

TO: OHSAA FB Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 12; 11/1/23

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](mailto:bmaurer.38@gmail.com).

### **Questions and Plays of the Week**

1. This should be an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Foul. Not enforceable at the end of the game, but what if it was the player's 2<sup>nd</sup>?

[UNS.mp4](#)

2. Beware of this illegal kick. It is a dead ball foul!

[Illegal.kick.MOV](#)

3. We had an instance last week where a coach had a radio turned to the same frequency as the officials' 020 radios. He spoke to the officials on the radio at one point. When they found out they instructed the coach to turn his radio off and any further interference would be unsportsmanlike. The officials handled this well. The school administration also addressed the coach on this and reported it to me. You never know who may be listening on your 020 radios!

4. **There is a new ruling from the NFHS on illegal gloves. Please read this link:**

[IllegalGloveOct2023.pdf \(windows.net\)](#)

### **Important Items**

1. **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.
2. **OBSERVERS:** We want to thank them for an outstanding job. 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.
3. Restricted Area (RA) – We have reports of coaches/players in the RA during a live ball.  
**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 2-3 steps on the field between downs. Enforce It.

4. UNS: We have had 2 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.
5. GC/TO/Late in Half: **Crew** needs to be aware that a HC might call a TO base upon time, ball location, & score in either half. Officials not in the area of the Dead Ball can take a look as whistles are sounded. **R** needs to look at the appropriate bench when ball is in the red zone.
6. 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>.
7. 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.
8. Player Equipment: Players & Teams are NOT penalized yardage for Failure to Wear Mandatory Equipment or Wearing Illegal Equipment as one **Crew** did. Simply suspend the player.
9. OKOM: KT kicks the FB down the field near the SL & pylon. **U or LJ** need to hustle downfield.
10. 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.
11. 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!
12. 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.
13. KO & Illegal Block by K: Check Rule 9-3-7. It is a 10 YD penalty Not 15 YDS as a **Crew** enforced.
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. Whistles: Once the ball is live our whistles are in our hand, Not in our Mouth, until ball is dead.
17. 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.
18. **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.

19. **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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. **R** & MICM: If **Crew** calls multiple fouls, then, if needed, a **Crew** Member can be located near the **R** to help him/her with communicating the players’ numbers.

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.”**