

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

FROM: Bruce Maurer, DOD & Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating & FB Administrator

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 1; 8/21/24

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. Beau Rugg (3 Types of Letters for 7th – 12th Grade Only): A. A Visor Accommodation Letter states that the visor is approved for the HS career of the student & the date is irrelevant ; B. Extending the Team Box to the 10 YL's; & C. Artificial Limb.
4. Officials Dress: Long sleeve collarless shirts are legal this year; and the **Crew** Members do not have to wear the same LS Shirt. Shoes MUST have Black Shoestrings; NOT white,
5. OHSAA SRI Meetings: Officials attended face-to-face meetings and received credit for 2 meetings. Over 825 officials took advantage of these highly informative mini clinics in Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Jackson, 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.
6. Officials State Clinic: Another BIG thank you to the COFOA, and especially Rick Barnes, for their tremendous help. We had a record attendance of 235 Contenders attend.
7. OHSAA POE: A. Legality of Low Blocks on the second level; B. Personal Fouls & DQ's; C. Penalty Enforcement. – Fouls on Kick Plays & Carry Overs on Scores. Discuss this week.
8. Virtual Meetings: Terry Williams & I produced a meeting last week – it runs approximately 45 minutes. Yes, you will receive 1 "education credit" of your 4 needed. It is 90% video clips with narration. Thanks Terry! It is also posted on the WWW.OHSAAFB.COM website, BUT you will not get OHSAA Credit for viewing it here.
9. Defenseless Receivers: Think of the word POW – A. Play the Ball; B. Open Hands; C. Wrap/tackle. These are legal contact on the receiver once he/she touches the FB.
10. 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.

11. **Crew Communication:** It is imperative that the entire **Crew** be aware of the GC, especially late in the 2Q & 4Q. The GC was running & False Start was called. The Timer did not stop the GC even though all 6 officials signaled time-out. The score was tied 14 – 14. Seven seconds ran off the GC before the Timer stopped the GC.
12. **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.
13. **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.
14. **ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!**
15. 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.
16. Ejection Reports: Please be specific regarding the actions, language, & behavior. The Official who DQ’s the person MUST file the report online on D F within 24 hours and contact the school AD.
17. Reminder: UNS Fouls are Non-Contact Fouls while Personal Fouls are Contact Fouls.
18. 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. The **R** must complete a Concussion Report only if the **Crew** suspends a player for signs or symptoms of a Concussion (NEW).
19. New Point Differential Rule: Discuss COP Rule during your pregame & with GC timer.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. Sunglasses: Yes, you can wear sunglasses during any game.
23. Case Book Play Addition: 3-4-7A-c – Add Rule Reference 3-4-6 to play c only.
24. Official’s Pass: Your Official’s Pass on DragonFly is available to you and provides a quick and easy way to pull up your DragonFly number and provide proof of active status. This pass does **NOT** grant admission into OHSAA sporting events, nor does it provide any other benefits outside of what was already mentioned.

25. Coaches Cards: Use your D F Number on the Cards. They have been revised to indicate D F # & are now posted on the WWW.OHSAA.FB.COM website.

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