

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 12; 11/8/18

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. **OBSERVERS:** We want to thank them for an outstanding job. We had approximately 100 games observed. Many of them sat in the rain to observe a 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.
3. 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**. Coaches are allowed 2 steps on the field between downs. Enforce It.
4. **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.
5. TFM 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> down when the tape showed the runner was short of the LTG on 4<sup>th</sup>.
6. Game Control: One of our Primary Goals when we accept the contract is controlling the game. Just because we are doing playoff games, it does not change anything regarding 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.
7. GC & Foul Called: Observers have noted at least 5 instances of a Live Ball Foul called & the runner was tackled inbounds. The foul was enforced & guess what the **Crew** did not do – start the GC on the ready. All 5 or 6 officials are responsible to know the GC status whenever it is stopped by Rule – do we start it on the ready or on the snap. Please discuss this during your pre-game!!
8. GC & Ready: R wound the GC correctly after a first down & the GC did not move. Six seconds later A snapped the ball. Officials, especially the **R** or **BJ** (whoever is facing the GC) need to check the GC to make sure it is moving. If not, correct it.
9. BIB: The block in the back is a 10 YD penalty, Not a 15 YD penalty.

10. QB Spiking Ball: Hurry up offense & QB, under center, spikes the ball to stop GC. **R** needs to be observant. The QB spiked the ball backwards & the **R** incorrectly ruled incomplete pass. The **Wing** knew it was backward but did not say anything until halftime. Need to talk Now!
11. PE: A **Crew** repeated the down on an obvious DB Foul. Who can save the **Crew**?
12. Rule 3-4-7: Inside 2 minutes in 4Q. GC was running. B encroaches & A accepts the 5 YD penalty. The **Crew** must give the offended team the option regarding the GC.
13. SL Warnings: A second SL warning on the same team is a DB Foul & 5 YDS, Not a live ball foul.
14. GC at End of Period: Can a team snap the ball when the GC is stopped with 1 second or less & the **R** will wind on the ready. YES, if A is lined up and set for 1 second prior to the ready.
15. **CJ** & KOM: Rather than start to slide downfield after the FB is kicked, wait until the KT Players have passed you. Then turn & move slowly to the – 40YL watching for any appropriate fouls.
16. **HL** & Down Box: The **HL** Must check the down box after each down. Look at it each time. And be sure to instruct the DB Operator to change it only after he reaches the succeeding spot.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. **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. Remember the 3 strikes policy for the PC & PCO.
20. Pre-Game MTG with HC: Only the 5 or 6 officials who are part of the **Crew** meet with the HC. And, as stated earlier in a bulletin, listen to the HC intently rather than carry on a conversation with someone else. “You never get a second chance to make a Good First Impression.”
21. GLM: We still have officials who do not know their IP on GLM. Discuss this in your Pre-Game. **Wings** need to be 2 YDS outside the SL prior to the snap & move toward the GL at the snap. You Must be at the GL prior to the Runner crossing the GL.
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. 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.
24. 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.

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.”**