

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 12; 11/3/21

Greetings!! We hope you had great game and a wonderful experience during Week 11. I have received nearly 100 Observations and there were many 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 11. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Bruce at bmaurer.38@gmail.com.

1. Week 12 (November 5 & 6) : Plan to arrive at the site 2 hours before the game since many **Crew** members will not have worked together before. Yes, due to COVID you can have your pre game off site & arrive at the stadium closer to game time. Be sure & communicate your arrival time with the AD. Make plans to arrive on the field 40 minutes before game time & meet with the first HC 35 minutes before game time.
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/she 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. **OBSERVERS**: We want to thank them for an outstanding job. We had approximately 100 games observed. Many of them sat in the rain to observe a game with the Goal to improve officiating in Ohio and make the experience for the high school athlete as wonderful as possible. 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. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
4. Substitution/Formation: Don't get "lulled to sleep" when counting players. COUNT EVERY PLAY. **H** and **LJ** even though you have 7 on the line, you could have 5 in the backfield. That is a double-check on counting offense.
5. PEQ: Be proactive when checking player equipment well before the snap. We would prefer it be done this way rather than having to stop the PC when there are 10 or fewer seconds.
6. Restricted Area (RA) – We have reports of coaches/players in the RA during a live ball. We EXPECT you to lead by example. **Observers**: Make a Special Note if the RA is NOT enforced and email me regarding the name of the official & the **Crew**. Coaches are allowed 2 steps on the field between downs. Enforce It.
7. UNS: We have had 3 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. If we ignore these behaviors and do nothing, we are sending a strong message to everyone in attendance, especially the opposing team, that this behavior is okay. Obviously, any vulgar language can change a SLW to UNS.

8. KO Rule 6-5-6: If the Kicker kicks a “pooch” kick (it does not hit the ground) & the KT catches it we have KCI. Do you know the different enforcement spots?
9. TFM (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Down & 5 or Less Yards): When this occurs the most important line is the LTG. It is imperative that the **Wings** move to the LTG immediately at the snap. The **Wing** did not & they incorrectly awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> down when the tape showed the runner was short of the LTG on 4<sup>th</sup>.
10. Game Control: One of our Primary Goals when we accept the contract is controlling the game. Just because we are doing a PO game, it does not change anything regarding conduct of players & their opponents. Send players off the field as needed. Tell HC “that he/she can reenter when you think he/she is ready to play FB. If the same player has another incident, it is UNS.
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 5 or 6 officials are responsible to know the GC status whenever it is stopped by Rule – do we start it on the ready or on the snap. Discuss during your pre-game!
13. GC & Ready: **R** wound the GC correctly after a first down & the GC did not move. Six seconds later A snapped the ball. Officials, especially the **R/CJ** or **BJ** (whoever is facing the GC) need to check the GC to make sure it is moving. If not, correct it.
14. KO & Illegal Block by K: Check Rule 9-3-7. It is a 10 YD penalty Not 15 YDS as a **Crew** enforced.
15. BIB: The block in the back is a 10 YD penalty, Not a 15 YD penalty.
16. SL Warnings: A second SL warning on the same team is a DB Foul & 5 YDS, Not a live ball foul.
17. **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.
18. Whistles: Once the ball is live our whistles are in our hand, Not in our Mouth, until ball is dead.
19. 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 and set for 1 second prior to the ready.
20. **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.
21. **HL** & Down Box: The **HL** Must check the down box after each down. Look at it each time. And be sure to instruct the DB Operator to change it only after he/she reaches the succeeding spot.
22. 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.
23. GLM: We still have officials who do not know their IP on GLM. Discuss this in your Pre-Game. **Wings** need to be 2 YDS outside the SL prior to the snap & move toward the GL at the snap. You Must be at the GL prior to the Runner crossing the GL.
24. 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.
25. Half Time & After the Game: All officials are to leave the field together. Do not leave an official by himself/herself when he/she goes to grab the Books. This is good Preventive Officiating.
26. Hooded Sweatshirts: Yes, they are legal & yes, they can be worn outside the jersey.
27. BB: There is no need to bean bag a muffed snap or a muff by the RT on a KO.

28. KOM: **BJ** needs to hustle to the hash mark at the 50 YL after the ball is kicked.
29. Coin Toss: R's catch the coin! Plus turn the teams & signal Kick/Receive & GL Defended.

BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS WEEKEND!!! It is a Great time of the year in OHIO. We are all truly blessed to be part of the State Playoffs. 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.”**