

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 10; 10/28/20

Greetings!! This Bulletin has been developed based upon Items that happened in games this past week & Comments made by our Dedicated Observers.

1. Fouls: Calls should “jump out” with us. Make them Big. We are NOT saying “do not call fouls”. We are saying we want to get the big ones that jump out. Let your mind digest what your eyes have seen. We can be late & be right.
2. Social Media: You can’t misquote silence! People will take items from social media & twist it to their own advantage. Be smart & be safe!
3. Playoff Sites: Regional Finals will be at Home Sites & State Semifinals will be at neutral sites.
4. Rules Knowledge: One noted official told me years ago, “You are paid for your judgment; you are expected to know the Rules. Please continue to review the RB & CB.
5. Study the GB: Officials have had 11 years to learn and practice GB mechanics. Can you honestly say that if Beau or I ask you a question about the mechanics of your position that you know it? Almost every official needs to spend more time studying the GB mechanics & applying them to their game. Too often our Observers see too many mechanical issues that need to be either corrected or implemented. Work hard on it as one **Crew** has that I observed recently. I wrote 67 “G/”-- Good notations on the 5 for the first half. It was a lot of fun watching them work!!
6. 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.
7. IW & Punt: **BJ** sounded his whistle on a muffed punt by the RT while the ball was loose. The **Crew** acknowledged the IW. What then happens? The **Crew** awarded the ball to the RT at the spot of the IW. Was this Correct? See Rule 4-2-3a.
8. SLW: Do you know the **R’s** signal to the PB for the 2nd SLW against the same team? Is it a live ball foul or a dead ball foul?
9. **BJ** & PC --NEW: The **BJ** will signal 5 seconds remain on the PC with one hand high above his head regardless if the site has a visible PC or not. Beginning this week loudly count down 5-4-3-2-1. We will add this to the 2021 GB P. 20 # 28U. If you have been doing this, Great!
10. 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.
11. KO OOB: Where does the **U** spot the FB after enforcing the penalty? One **Crew** spotted the FB in the middle of the field per the HC request. Was this correct? Please discuss.
12. Illegal Participation: It is a 15 YD penalty, not a 5 YD penalty as one **Crew** enforced. Rule 9-6-4.
13. Ready for Play: One **R** marked the ball ready after a measurement while the **HL** was still placing the chains on the ground! The **R** needs to sweep the field with his vision to make sure all officials are at their IP before sounding his whistle every time.

14. Forward Handoff: One **Crew** told the HC earlier this year that it was illegal for a team to hand the ball forward legally & then throw a forward pass. The HC last week in the pregame conference asked the **Crew** about this play. Was this correct? NO! The **Crew** showed the HC in the Rule Book that it is legal. Well done by the **Crew**!
15. Ineligibles Downfield: We have some challenging calls regarding whether ineligibles are illegally downfield on a screen pass when the passer is delayed throwing the pass due to the defensive rush & pursuit. Do not throw your flag unless you are absolutely sure the pass crossed the neutral zone. Earlier a **Crew** called this foul & the tape showed clearly that the pass was caught behind the NZ. It is acceptable for the **Crew** to get together after the down has ended & “reconstruct the play”, then throw a late flag, if they determine a foul has occurred.
16. **Wings** Opening the Door: Anytime the runner is moving horizontally toward you & is beyond the hash mark begin opening the door by moving into the backfield a few steps. Adjust your number of steps based upon the runner’s movement. By opening the door this gives you a great look “up field” at the blocking ahead of the runner. We observe too many **Wings** that do not open the door or open it too late. Work on this mechanic this weekend.
17. Simultaneous Catch: The receiver & defender both come to the ground having equally possessed the FB. Is the ball dead by Rule? Whose ball? Please discuss this ruling.
18. 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.
19. **R** & Pregame: This must be a Discussion, NOT a lecture by the **R**. Involve everyone please.
20. Play Clock (PC): Due to the virus we will not apply GB P. 36 #15A this year only regarding all Regional & Semifinal Sites required to have a Play Clock.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. GL Mechanics: **Wings** are responsible to be at the GL prior to the ball arriving. You **MUST** start 2 YDS OOB & must move to GL quickly, especially once the ball is spotted at the + 5YL (R&R 2).
24. Whistles: In most cases there should only be 1 or 2 whistles on a play. **U** – We expect you to sound your whistle when the ball is dead at your feet or near you. One strong blast only. We sound the whistle multiple times ONLY for situations listed in the GB, P. 25.
25. 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 1st down).
26. Missed FGA: Both the U & BJ need to signal “no score” & then signal TB on a missed FG that crosses the GL. Why? The result of the play is a TB.

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!!