

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 13; 11/18/20

Greetings!! We hope you had great game & a wonderful experience during Week 12. Please review this bulletin during your pre game. Questions email bmaurer.38@gmail.com. Congratulations on your assignment for a State Championship. We hope your dreams come true. Remember, it is only a game.

1. When I went to my first NFL Clinic my roommate & mentor was Dick Creed from NE Ohio. We met, shook hands, & exchanged pleasantries. Then he mentioned the 2 MOST IMPORTANT WORDS to me --- SLOW DOWN. During the 4 day clinic every time I saw him he whispered in my ear, SLOW DOWN. It reached a point that when I saw him first I repeated his mantra. For each round of the playoffs the teams are bigger, stronger, & especially faster. "Let your mind digest what your eyes have seen"! The beauty of FB officiating is we can be late & be right.
2. **DCO's: A HUGE THANK YOU** to the District Coordinators of Observers for their tremendous work & dedication. Ron Fuller, Mike Harbison, Tom McNerlin, Ken Myers, & Terry Williams have given their time, effort, & expertise the past 6 weeks under some Very Challenging Times.
3. Replay Review: The **R** will come to the SL and take the headset or radio from the Alternate official. The **BJ** will come over & be the "scribe" for the **R** & record info.
4. **LJ** & TV: He will coordinate TV time-outs with TV Coordinator. Use a strong stop sign signal to the **R & Crew** until he leaves the field. Same on injuries for **Wings** – strong stop sign signal.
5. TV Schedule: Review the Championship Games Schedule. OHSAA & TV have requested that the **Crew** have both teams leave their LR with 6 Minutes left on the GC prior to the game.
6. SLOW DOWN: **R** – If you see your crewmates in a hurry, use the signal for "balanced line" & move it up & down slightly & softly to communicate to them. We tend to get in trouble when we are in a hurry! "Hustle But Do Not Hurry".
7. Restricted Area: OHSAA expects this Rule to be enforced & penalized. In the past I have heard statements like "well this is the State Championships, I did not think they wanted that called or for us to embarrass the HC or HS". That statement & belief is WRONG. An **R** emailed me this week. He wrote "Our **LJ** had a SLW at 10:02 of the 1Q & a second SLW at 2:14 of the 2Q. From that point on the Crew had no issues with either bench." _ When we ignore this behavior or are constantly telling coaches/players to get back we are doing a disservice to the players.
8. Personal Fouls: MUST be penalized – helmet to helmet, late hits, defenseless players. We have emphasized all year to swivel our heads after DB. There is no need to "stare at the DB spot".
9. Getting It Right: Do you have the COURAGE to "step up to the plate" & make a "**Crew Save**" when it is warranted. This would include penalty enforcement, a foul called incorrectly, the GC, down #, or # of time-outs. We might not like "how it appears", but the ONLY thing that really matters is, "Getting it Right". A block in the back was called that was a side block -- at least 2 & possibly 3 other officials were looking there. Who can help this official get is right?
10. Alternate Official (AO): He will contact the **R** & be at the pregame. It is important to discuss & decide on the **Crew** rotation if a crewmate cannot continue. The position taken by the AO will

- vary from **Crew** to **Crew** based upon their experience. He will be on the **LJ's** SL. If he says something, listen to him. Each of the previous 6 years the AO has made a "**Crew Save**"!!
11. QB & Back Peddle: When the QB back peddles the **R** & **CJ** MUST back pedal also. Why? So you can maintain your wide field of vision. I saw an **R** almost get hit this past weekend.
 12. **R**: Fumble & no immediate COP signal by **Crew**: Count 2 seconds & then **R** stops the GC.
 13. Game Clock (GC): We all know the importance of timing & the GC being correct. I am asking that when you meet with the Alternate Official this weekend that you ask him to watch the GC & PC every time it is started & stopped. If he sees any irregularities, he will bring it to the attention of the **LJ** immediately before or after the play.
 14. KO OOB: Opening KO went OOB untouched. Time went off GC & no one caught it. Why Not?
 15. **R** Microphone: Spend some time this week reviewing the signals & GB, P. 16, Section 23 D. Remember to say "offense" or "defense" before the player's number.
 16. **R** Signaling: Please study the GB before your game. Here are some items that we need to improve: A. We need only one set of signals to the PB for DOG, FST, Substitution (DB), & ENC. B. For all other fouls we need a Prelim Signal to the PB & a Final Signal. We had a DPI. The **R** ran all the way down the field to talk with the **BJ** – No –the **BJ** signals the DPI & the **R** then gives the initial signal to the PB. C. If multiple fouls are called, signal the one that was declined & then the one that was accepted. D. Move to the nearest open space & give the penalty signal. There is no need to move to mid field. In most cases taking 1 or 2 steps is all that is needed.
 17. **Crew** Signaling: Spend some time in the mirror & go thru plays in your mind & react by doing the signals. Slow down!! When we give the wind GC signal inside the field #'s we do it 2X slowly. If the **R** has "challenges" with the QB & a tackler, he watches this action. By the time he looks downfield, if the signal is given too quickly, he will not know the result of the play.
 18. **Wings** & Hat Off: Throw your hat ONLY when an A/K Player goes OOB unblocked prior to a COP or there is no COP. Otherwise we confuse our **Crew**. (GB P. 15 # 19A)
 19. **Wings** & PE: It is imperative that both **Wings** mark off the yardage. We missed one earlier.
 20. GC Late in 2nd & 4th Quarters: **R** must have the GC as a higher priority during this critical time. Consume & Conserve happens rarely & can "bite us" when we least expect it. Please review this Rule & remember, "If in doubt, apply conserving/consuming time". Also Rule 3.4.7.
 21. Team Time-outs: **R** has Primary Responsibility for correct # of time-outs on the scoreboard. Do NOT mark the ball ready until the board is correct. A Contending Crew signals or "flashes" the # of time-outs remaining to each other ASAP. Enforce where teams are allowed during the TO.
 22. GLM: Please refer to the GB. It states "You MUST be at the GL prior to the ball arriving there". Begin moving toward the GL immediately at the snap.
 23. **BJ** & Kicker: Stay with the Kicker to start both halves until the GC reads 12:00.
 24. **LJ** & KO: Move out on the field at beginning of each half until GC reads 12:00 & look at the **R**. Make sure the TV Coordinator has left the field as well indicating TV is ready to go.
 25. Electronic Whistles: I found out from experience!! Change the batteries before the Finals. It is much louder. Move the EW away from your body when pushing the button. It carries further.
 26. **SLOW DOWN!! SLOW DOWN!! SLOW DOWN!!**