

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 1; 8/23/18

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 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. 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 6 FB Clinics this summer that were attended by over 700 officials. Congrats to those Contenders who attended these clinics.
2. Rule 1 – Player Equipment: Check the players before the game for any illegal equipment as well as required equipment. Such items include, but not limited to, towels, eye shade, clear eye shields, wrist bands, legal numbers, & undershirts/jerseys that need to be tucked in. 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 on 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.**
3. New 2014 Format was continued in 2018 for OHSAA SRI Meetings: Officials can attend face-to-face meetings and receive credit for 2 meetings. Over 1500 officials (a record number for the 4th year in a row) took advantage of these highly informative mini clinics in Athens, Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Hamilton, New Philadelphia, Orrville, Toledo & Wapakoneta. A BIG thank you to the Associations who "stepped up to the plate" & helped us. Approximately half the time was devoted to video review & discussion.
4. OHSAA POE for 2018: There are 3: 1. Illegal Low Blocks by B, especially against "pulling" linemen; 2. Illegal Blind Side Blocks; & 3. Ineligibles Illegally Down Field. Please discuss these during your pregame this week.
5. Gold Book, P. 37, Section 21 C: Add the following – "If, during the JV game, one HC no longer wants to have KO's then both HC's must mutually agree to have no KO's during the remainder of the game. If both HC's do not agree, then continue to have KO's. Note: This new interpretation only applies if both JV Coaches wanted KO's before the game when meeting with the **Crew**.
6. Onside Kick Offs: The **HL's** IP will be the KT's Line while the **U's** IP will be on the RT's Line. If the Kick Off is kicked long the **U** will hustle into the hash mark at the 50 YL & the **HL** will move down the sideline.
7. Blind Side Blocks: Please read the Rules carefully as we have heard comments that are not part of the Rule. To summarize the Rule there are 5 criteria that must be met to call the BSB Foul: 1. Outside the Free Blocking Zone (it disintegrates when the ball leaves it);

2. Not with Open Hand (s); 3. Forceful; 4. Not against the Runner (Check Rule 2 – how is the Runner defined); & 5. Out of the Visual Field of the Opponent. You must be 100% sure to make this call just like any other call for a foul.
8. Gold Book, P. 40 – 42. Do you consider yourself & your **Crew** as contenders or pretenders? Through self-study & **Crew** discussion, we must all have a thorough knowledge of the Rules Philosophies. Learn these 3 pages just like you learn & understand the RB, CB, & GB. Pick a Section & discuss it weekly at your pre game.
 9. **Crew Communication:** It is imperative that the entire **Crew** be aware of the GC, especially late in the 2Q & 4Q. The GC was running & Encroachment was called. The Timer did not stop the GC even though all 5 officials signaled time-out. The score was tied 21 – 21. Ten seconds ran off the GC before the Timer stopped the GC.
 10. **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. Please use it.
 11. **BJ IP:** On run/pass plays between the + 15 YL & +10 YL– do you know your IP? Please review P.17, 26 B-4. We have seen too many **BJ's** at scrimmages that need to know their IP. Remember the BJ has responsibility for the GL in this situation.
 12. **ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!**
 13. WWW.OHSAAFB.COM Website: A Big Thank You to Jerry Peters. Larry Clemmons, & Greg Bartemes for their excellent help this year creating Quizzes for our website.
 14. 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.
 15. **R & Microphone:** NEW – See P. 16, Items 23D-1 & 2, for changes from last year.
 16. **LJ & Timer Meeting:** Take the Point Differential Card found at OHSAAFB.COM to the Timer. Give it to him/her, & discuss it. Please review during your pregame as quite a few games last year were Point Differential Games.
 17. Reminder: UNS Fouls are Non-Contact Fouls while Personal Fouls are contact.
 18. Concussion: When a player has signs or symptoms of a concussion he is suspended from the game & may not reenter, even if a doctor says he is “okay”. When any player is injured, bring available medical personnel on 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.
 19. 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.
 20. Officials Dress: All officials must wear the same uniform for Varsity Games Only.
 21. NFHS Rules Book: Delete PP. 84 - 87 regarding OT as OHSAA starts the OT from the + 20 YL. (Remember in Ohio we play OT in Varsity Games ONLY). Also delete P. 104 as OHSAA states “any” lightning rather than “cloud-to-ground” lightning.

22. Beau gave an incorrect rule interpretation at the Columbus SRI Meeting stating that the spot of first touching could serve as the succeeding spot on kicks as it relates to the new kick rule enforcement on fouls by K. The spot of first touching CANNOT be the succeeding spot since the rule states "The right of R to take the ball at the spot of first touching by K is cancelled if the penalty is accepted for any foul committed during the down." Sorry for the confusion!