

TO: OHSAA State FB Tournament Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 16; 12/2/25

Greetings!! We hope you had great game & a wonderful experience during Week 15. Please review this bulletin during your pre game. It covers items observed for Week 15. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at bmaurer.38@gmail.com. Congratulations on your assignment for a State Championship Game this weekend. We hope all your dreams come true. Remember, it is only a game.

1. When I went to my first NFL Clinic my roommate & mentor was Dick Creed from NE Ohio. We met, shook hands, & exchanged pleasantries. Then he mentioned 2 VERY IMPORTANT WORDS to me --- SLOW DOWN. During the 4 day clinic every time I saw him he whispered in my ear, SLOW DOWN. It reached a point that when I saw him first I repeated his mantra. For each round of the playoffs the teams are bigger, stronger, & especially faster. "Let your mind digest what your eyes have seen"! The beauty of FB officiating is we can be late & be right.
2. Getting It Right: Do you have the COURAGE to "step up to the plate" & make a "**Crew** Save" when it is warranted. This would include penalty enforcement, a foul called incorrectly, the GC, down #, or # of time-outs. We might not like "how it appears", but the ONLY thing that really matters is, "Getting it Right". A block in the back was called that was a side block -- at least 2 & possibly 3 other officials were looking there. Who can help this official get it corrected?
3. **Crew**: Remember to make the calls BIG!! CONCENTRATE on every play. Work HARD to be in the proper position to make that call. Think about Advantage versus Disadvantage. Review the GB, Pages 44 – 46.
4. Restricted Area: Even though these are the State Championship Games nothing has changed. OHSAA expects this Rule to be enforced & penalized as needed. In the past I have heard statements like "well this is the State Championships, I did not think they wanted that called or for us to embarrass the coach or high school". That statement & belief is WRONG! We had several games last week where we had multiple coaches on the field yelling at the **Crew** & there were no penalties enforced. This has got to stop NOW!!
5. BKWD Pass: Pass thrown toward the **HL**. **LJ** ruled BKWD & correctly punched it back. The **HL** signaled incomplete pass. Trust your Crewmates. If there is any doubt, let the play continue. **Crew** can always discuss it once the ball is dead & make a ruling, plus Replay can assist.
6. Down Box: The **HL** Must check the Down Box after the ball is dead on every play. Last week we had a game with issues of "what down is it".
7. **Wings**: When there are players OOB after the play the **Wings** must watch them return to the field & separate. Getting the FB is secondary to being a "Great Dead Ball Official".
8. **BJ**: When the pass/run ends near the SL we expect the **BJ** to move into the side zone.
9. Player Equipment: Take care of it before the game or on the first series for each team. T-shirts are to be tucked in. Pants are to cover the knees. All 6 officials share this responsibility.
10. Kicks: Bean bags are Not thrown if the RT touches the FB on either a punt or KO.

11. PI: If one official throws a flag for pass interference & another official signals incomplete pass they must get together & discuss the action for the PI. We had 2 excellent “wave offs” last week
12. Missed FGA: If the missed FG is kicked into or out of the EZ for a TB, the **U & BJ** will signal “no score” followed by TB. Why? The result of the play is a TB.
13. RM & R&R2: When the ball is spotted between the – 5 YL & - 10 YL, then the **Wings** will take one step back toward the GL then read the play. Is the GL threatened? If so, then move to it.
14. Catch Signals: We do not give catch signals into the field of play – only by the **Wings** on their SL & the **BJ** on the EL. Why? What if another official signals incomplete pass?
15. Team TO’s: The **Crew** members will signal the number of team TO’s remaining for each team ASAP then go about doing their normal duties. **Wings** – if the ball is in the Red Zone then immediately direct your team to the – 25 YL.
16. Replay Review: The **R** will come to the SL and take the headset from the **SL/Replay** official. The **BJ** will come over and be the “scribe” for the **R** & record the info.
17. **Alternate** & TV: He will coordinate TV time-outs with the TV Coordinator. The **Alternate** & **LJ** will maintain eye contact with each other. Once the **Alternate** & TV Coordinator leave the field the **LJ** will signal to the **R & Crew** that play can resume.
18. TV Schedule: Review the Championship Games Schedule. OHSAA & TV have requested that the **Crew** have both teams leave their LR with 6 Minutes left on the GC prior to the game.
19. Sideline Officials: There will be two – one will serve as the Replay Official. One will serve as the Alternate Official & officiate if an on field official can’t work. They will contact the **R** & participate in the pregame. It is important to discuss & decide on the **Crew** rotation if a crewmate cannot continue. The position taken by the Alternate can vary from **Crew** to **Crew** based upon their experience. I will meet with the Alternates this week. The Alternate Official (along with the Replay Official) will be stationed on the **LJ’s** side of the field. Listen to him if he says something. Each of the previous 10 years the Alternate Official has made a “**Crew Save**”!!
20. Game Clock (GC): We all know the importance of timing & the GC being correct. I am asking that when you meet with the Alternate Official that you ask him to watch the GC & PC every time it is started & stopped. If he sees any irregularities, he will bring it to the attention of the **LJ** immediately before or after the play. We have had timing errors either with the GC or PC every week of the FB Playoffs this year including 1 game with 3 timing errors.
21. **R** Signaling: Please study the GB before your game. Here are some items that we need to improve: A. We need only one set of signals to the PB for DOG, FST, Substitution (DB), & ENC. B. For all other fouls we need a Prelim Signal to the PB & a Final Signal. We had a DPI. The **R** ran all the way down the field to talk with the **BJ** – NO – the **BJ** signals the DPI & the **R** then gives the initial signal to the PB. C. If multiple fouls are called, signal the one that was declined & then the one that was accepted. D. Move to the nearest open space & give the penalty signal. There is no need to move to mid field. In most cases taking 1 or 2 steps is all that is needed.
22. **R** Microphone: Spend some time this week reviewing the signals & GB, P. 18, Section 23 D. Remember to say “offense” or “defense” before the player’s number.
23. **SLOW DOWN!! SLOW DOWN!! SLOW DOWN!!**

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