white piping.