

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 1; 8/16/23

Thank you Very Much for your incredible dedication to the youth of Ohio. Indicated below are some items that have arisen during State Rules Interpretation (SRI) Meetings & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Local Association MTGS & Pre Game Crew MTGS: We are getting too many reports of officials spending too much time on things that rarely happen. INSTEAD, we need to be “Spending Most of Our Time on Things That Happen Most Often in Our Games”!!
2. Rule 1 – Player Equipment: Check the players before the game for any illegal equipment & required equipment. Let’s get it straight Week 1 so all teams are on the “same page”. Remember, there is no foul or penalty yardage for illegal equipment.
3. OHSAA SRI Meetings: Officials can attend face-to-face meetings and receive credit for 2 meetings. Over 850 officials took advantage of these highly informative mini clinics in Athens, Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Hamilton, New Philadelphia, Orrville, Toledo, & Wapakoneta. A BIG thank you to the Associations who “stepped up to the plate” & helped us. Approximately half the time was devoted to video review & discussion.
4. OHSAA POE for 2023: A. Rules Knowledge; B. Personal Fouls & DQ’s; C. Sportsmanship by Coach’s & Players. Please discuss this week.
5. Virtual Meetings: Terry Williams, Rick Barnes, & I produced a meeting last week – it runs approximately 40minutes. Yes, you will receive 1 “education credit” of your 4 needed. It is 90% video clips with narration. Thanks Terry & Rick!
6. Defenseless Receivers (New Rule): Think of the word POW – A. Play the Ball; B. Open Hands; C. Wrap/tackle. All of these are legal contact on the receiver once he/she has touched the FB.
7. Gold Book, P. 41 – 43: Do you consider yourself & your **Crew** as contenders or pretenders? Through self-study & **Crew** discussion, we must all have a thorough knowledge of the Rules Philosophies. Learn these 3 pages just like you learn & understand the RB, CB, & GB. Pick a Section & discuss it weekly at your pre game.

8. **Crew Communication:** It is imperative that the entire **Crew** be aware of the GC, especially late in the 2Q & 4Q. The GC was running & Encroachment was called. The Timer did not stop the GC even though all 6 officials signaled time-out. The score was tied 17 – 17. Eight seconds ran off the GC before the Timer stopped the GC.
9. **Game Control:** We are paid to Control the game. It is one of our highest priorities when we officiate the game. The Gold Book - Mechanics, Section 17, Game Management, gives us the authority to suspend players if their behavior warrants it. Please use it.
10. **BJ IP:** On run/pass plays between the + 15 YL & +10 YL– do you know your IP? Please review P.18, # 26 B-4. Remember the **BJ** has responsibility for the GL in this situation.

11. ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!

12. Comments to Players: Be careful what you say to players, especially regarding their skills as a player that does not involve a possible Rule infraction. A popular saying in officiating is “You Can’t Misquote Silence”. An official made a comment to the long snapper about his ability to snap the ball to another player.
13. Ejection Reports: Please be specific regarding the actions, language, & behavior. The Official who DQ’s the person MUST file the report online with OHSAA within 24 hours and contact the school AD.
14. Reminder: UNS Fouls are Non-Contact Fouls while Personal Fouls are Contact Fouls.
15. Concussion: When a player has signs or symptoms of a concussion he/she is suspended from the game & may not reenter, even if a doctor says he/she is “okay”. When any player is injured, bring available medical personnel on the field. Let them do their job first, then check with them regarding the player. Obviously when there are no doctors or trainers on site then we must make the decision.
16. Team Box Extended: AD’s must contact Beau Rugg & gain his approval to extend both Team Boxes from the 25 YL’s to the 10 YL’s. If he approves, he will forward a letter which must be presented at the Pre Game Conference for his Home games only. Coaches are NOT allowed in the “Extension”. Teams must still huddle during time-outs between the 25 YL’s. (Rule 2-6).
17. OHSAA Logo: The “old” OHSAA logo that we wear on our shirt & hat will remain as the official OHSAA Officiating Logo. We will Not have to purchase new gear.
18. Knee Pads: The knee pad does not have to be part of the pant. However, the pants must cover the knee pad & the pads must cover the knee.

19. Officials Dress: All officials must wear the same uniform for Varsity Games Only.
20. NFHS Rules Book: Delete PP. 87 - 90 regarding OT. OHSAA starts the OT from the + 20 YL. (Remember in Ohio we play OT in Varsity Games ONLY). OT is in the Gold Book.
21. Sunglasses: Yes, you can wear sunglasses during any game.
22. Case Book Play Correction: CB 9.2.1.J – “Enforce at Previous Spot” is correct answer.
23. Case Book Play Correction: CB 10.5.4B (b) – Enforce at Previous Spot is correct answer.
24. Rule Book Correction: 10-5-2 – Delete this Rule; Enforce at Previous Spot instead of GL.

Best of luck. We appreciate all you do for the Ohio youth who love playing this Great Game.