

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 2; 8/28/25

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 1 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. PEQ: Officials need to know the difference between LEGAL equipment worn improperly & ILLEGAL equipment. Rule 9-8-1h (UNS by Non players) "Following pregame verification as in 1-5-4, a coach allowing his/her players to use illegal equipment (1-5-3)". I encourage all of you to read 1-5-3 & study 1-5-3. The operative word is 9-8-1h is USE. Don't let players onto the field with illegal equipment to "use" it during play. That is our goal. If they do use it, it is a 15 yard UNS against the head coach. Please continue to prevent or send players off the field that are wearing legal equipment improperly. WE ONLY WANT PLAYERS THAT ARE LEGALLY EQUIPPED PLAYING!!
2. Taking the Easy Way Out: Far too often Beau & I hear the incorrect interpretation of a Rule, a Mechanic, a Rules Philosophy, a Safety Policy, or a Regulation because we are "too quick" to think we know the answer, when in fact we do not. When one considers a 105 page RB, a 109 page CB, & a 56 page GB, it is nearly impossible for any of our 3,296 officials to know & remember all this info. We have had reports of **Crews** communicating the wrong ruling &/or interpretation. Simply say, as one **R** did to a HC, "Coach we will check the Rules Book & get back with you before the game starts".
3. HC UNS: If a coach is out near the field numbers & yelling at the officials then a UNS Foul must be assessed. If we do not, we are saying this is approved behavior.
4. Player Safety: If a player appears to be disoriented or limping off the field, stop the Game Clock & beckon a trainer and/or coach on to the field. A player does not need to be laying on the ground to do the aforementioned. Player Safety is paramount.
5. PUM & **BJ**: We MUST maintain the "cushion" with the Punt Receiver (s) to observe first touching, blind side blocks, & blocks in the back. Do not be in a hurry to hustle to the DB spot. We missed several fouls because the **BJ** was too concerned with the dropping his bean bag. Simply throw your bean bag & continue to watch the action.
6. **BJ** & Punt: We do NOT throw a bean bag (BB) on a muff by the receiving team on a punt. It is thrown when K is the first to touch a punt beyond the expanded neutral zone ("first touching"). When the **BJ** throws a BB when the RT muffs the punt, it only confuses the **Crew** which happened last week. Please, do not.
7. TV Games & Items Observed: A. Cloth hanging below the back of the helmet; B. Pants above the knees; C. Back Pad exposed on multiple plays – is this a Pretending rather than a Contending **Crew**? Please enforce the Player Equipment Rule.

8. Illegal Low Block: Called correctly, but the official threw his flag to the spot which hit a player. Remember, it just needs to be thrown on the corresponding YL.
9. Phantom Flags: Watched 2 video clips where an OH & BIB were called that were clearly not fouls. As stated in Bulletin # 1 all **Crews & Officials** need to study & thoroughly learn the GB, PP. 44 – 46; Rules Philosophy.
10. GC & Signaling Mechanics: When the runner touches the SL & ruled OOB the **Wing** must stop the GC immediately, rather than getting to the OOB spot. When a pass play results in a 30 YD gain & is 20 YDS beyond the LTG, the **Crew** needs to stop the GC immediately when the ball is dead rather than wait until they mark FWP.
11. Fumble Forward OOB: When the FB is fumbled forward & OOB in the field of play we stop the GC, then spot the FB at the spot where it was fumbled, & then the **R & LJ** do a “silent wind” for the GC. If there are “challenges” with getting the FB spotted & the PC goes below 25 seconds, then reset the PC to 25 seconds for an Administrative Stoppage.
12. **Wings**: Ask yourself after each down do I know the down & distance for the next down. When space permits maintain a 5 YD “cushion” from the pile. 2 situations when the **Wings** must hustle into the pile: A. Close plays at the GL & B. Close to a 1st down.
13. **Wing & OOB Spot**: When the runner touches the SL do not concentrate solely on the OOB & look down at that spot. Watched a game where we missed an obvious late hit OOB. Keep your head up & swivel it. **Be a Great Dead Ball Official!!**
14. Whistle: We need a whistle every play, regardless of the lateness. Coaches expect it.
15. **R/CJ & Happy Feet**: The **R/CJ** needs to “stay home” rather than start moving at the snap unless the QB is backpedaling. Make sure the QB moves in one direction a significant amount before following. If QB backpedals, then the **R/CJ** must back pedal.
16. Victory Formation (VF): Review GB, P. 27. A **Crew** misapplied it at the end of the 1st half. If the A HC says we are going to take a knee, the **R** tells both teams to “defend themselves & play FB”. Know the VF thoroughly like you know the OT Rules.
17. Dead Ball LOS Fouls: We throw the flag high into the air, sound our whistle, stop the GC (2X), & give a prelim signal to the **R**. (Do **NOT** drop your flag.) SLOW DOWN!
18. KO OOB: Drop the flag at the OOB spot rather than throw your flag into the air. Saw 2 sideline officials throw their flags that landed some distance from the OOB spot.
19. Q30: The Q30 Neck Device (<https://q30.com/>) is legal NFHS Player Equipment.
20. Drones: The home school decides during the regular season whether to use them or not. Officials are not involved unless they interfere with play.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your enthusiasm, energy, & dedication on behalf of the approximately 75,000 Student Athletes who play OHSAA FB in Ohio. We are truly blessed to be part of such a Great Sport!!