

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 5; 9/13/23

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 4 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

Questions and Plays of the Week:

This is a new section that we have added to the bulletin. Here are the questions that we received this week and plays.

1. 9-4-3g under Illegal Personal Contact states: Make any other contact with an opponent, including a defenseless player (as in 2-32-16), which is deemed unnecessary or excessive and which incites roughness. The following play is Not unnecessary or excessive and thus legal: [WideWide - Clip 064__Per 2023 Rule Changes - Is this a LEGAL or ILLEGAL hit on the Defenseless Receiver.mp4](#)
2. LEGAL blindside blocks must be made with open hands. If not, they are ILLEGAL. Check this play: [BSB.MOV](#)
3. Face guarding is no longer a foul. However, why is this still DPI? [DPI.no face.mp4](#)
4. Guardian Caps are legal by NFHS Rules and may be worn in games.

General Items:

1. Beau travels on F to watch multiple HS games (Last year he saw approximately 140 different officials). These are some of his observations: A. Cross Field Mechanics – Any time a receiver is hit & driven back the **Back Side Wing** needs to move into the field to the hash marks to mark Forward Progress. B. Important Players: On each play identify the most important players based upon their movement.
2. Kick Ends on a Punt: K 56 punts to the RT 20 YL and the punt is bouncing on the field. Several RT players muff it (no new force & no illegal bat) & the punt crosses the RT's GL. An official signaled TD when K 21 recovered the punt in the RT's EZ. Is this correct? Is this a TD or TB? Did the kick end? This is a TB. Can other **Crew** members help? YES!!
3. **Crew** Communication: When communicating with the appropriate **Wing** do NOT give color. Instead, use offense, defense, KT or RT. Be specific on "what happened" so the **Wing** can communicate effectively with the HC. Rather than say "offense # 76 held", indicate "offense, # 76 restricted the opponent with his right hand on the shoulder & turned him at the POA".
4. **BJ's** & Punts – Move while the punt is airborne to maintain your cushion. If the punt is short, be very careful about moving up more than several steps. Remember, we have

the **Wing's** that can help with shorter punts. Plus this gives you a wider view. We have been missing some BSB's & BIB's because the **BJ's** are too close to the receiver (s).

5. Continuous Self Improvement: Ask yourself during the pre-game, "What will I work on this first half to be a better official by half time". State this goal to your **Crew**.
6. Signaling TD's: Signal TD when the runner crosses the GL, not when you arrive at the GL. Of course, contenders will beat the runner to the GL, unless it is a long run or pass.
7. DB Officiating: Do not be too quick to look for a new FB. Watched several games on TV where **Wings** were doing this, as well as the **BJ** after the Try – Kick. SLOW DOWN.
8. **Wings** & Backward Pass: A pass was thrown toward the **HL**. The **LJ** correctly punched back. **HL** signaled incomplete pass incorrectly. This is an inadvertent whistle (IW). **LJ** needs to assertively tell the **Crew** that he/she saw pass was backward & is an IW. **Wings** – do not be in a hurry to signal incomplete if there is any doubt whether it is forward or backward. Go SLOW!!
9. Victory Formation (GB, P. 26). We have had **Crews** interpret this incorrectly at the end of the 4Q. With little time left, A HC, who is ahead by 10 points, says we will take a knee. B still has TO's & will use them. The response to the A HC & to the players is "Defend Yourself". This is a normal scrimmage play. The **R** must communicate this to the 22 players on the field. Unfortunately, a **Crew** did not & a player had to be DQ.
10. Play: Late in 2Q & A is driving for a TD. A completes a pass then runs up to the LOS & snaps the ball before the **U** is "in position". **R** throws flag correctly for DOG. What is the GC status? This is Conserve Time & GC is wound on the ready.
11. Team TO's: The **Crew** will communicate the number remaining with each other. It is Very Important that the number of TO's on the scoreboard is correct. The **R** will NOT mark the ball ready until the scoreboard is correct. Also, the **R** signals to the PB the "Steamboat whistle" when a team is out, even if there is a microphone.
12. Injury Time-outs: Teams must huddle between the top of the field numbers & the SL, & in front of their Team Box (25 YL to 25 YL) (Rules: 2-6-2a, 3-5-8c & 3-5-8a (3)).
13. Safety of the **U** & GLM (5/6 Officials): If the LOS is at the + 7YL the GB indicates that the **U** does Not stand on the GL so **Wings** can see better. We suggest the **U's** IP is 1 YD deep in the EZ.
14. Halftime & Captain's Options (Varsity Games): The **Crew** must bring at least one captain for each team to the 50 YL at the center of the field to obtain their 2nd half options. Then the **R** will signal their option to the PB with the captain's positioned accordingly.

15. Wilson Tac Bar: This product from Wilson can be legally applied to FB's before the game, but NOT during the game. Once the game starts only a towel can be applied to dry the FB's.

It is hard to believe the regular season is nearly half over. Enjoy your **Crew** & the experience this weekend. Before long we will all be lamenting just how fast this Great FB Season went!! Good Luck this weekend!! And again thank you very much for all your help!!