

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 11; 11/4/20

Greetings!! We hope you had great game and a wonderful experience during Week 10. I have received many Observations and there were hundreds of positive comments along with areas where we can all improve. Please cover during your pre games. This bulletin will cover items that have been observed during Week 10. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Bruce at bmaurer.38@gmail.com.

1. **Many, Many Thanks:** Wow! Our FB officials have been so incredibly Great with their flexibility & can do attitude to adjust their schedules so this very challenging FB Season can HAPPEN!
2. **Crew & Individual Goals:** One of the best crews I was on in the NFL was led by our **R**, Gary Lane. Before each game each official would state a Goal for that game that he was personally going to improve along with a Goal to help the **Crew**. We stated these Goals in front of our Crewmates & discussed them openly. Then at halftime & after the game we would review them in a positive & honest environment. **R** – Please discuss during the Pregame.
3. **Mechanics Consistency:** Just like we strive for Consistency with our Judgment & Rules Knowledge, we need to strive for Consistency with our Mechanics – such as GLM, RM, TFM, Pass M, & Punt M. Too often I observe a **Crew** doing really good mechanics on several plays & then, for example, seeing a **Wing** (s) not move to the LTG on a TFM or to the GL on GLM. Let's all strive for Consistency on each & every play.
4. **OBSERVERS:** We want to thank them for an outstanding job. We have had over 150 games observed. Many of them sat in the rain or the cold to observe a game with the Goal to improve officiating in Ohio. Please extend a heartfelt thanks to them for volunteering their time to help us all improve. And please give them your undivided attention by not getting dressed.
5. **UNS:** We have had several reports of coaches 6 – 7 YDS out on the field protesting calls made by the **Crew**. This is UNS. If the coach is only several steps on the field protesting a call then a sideline warning (SLW) is warranted. Obviously, any vulgar language can change a SLW to UNS.
6. **SLW:** Like all other penalties the SLW & directional signal are pointed to the offending team. Do Not point to the offending team's bench.
7. **Halftime & GC:** Make sure before the game to learn where the teams are going at halftime. Then, at halftime, be sure both Teams have arrived at their meeting spot before winding the GC.
8. **Game Control:** One of our Primary Goals when we accept the contract is controlling the game. Just because we are doing playoff games, it does not change anything regarding conduct of players & their opponents. Send players off the field as needed. Inform the HC "that he can reenter when you think he is ready to play FB. If the same player has another incident it is UNS.
9. **Punt M & HL:** Hold initially to see if there is any threat of a blocked punt. If not, then slowly move downfield 10 YDS for punts of 30 YDS or less (R&R 2). If punt is more than 30 YDS downfield then move 15 – 20 YDS downfield from LOS (R&R 3) watching contact with RT & KT.
10. **Pre Snap DB Fouls:** If the officials are not sure whether it was a FST or ENC then meet back by the **R** – not over the FB among the players. Who knows what a player might tell his HC!

11. PE: DPI called correctly. **U** marked off a 13 YD penalty rather than 15 YDS. Both **Wings** are responsible to walk off the yardage independently of each other so we have a triple check.
  12. GC & Foul Called: Observers have noted several instances of a Live Ball Foul called & the runner was tackled inbounds. The foul was enforced & guess what the **Crew** did not do – start the GC on the ready. All 6 officials are responsible to know the GC status whenever it is stopped.
  13. GC & Ready: **R** wound the GC correctly after a first down & the GC did not move. Four seconds later A snapped the ball. Officials, especially the **R** or **BJ** (whoever is facing the GC) need to check the GC to make sure it is moving. If not, correct it.
  14. BIB: The block in the back is a 10 YD penalty, Not a 15 YD penalty.
  15. SL Warnings: A second SL warning on the same team is a DB Foul & 5 YDS, Not a live ball foul.
  16. **BJ** R&R: Have several reports of **BJ's** “bailing out” at the snap on a short run or a short pass. In some cases the **BJ** was 25 – 30 YDS downfield from the runner on a short gain. Read the play.
  17. Try Run/Pass M: Excellent **Wings** officiating. One **Wing** had the runner break the GL plane & signaled. Other **Wing** came across the field & clearly saw a knee down before the runner crossed the GL. Well Done. Both officials communicated & kept an open mind!!
  18. Ineligible Illegally Downfield: The flag needs to be thrown or dropped at the spot of the foul – in other words, where the ineligible was when the legal FWP is released. Also, if an ineligible is blocking downfield on a legal FWP that crosses the NZ we have OPI. Signal both fouls.
  19. Whistles: Once the ball is live our whistles are in our hand, NOT in our Mouth, until ball is dead.
  20. GC at End of Period: Can a team snap the ball when the GC is stopped with 1 second or less & the **R** will wind on the ready. YES, if A is lined up & set for 1 second prior to the ready.
  21. **CJ** & KOM: Rather than start to slide downfield after the FB is kicked, wait until the KT Players have passed you. Then turn & move slowly to the – 40YL watching for any appropriate fouls.
  22. **CJ/LJ** & KOM: If there is a long KO Return the **LJ** will slow down & yield the SL to the **CJ** since he is 40 YDS ahead at the – 40 YL. Of course the **BJ** has the GL.
  23. Fouls with No Spot: Throw your flag high into the air. Why? So everyone can see it
  24. Catch Signal: We never give a “catch” signal into the field of play; only on a boundary line by the **Wing** or **BJ**. Why? What if another official is signaling incomplete pass.
  25. Mirroring Wind GC: The **R** needs to mirror the wind the GC by the **Wing**. Why? Especially on the PB SL it is sometimes difficult for the GCO to see the wind signal by the **LJ**.
  26. Before Game Starts: Yes, **Crews** can go back into the LR after the CT & before the game starts. However, if teams have a “common entrance point” from their LR then we must leave the LR & have officials there to prevent anything from happening as they move from their LR to the field.
  27. Half Time & After the Game: All officials are to leave the field together. Do not leave an official by himself when he goes to grab the Books. This is good Preventive Officiating.
  28. 6 Officials & FK/FC: On a FK after a FC the **CJ** will now be on the KT's Line on the PB SL & the **HL** will be on the RT Line opposite the PB SL.
- BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS WEEKEND!!! It is a Great time of the year in OHIO. We are all truly blessed. And ENFORCE the Restricted Area.

**“Keeping our eyes on continuous improvement is surely the most likely way to motivate people to work on getting better.”**