

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 6; 9/30/20

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 5 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Face Coverings: Let's make this VERY CLEAR again. Officials MUST wear face coverings (mask, gaiter, etc.) other than when they are on the field actively officiating. For those fortunate to work the State Playoffs this will be # 1 for Observers to watch & communicate back to us for consideration for future playoff assignments. We must do our part so we can all enjoy HS FB.
2. **Wings** & Play Progression: We have seen too many video clips of **Wings** standing on the LOS & watching the QB when the receivers on their side have gone downfield. This leaves the **BJ** on an island – sometimes having to watch 3 or 4 receivers plus the defenders. Please review R & R 1, R & R 2, and R & R 3. After each play ask yourself did I read the play correctly & were my eyes watching the important players as the play developed.
3. Targeting & DQ: The Targeting Foul Penalty does Not include the offender being ejected. Yes, the **Crew** can get together & decide it is flagrant enough foul & eject the player. One **Crew** told the HC that they had to eject the player by Rule for a targeting foul.
4. GLM & Possible TD – **U** Helps: When the **Wings** lose sight of the FB as the Runner dives into the pile near the GL it is imperative that the **U** immediately digs to “find the FB”. If the **U** is 100% sure it is a TD, & a **Wing** does not signal TD, run to the appropriate **Wing** & tell him what you saw. **Wings** will make the final decision as to whether it is a TD. See GB, P. 14, 18 D-2.
5. Game Control: A **Crew** expressed their frustration to the Assigner about the behavior of the players & coaches. However, the **Crew** issued no Sideline Warnings, nor did they suspend any players from the game. The game was “chirpy”. When we step on the field one of our highest responsibilities is “game control”. The coaches share this same concern because of the possibility of players getting hurt. Please discuss this as a **Crew** & “be ready to step up to the plate” when any action by a player warrants suspension.
6. Fumble or DB Ball: Several **Crew** members initially ruled fumble. One official saw the runner's knee on the ground. Yes, please get together & discuss. Reconstruct the Play! The **Crew** can always decide that the runner's knee was on the ground & rule Team A's FB.
7. UNS: When a **Crew** suspends a player, if that player is later suspended again, it is a UNS foul.
8. Handoff: Is a forward handoff a forward pass? Of course not. However, one **Crew** ruled an illegal FWD Pass when the player, who received a handoff, then threw a legal forward pass.
9. FWD or BKWD Pass: If we do not know whether the incomplete pass is forward or backward (it is that tight) then do NOT sound your whistle. Let the play continue & then once the ball is dead the **Crew** can get together & ask if anyone ruled the pass backward. If not, then signal incomplete pass to the PB & move on to the next down. If we get in a hurry, we could end up with an IW.

10. 10 Second Runoff: There is NO 10 second runoff Rule in NFHS FB as happened in a game recently when a player was injured & that team had no team time-outs remaining!!
11. Game Over: Once the game is over hustle off the field ASAP as a **Crew** & put your face covering on. Do Not stop & talk with someone you might know. We are inviting trouble.
12. **Wings** & FWP: When the runner is slowed down & players from both teams are attempting to “push the pile” (legal) **Wings** need to be very deliberate marking FWP. Do not move into the field of play until the ball is dead. Saw a video where the **Wing** hustled in too soon then had to take several steps downfield. Those steps gave the offense a first down. When the **Wings** moves in he is signaling FWP has been stopped.
13. No Foul for a BSB: Watched a video where the block met all the criteria for an Illegal BSB – Except one – The blocker used open hands while blocking the opponent. This is Not a foul.
14. Double Foul After COP: Do you know the options? Can the team that ends up with the FB keep it? What must happen? Please discuss as a **Crew** (& do not send us the answers).
15. OHSAAFB.COM Website: We post rule & mechanics interpretations from officials who inquire – makes for interesting & informative reading. In addition Jerry, Greg & Eric do a great job with creating Quizzes weekly for our use. Check them out. In 2019 we had over 79,000 site visits.
16. Block in the Back: How do we know if it is a block in the back? Check to see how the player blocked falls to the ground. If he falls “on his face”, it is a block in the back. If he falls on his side & then rolls, it is not. Rather than throwing the flag instantly, be patient & see how the blocked player falls. It is important to “anticipate the play, not the call”. Especially on punt plays, repeat the color of the RT several times. Then watch for RT players who are “chasing” KT players – in “chase mode”. These players become “suspect”. But again, do NOT anticipate the foul. Let Your Mind Digest What Your Eyes Have Seen!! See GB, P. 40, Blocking/Holding # 4.
17. Mandatory player equipment worn improperly through play: A. Do Not, as seen on TV, stop the GC so the official can snap the player’s chin strap & then wind the GC. Instead, stop the GC & suspend the player for a down. Remember, player equipment does not carry any penalty yardage which has been assessed as a 5 YD penalty several times earlier this season.
18. GC Management: All 4, 5 or 6 officials must signal Stop the Clock when the GC must be stopped by Rule. In addition, watched a separate video where 2 officials were stopping the GC & 2 officials were winding the GC late in the game where time was important. Slow Down.
19. **Wings**, SL, & GC: “Let your mind digest what your eyes have seen”. Go Slow. Be Patient. We have had multiple reports of **Wings** stopping the GC when the runner is hit near the SL & driven back. If you are marking FWP ahead of where the runner went OOB, the GC needs to be wound unless it is a first down.
20. **U** & GLM: Remember the **U** does not stand on the GL. Move a yard or 2 into the EZ.
21. **R** & KO R&R: As the FB is kicked adjust your position on the GL to be a minimum of 5 YDS from the receivers. Saw a video -- the **R** did not adjust his position & was too close to the receiver.
22. Charged Team TO: It is legal for one coach to huddle with his team between the 9 YD Marks.

Good Luck with Week 6 Games. Please Remember – Concentrate, Communicate, & Be Patient!!! And Remember, every game is a big game for those participating.