

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 11; 11/6/19

Greetings!! CONGRATULATIONS on your selection as an Ohio State Tournament Official. We hope you have great games and a wonderful experience. Please review this info during your pregame.

1. Week 11 (Nov. 8 & 9): Arrive at the site 2 hours before game time. Why? It will take longer due to most Crews not knowing each other. For Weeks 12 thru Week 15 (Nov 15 thru Dec. 7) arrive at the game site 1 hr. & 30 minutes before game time.
2. **Observers:** Ron Fuller (NE), Mike Harbison (SW), Tom McNerlin (E/SE), Ken Myers (NW), & Terry Williams (C) have graciously volunteered to be our District Coordinators (DCO) for the OHSAA State Tournament FB Observers this year. We would like to THANK THEM VERY MUCH for their service. They have recruited 171 OHSAA FB Observers -WOW!! We want to say THANK YOU for their volunteering to help us improve football officiating in Ohio. Please give them the respect they deserve by giving them your attention in the LR & NOT undressing or showering while they are sharing their thoughts. And personally thank them for taking time to help us.
3. Observers: All Observers have been told to give the Yellow BOTTOM COPY of the Observation Form to the Crew after the Post Game Review. If they do not, then please ASK THEM FOR IT!
4. Observers: If you or the Crew has an issue with an Observer's comments, please email Bruce.
5. Player Equipment: Check the players before the game for uncovered shoulder pads, uncovered back pads, different towels, sweat bands (wrist only), eye shade (no writing), tinted eye shields, & pants that do not cover the knee. If these items occur during the game correct them ASAP.
6. Rules: During pregame review Rules 2-3-10, 9-4-3n, 2-32-16, 9-4-3g, 3-4-6, & 3-4-7.
7. **Wings:** It is IMPERATIVE that Wings get off the SL, especially when the dead ball spot is inside the opposite SZ. Minimally, the **Back Side Wing** must be at or near the near hash mark. Otherwise, when the ball goes into the SZ we are officiating with 4 Officials. When space permits STOP a minimum of 5 YDS from the pile of players near you. **Observers:** Indicate in a separate email any Wing who wants to stay on or near the SL during the game.
8. Restricted Area: The 6' belongs to the officials ONLY when the ball is live. ENFORCE IT!! Warn, especially early, when warranted. **Observers:** Indicate in a separate email to me any Wings & Crews who fail to enforce the Restricted Area & Coaches who are too far out on the field.

9. IW & Backward Passes: We are in TOO BIG A HURRY on these. One league had 4 IW's on passes that were clearly backward. If there is any question the **Front Side Wing** needs to look at the **Back Side Wing**. The **Back Side Wing** needs to "punch back" & yell back. The **R** can help as well.
10. Try Mechanics: If a team brings a "Tee" on the field we are either in Try-Kick Mechanics or Muddle Huddle Mechanics. If there is no "Tee" then we are in GL Mechanics. Please discuss.
11. ONKO: Review responsibilities. **BJ** -- Write down on your game card the HT & VT kicker's number for Kickoffs. Observe the color of his socks & shoes. It can help you to know the Kicker. **Discuss with the coaches in your pre game meeting what they CANNOT do after the RFP.**
12. Coin Toss: It is 20 minutes before KO. The coin is flipped at 20 minutes, NOT the officials secure the captains at 20 minutes. The CT can be earlier. Meet the first available HC 35 minutes before the KO time on the field. Inspect player equipment. Ask him if he might use a double pass.
13. R & Pregame: This must be a Discussion, NOT a lecture by the **R**. Involve everyone please.
14. Visible Play Clock Operator: The PCO must meet with you before the game. If not, the Visible PC is not used.
15. GC Timer: LJ meets with GC Timer. Have Timer set GC so it will expire 1 minute prior to KO time, so we do not have to wait for the GC to be reset to 12:00. KO at the scheduled game time.
16. If the HC wants to have a Referee conference to discuss a misapplication of a Rule, then do it. If the HC & the officials disagree on the ruling, then **EVERY CREW IS REQUIRED TO SHOW THE HC in the Rule Book, Case Book, or Gold Book, if asked,** what the ruling is. Use the Rules Index.
17. Communication: Be exact with the Terms listed in Definitions (Rule 2) when discussing challenging situations. Take your time - even though we might "not look good", if we get it right, that is what counts. Answer any legitimate question from the HC. Be Careful what you say and how you say it - You are there to Defuse Rather than Incite. You Can't Misquote Silence. Talk Low and Slow. Ask that important question now, NOT at halftime, or afterwards.
18. GL Mechanics: **Wings** are responsible to be at the GL prior to the ball arriving. You **MUST** start 2 YDS OOB & move to the GL quickly, especially once the ball is at the + 5YL (R&R 2).
19. Uniform: Logo hats are mandatory for the Playoffs.
20. Study the GB: Officials have had 10 years to learn and practice the mechanics. You have been selected as a State Tournament Official - You are expected to set the "Standard": A. **BJ** is 20 YDS from the LOS until the FB is between the + 15 YL & + 10

YL, & GL Mechanics. For example, if the ball is snapped at the + 14YL the BJ will be 5 YDS deep into the EZ where he can move to the GL on a run or short pass. B. PE: All officials are responsible. **Know the Rules.** F. Pass/Run Plays: R/CJ/BJ - do not run to the pile. Stay back 5 YDS, swivel your head, & watch for DB fouls. **BJ/CJ/R may have to support when many players go out of bounds.**

21. TV Games: Visit <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Football/PlayoffTVTiming.pdf> for the 2019 TV Time Schedule for televised games. Follow this schedule & discuss it with the TV liaison. LJ is responsible for coordinating & recording TV TO's during the game.
22. Signaling: Review PP. 22 - 23. You are expected to use them as listed in the GB. The **Wing & R** need to wind the GC (2X) when the DBS is between the numbers & SL (no 1<sup>st</sup> down).
23. Communication: Give the Prelim Signal to the R when a foul is called & there is 1 flag. If there are 2 flags, then the 2 officials get together, discuss, & then one gives the Prelim Signal to the R. Give strong & correct signals to the R. Obvious 5 YD Dead Ball False Starts, Snap Infractions, & Encroachments should be enforced & the ball marked RFP within 10 seconds.

BEST OF LUCK to everyone!! Ask yourself, do I have the courage to “step up to the plate” and help my fellow official. And does my ego welcome the “help” from a fellow official. THEN can we both discuss it with no emotion and no ownership so we can “Get It Right”. We owe it to the teams. Take Care!!