

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

FROM: Bruce Maurer, DOD; Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating & Sports Management

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 12; 11/8/17

Greetings!! We hope you had great game and a wonderful experience during Week 11. I have received over 100 Observations and there were many positive comments along with areas where we can all improve. Please cover during your pre games. This bulletin will cover items that have been observed during Week 11. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Bruce at bmaurer.38@gmail.com.

1. **Crew & Individual Goals:** One of the best crews I was on in the NFL was led by our **R**, Gary Lane. Before each game each official would state a Goal for that game that he was personally going to improve along with a Goal to help the **Crew**. We stated these Goals in front of our Crewmates & discussed them openly. Then at halftime & after the game we would review them in a positive & honest environment. **R** – Please discuss during the Pregame.
2. **Crew & Individual Goals:** Visited with a **Crew** last weekend that placed their **Crew** Goals on the White Board in the LR – very impressive. I am sure we have all read articles about the importance & power of writing down our goals & then stating them to friends & associates.
3. **OBSERVERS:** We want to thank them for an outstanding job. We had approximately 100 games observed. Many of them sat in the cold to observe the game with the Goal to improve officiating in Ohio and make the experience for the high school athlete as wonderful as possible. Please extend a heartfelt thanks to them for volunteering their time to help us all improve. And please give them your undivided attention by not getting dressed. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
4. **Illegal Low Blocks by B:** Like we discussed at length during the SRI Meetings we are very concerned with the number of illegal low blocks committed by B against pulling linemen that we have missed. Almost everyone occurs at the POA. We need to broaden our vision & watch players of both teams, not just A Players who we normally watch.
5. **OKOM:** Once the kick is recovered officials need to rotate their heads for any dead ball fouls. It does us no good to have 5 or 6 officials all watching the ball.
6. **Restricted Area (RA)** – We have reports of coaches/players in the RA during a live ball. We EXPECT you to lead by example. **Observers:** Make a Special Note if the RA is NOT enforced and email me regarding the name of the official & the **Crew**. We will make changes. We would prefer not to! Coaches are allowed 2 steps on the field between downs. Enforce It.
7. **Wings:** When the nearest A player is inside the HM move off the SL. We saw several plays where the nearest A player was 25 YDS away and the **Wing** was still “married” to the SL.
8. **3rd & 4th Down & 5 or Less Yards:** When this occurs the most important line is the LTG. It is imperative that the **Wings** move to the LTG immediately at the snap. The **Wing** did not & they incorrectly awarded a 1st down when the tape showed the runner was short of the LTG on 4th.
9. **Game Control:** One of our Primary Goals when we accept the contract is controlling the game. Just because we are doing playoff games, does not change anything regarding the conduct of

- players & their opponents. Send players off the field as needed. Inform the HC “that he can reenter when you think he is ready to play FB. If the same player has another incident it is UNS.
10. Catch: A receiver jumped, possessed the FB, & upon returning to the ground, the ball became loose. This is an incomplete pass. The **Wing** ruled completed pass. The **BJ** and/or **U** needed to come over & discuss this call with the **Wing**. Review GB, P. 9, Item # 11.
 11. **CJ** & KOM: Rather than start to slide downfield after the FB is kicked, wait until the KT Players have passed you. Then turn & walk down to the – 40YL watching for any appropriate fouls.
 12. Half Time & After the Game: All officials are to leave the field together. Do not leave an official by himself when he goes to grab the Books. This is good Preventive Officiating.
 13. KO Mechanics: The **R** always starts on the GL regardless of how far the KT kicks the FB.
 14. **R/Wings** & GC: When the ball becomes dead outside the field numbers, both the covering **Wing** & the **R** must wind the GC. Timer told the **Observer** that the near side **Wing** was not winding & he had a challenging time deciding whether to stop the GC or not. If the **R** knows the ball is dead inbounds, & the **Wing** does not wind it, then the **R** needs to wind the GC.
 15. Measurements: If the FWP spot is very close to a first down then we need to measure, especially if the HC asks for one. See GB, P. 9, Item # 5.
 16. Catch Signal: We never give a “catch” signal into the field of play; only on a boundary line by the **Wing** or **BJ**. Why? What if another official is signaling incomplete pass.
 17. Ineligibles Downfield: “Intent” has nothing to do with whether this is a foul or not. We know the Rule. **Wings** need to help with this call as the **U** has a lot of traffic. This is especially important for the Back Side **Wing** on a pass to the opposite side of the field.
 18. FGA & Touchback: The RT muffed a FGA in the End Zone, then picked up the FB & ran 30-40 Yards downfield. Fortunately, after the DB the **Crew** got together & signaled TB to the PB. Even though we got the call right we need to be better on this play.
 19. KO OOB: The **Crew** must ask the HC how he wants to enforce this foul. Do Not assume they will take it at the “normal” - 35 YL. This is especially important when there is another foul, such as a dead ball foul, called on this play. We had a **Crew** save by an official on this type of play.
 20. **R/BJ** & PC: Our timers are human. They make mistakes. When the **R** marks the ball ready check the PC to make sure it starts. If not get it corrected. A HC had to use his last time out due to the **Crew** not catching the incorrect PC. In another game 7 or 8 seconds ran off the GC before the PC started in a tight game several times. Remember the 3 strikes policy for the PC & PCO.
 21. GLM: We still have officials who do not know IP on GLM. Discuss this in your Pre-Game. **Wings** need to be 2 YDS outside the pylon prior to the snap & move toward the GL at the snap.
 22. Forward Progress: 1 loud whistle blast by 1 or 2 officials when the runner’s progress is stopped. We do not need multiple blasts of the whistle by the same official unless there is something special going on between opponents.
 23. **BJ/U** KO: We expect both the **U** & **BJ** to know the Kicker’s #, as well as identifying uniform characteristics. For example last week one kicker had on yellow shoes. Another Kicker had green socks from his shoes to his knees. **Observers**: Please Discuss.

24. Before Game Starts: Yes, **Crews** can go back into the LR after the CT & before the game starts. However, if teams have a “common entrance point” from their LR then we must leave the LR & have officials there to prevent anything from happening as they move from their LR to the field.

BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS WEEKEND!!! It is a Great time of the year in OHIO. We are all truly blessed to be part of the State Playoffs. And ENFORCE the Restricted Area.

“Keeping our eyes on continuous improvement is surely the most likely way to motivate people to work on getting better.”