

TO: OHSAA FB Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 13; 11/9/22

Greetings!! We hope you had great game and a wonderful experience during Week 12. I have received over 120 Observations & there were many positive comments along with areas for improvement. Please review this bulletin during your pre game. This bulletin will cover items observed during Week 12. Questions: Feel free to email me at bmaurer.38@gmail.com.

1. We are entering the Regional SF stage of the FB Tournament. All officials working this week are in the top 15% of our FB officials around the state. Congratulations! You are working in crews that were put together from our office. Please use the additional time in your pregame to make sure you are all on the same page with who you are working and what are the correct Gold Book Mechanics to help you see what you need to see. Please spend some time prior to game day looking at video and concentrating on which players are important to watch & how the correct mechanics can get you in the right position to watch them. Do what got you here & enjoy!
2. Week 13 (November 11 & 12) : Plan to arrive at the site 2 hours before the game since many **Crew** members will not have worked together before.
3. Home Team: The higher seeded team is the Home Team.
4. OH: We had too many 1st & 26, 1st & 28, & 1st & 25 on OH Fouls Called on Linemen when the initial grab was at or near the LOS on 1st down. We want EVERY Crew to discuss this during your pregame this week. Please review GB, P. 41, Holding, # 7. Unless the defender breaks the initial engagement & then the offensive grabs again, these fouls are penalized at or very near the LOS. Obviously, if a player in the backfield holds that foul is penalized behind the LOS.
5. Spots/Lines: Ask yourself each down – Am I covering the appropriate line – GL, EL, LTG, and/or SL? Do I know the down & distance on each down? Crucial Spot for FWP – Do I look to the **Back Side Wing** for help when needed?
6. PE: We had some misses regarding penalty enforcement. Ask yourself, do I know the spot of enforcement, yardage, & spot of the foul? **HL/LJ** need to walk off the yardage each time. Fortunately, last week we had several **Wings** make **Crew** saves regarding PE.
7. Play Coverage: Are we ball watching our “keys”? Are we watching “the action” at the POA? The **R, CJ, Backside Wing, & BJ** have a wide view & need to “read the play” & pick up blocks. Do we make sure that any fouls called – “was there an advantage gained”? Make them BIG!!
8. **R & CJ** on Pass Plays: When the QB drops back multiple steps the **R & CJ** need to “drop back” to maintain depth & use their peripheral vision to officiate effectively. Watched one game where the QB dropped back 4 – 6 steps then rolled toward the **R**. The **R** & QB were only a few steps apart. **R & CJ** need to communicate & help each other – reminding one another to step back.
9. Coach/Referee Conference: HC asked to talk with the **R** about a rule application. The **R & Wing** did an excellent job of listening & discussing the Rule. The HC was good with the explanation. However, the **Crew** could not charge that team with a TO since the officials did not change the ruling. If the team is out of team time-outs, then a delay of game foul is called.

10. IW: We had cases of either the **HL** and/or **R** sounding their whistle when the **LJ** had punched back & yelled “back” for a BKWD Pass. If the whistle is sounded, it is an IW. **Crew** needs to listen to the **Back Side Wing**. If it is backward, the correct call is IW if the whistle is blown. The important thing to do on a pass that is “Close” is to SLOW DOWN & SLOW DOWN. Let the play happen. We can always “go back”, “reconstruct the play”, and rule the pass as incomplete.
11. Count Defense: It is imperative that the **BJ** counts the defense/receiving team on Every Play.
12. DOG Foul: Unless the **Crew** applies Rule 3-4-6, with all Delay of Game Fouls, the GC is started on the Snap. Everyone on the **Crew** needs to know this & so signal the **R**.
13. **Crew** Goals: This is special & the third time we have heard about it. One very good **Crew** discussed their **Crew** Goals during the week then the **R** gave the **Observer** their goals & asked them to comment on them at half time & after the game. (It is well documented the Power of writing down our Goals & communicating them to people.) Well Done for Innovative Thinking!!
14. Our Personal & Crew Growth: A Comment from one of our Many Excellent Observers – “All 1st half recommendations were corrected in the 2nd half. **Crew** was appreciative for the feedback & was very respectful”. Definitely a Contending **Crew**!
15. **CJ** DB Mechanics: He did an excellent job on : A. Signaling GC status to **R** when GC was stopped; B. Gave several “Tip” signals on passes touched at LOS; C. Gave “inside 2 minutes” by tapping his wrist; D. Gave “double stakes”. Each time he gave them every time. Do you?
16. Suspended Player (s): We had some cases of players being suspended for their actions. Many **Crews** were doing a very good job of Game Control. One reminder – a **Wing** Must escort the player (s) to the SL & inform the HC of who & why he is being suspended. AND, the **Crew** must record the player’s number on their Game Cards.
17. **R** & Next Down: We know the importance of knowing the next down. Over the years we have had some misses. In order to have the correct down after each play we want the **R** to check with the **LJ** initially, then the **U/BJ**, then the **HL**, & finally the Down Box. This is one reason why it is imperative that each member of the **Crew** hold up the next down once the ball is dead.
18. **R** & GC Status: It is the **R**’s responsibility to know the GC status after each down. This is especially important when the ball becomes dead near the SL on a 1st down. We expect the **R** to communicate with the covering **Wing** by signaling either “wind the GC” with his finger or using “crossed arms” to signal GC will start on the snap. Then the **R** needs to repeat this signal to the **Back Side Wing** so he/she knows & can communicate this important info to his/her HC.
19. **R** & Time-Out’s by HC’s: We all know how critical team time-outs can be near the end of an half. It is imperative that the **R** or **CJ** look to the SL of the team who will probably call a time-out.
20. Whistle Mechanics: We need one loud strong whistle sounded on every play. Coaches & players expect it for HS games. We do NOT need “toot, toot, toot” on most plays. Multiple blasts of the whistle are sounded to get the attention of the **Crew**. Please review.
21. **U** Mechanics: A. Hustle to the DB spot rather than walk; B. Signal next down once the ball is dead; C. Stop GC (2X) by Rule; D. Once the ball is dead, retrieve it, hustle, & spot it, then move to your IP ASAP; E. Only move to LOS when the passer threatens it.

BEST OF LUCK WITH YOUR GAMES THIS WEEKEND!!!!!!!!!!!!!! ENJOY THE MOMENT!

“We Might Not Be Perfect, but We MUST Be Excellent.” Unknown