

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 1; 8/28/19

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 725 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. Let's get it straight Week 1 so all teams are on the "same page".
3. OHSAA POE for 2019: A. Legality of Low Blocks by A & B; B. Proper procedures for weather delays; & C. Ineligible receivers downfield on run-pass option plays. Please discuss these during your pregame this week.
4. **Thunder and Lightning**

We all need to be on the same page as it relates to the changes in the inclement weather policy:

- a. If thunder is heard, the game will be stopped and the 30-minute clock kicks in-**NO EXCEPTIONS!**
  - b. If lightning is seen (but no thunder heard), the game will be stopped and the Game Administrator(s), Referee, and head coaches will convene and determine what type of delay will be administered. **If there is lightning in the area, the 30-minute clock kicks in.**
  - c. At night under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it MAY be safe to continue. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low to the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty. **If any member of the group assessing conditions is uncertain, delay for 30 minutes!**
  - d. **Lightning detection devices may be used to stop the contest if lightning is in the area (usually 10 miles) even if it is not seen or thunder heard.**
  - e. **Error on the side of safety. If there is a delay, players, coaches and officials must clear the field of play and seek cover.**
5. 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.
6. **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.
  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. Please use it.
  8. **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.
  9. **ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!**
  10. 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 and contact the school AD.
  11. **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. Also review the “silent wind”.
  12. Reminder: UNS Fouls are Non-Contact Fouls while Personal Fouls are contact.
  13. 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.
  14. Officials Dress: All officials must wear the same uniform for Varsity Games Only.
  15. NFHS Rules Book: Delete PP. 86 - 89 regarding OT. OHSAA starts the OT from the + 20 YL. (Remember in Ohio we play OT in Varsity Games ONLY).
  16. Intentional Grounding: GB, P. 17, #26C-3. Please review. It is okay for the **R** to drop a late flag at the spot of the foul once the **Crew** has discussed if a receiver was in the area.
  17. Eye Shield: Review this Safety Policy change for this year. See GB, P. 43.