

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 2; 8/30/18

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 104 page Rules Book, a 106 page Case Book, & a 53 page Gold Book, it is nearly impossible for any of our 3,300 officials to know, understand, & remember all this information – especially when we only use it 3 – 4 months per year. We have had too many reports of **Crews** and/or Officials simply communicating the wrong ruling &/or interpretation to a HC. Simply say, as one **R** did last week to a HC, “Coach we will check the Rules Book & get back with you before the game starts”.
2. Continue to follow the NFHS Rules and OHSAA exceptions as written. **The only exception would be written permission from the OHSAA office (Beau Rugg)**. Example: The coach/AD presents a letter signed by Beau Rugg giving permission for an equipment exception (tinted visor or prosthesis). Grant the exception. If you question the authenticity of the letter, contact Beau the next day.
3. PUM & **BJ**: We **MUST** maintain the “cushion” with the Punt Receiver (s) to observe first touching, blind side blocks, & blocks in the back. Do not be in a hurry to hustle to the DB spot. We missed a several fouls because the **BJ** was too concerned with the dropping his bean bag. Simply throw your bean bag & continue to watch the action.
4. **BJ** & Punt: We do Not throw a bean bag (BB) on a muff by the receiving team on a punt. It is thrown when K is the first to touch a punt beyond the expanded neutral zone (“first touching”). When the **BJ** throws a BB when the RT muffs the punt, it only confuses the **Crew** which happened last week. Please, do not.
5. New KO OOB Rule: A **Crew** “tacked on” a 5 YD penalty after first placing the ball on the – 35 YL since the KO went OOB at the – 20 YL. NO! Each of these is an option – the HC selects one of the options only.
6. TV Games & Items Observed: A. Cloth hanging below the back of the helmet; B. Jerseys hanging far below the waist; C. Back Pad exposed on multiple plays – is this a Pretending rather than a Contending **Crew**. Please apply the Player Equipment Rule.
7. Player Equipment: A receiver was not wearing his mouth piece as the QB was calling the play. This player must be suspended for the down. The official indicated he was going to tell the player after the down to put it in. No. This is a player safety issue.

8. Illegal Low Block: Called correctly, but the official threw his flag to the spot which hit a player. Remember, it just needs to be thrown on the corresponding YL.
9. 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 3 times in the last minute – well done!
10. GC & Signaling Mechanics: When the runner touches the SL & ruled OOB the **Wing** must stop the GC immediately, rather than when he reaches the OOB spot. When a pass play results in a 30 YD gain & is 20 YDS beyond the line-to-gain the **Crew** knows to stop the GC immediately when the ball is dead rather than wait until they mark FWP. While watching video clips a minimum of 3 extra seconds ran off the GC in these instances.
11. Inside 2 Minutes (2Q & 4Q): Please review Rule 3-4-7. If the GC is stopped for an incomplete pass, runner going OOB, or COP, for example, and there is a foul, the offended team cannot ask the GC to be wound on the ready.
12. Timing: There is no need for an official to time the game unless the GC is not working at the field. A **Crew** member needs to carry a watch to time if the GC malfunctions.
13. UNS & Personal Foul: Report from a game where A-1 shoved B-1. The **R** announced UNS. NO! This not a UNS Foul. It is a personal foul due to contact by A-1.
14. **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 1<sup>st</sup> down.
15. **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!!**
16. **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.
17. **R** & Happy Feet: The **R** needs to “stay home” rather than start moving at the snap. Make sure the QB moves in one direction a significant amount before following him. **R’s** that start to move forward at the snap narrow their field of vision too much.
18. 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).
19. Victory Formation (VF): Review GB, P. 25. A **Crew** misapplied it at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> half. If the A HC says we are going to take a knee, the **R** tells both teams to “defend themselves & play FB”, unless the criteria are met in Section 36A.

20. Dead Ball LOS Fouls: We throw the flag high into the air, sound our whistle, stop the GC & give a preliminary signal to the **R**. (We do **NOT** drop the flag as seen on tape.)
21. GC: MS FB Game where the GC had to be corrected multiple times the 1<sup>st</sup> half. The **Crew** correctly kept the GC on the field the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. GB, P.35, # 9.

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!!