

TO: OHSAA FB Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 11; 10/29/26

A message from the Director of Officiating & Football Administrator:

This is week 1 of a 6-week tournament. Officials need to be as “fine-tuned” and focused as the players and coaches. Bruce makes some great points below to help you achieve this. Dedicate yourselves to having a great pregame conference so you are ready as soon as you take the field. You are all on these games for a reason. Embrace and enjoy the opportunity!

Greetings!! CONGRATULATIONS to those of you who were selected as an OHSAA Football Tournament Official. We hope you have a great game (s) and a wonderful experience. Please review this info during your pregame.

1. Week 11: Arrive at the site 1.5 hours before the game. Plan to arrive on the field 40 minutes before game time & meet with the first HC 35 minutes before game time.
2. Dragon Fly Contract: While your travel fee is based on mileage, it is a travel stipend similar to a per diem, & not a straight mileage calculation. OHSAA pays \$1 per mile for any mile traveled over 50 miles, one-way. Mileage in Dragon Fly is calculated from facility address to your home address listed on your Dragon Fly profile. **Prior to game time**, please review your mileage & email Keaton Jones (kjones@ohsaa.org) any discrepancies that will affect your travel payment. Once the contest is complete and the games have been paid in Dragon Fly, it is impossible for OHSAA to adjust payments. Game fees will be paid within a week after the games are played.
3. **R Report:** The **R Report** can be found on the OHSAA Website; select Officiating & then select Forms. The **R** will complete the Report & return it to OHSAA within 48 hours after **each tournament game** by email to (kjones@ohsaa.org) or fax 614-267-1677. **Significant issue? Report to Beau by email (brugg@ohsaa.org) or phone by Monday following the game.**
4. Week 12 PO Assignments: They will be sent Sunday.
5. Big Calls: Make the calls Big! We have had too many phantom fouls called this year.
6. Required FB's: GB, P.39, # 10A. The Wilson GST is the official FB. However, a team may use any Wilson FB. All PO Teams MUST use a Wilson FB – No Exceptions.
7. Observers: Doug Ayers (SW), Ron Fuller (NE), Tom McNerlin (E/SE), Ken Myers (NW), & Terry Williams (C) have graciously volunteered to be our District Coordinators (DCO) for the OHSAA State FB Tournament. THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your service. They have recruited 143 OHSAA FB Observers –WOW!! We want to say THANK YOU for their volunteering to help us improve football officiating in Ohio. Please give them the respect they deserve by giving them your attention in the LR & NOT undressing or showering while they are sharing their thoughts. And personally thank them for taking time to help us. Many of our Observers are also officiating the Playoffs so there will be a limited number of Observers available in the early rounds.
8. Observers: All Observers have been told to give the Yellow Copy of the Observation Form to the **Crew** after the Post Game Review. If they do not, then please ASK THEM FOR IT!

9. Observers: If the **Crew** has an issue with an Observer's comments, email Bruce.
10. Rules: During pregame review Rules 10-4-2c Exception, 3-4-3c, 3-4-6, 3-4-7, & 10-4-2d EXC.
11. Wings: It is IMPERATIVE that **Wings** get off the SL, especially when the dead ball spot is inside the opposite SZ. Minimally, the **Back Side Wing** must be at or near the near hash mark. Otherwise, when the ball goes into the SZ we are officiating with 4 or 5 Officials. When space permits STOP a minimum of 5 YDS from the pile of players near you. **Observers:** Indicate in a separate email any **Wing** who wants to stay on or near their SL during the game.
12. TO's: Every official is required to stop the GC when a 1st down occurs or the Runner/Receiver goes OOB, & the GC is not wound for forward progress. We use GB Mechanics, NOT NCAA!
13. Hustle: When officials need to get together, jog, rather than walk to your crewmate.
14. Restricted Area: The 6' belongs to the officials ONLY when the ball is live. **ENFORCE IT!!** Warn, especially early, when warranted. **Observers:** Indicate in a separate email to me any **Wings & Crews** who fail to enforce the Restricted Area & Coaches who are too far out on the field.
15. DQ Players: All officials who saw the illegal hit MUST agree to DQ the player. If one or more officials disagree, then the player is not DQ'D. Review the Definition for Fighting,
16. POW: Please review the Defenseless Receiver Rule & when we apply POW.
17. Communication: Be exact with the Terms listed in Rule 2 when discussing challenging situations. Take your time. Answer any legitimate question from the HC. Be Careful what you say & how you say it – You are there to Defuse Rather than Incite. You Can't Misquote Silence. Talk Low and Slow. Ask that important question now, NOT at halftime, or after the game.
18. IDF: When an official calls an A player for being Ineligible Illegally Downfield drop your flag at the spot where the foul occurred – obviously, more than 2 YDS beyond the NZ.
19. If HC wants to have an **R** conference to discuss a misapplication of a Rule, then do it. If the HC & the officials disagree on the ruling, then **EVERY CREW IS REQUIRED TO SHOW THE HC in the Rule Book, Case Book, and/or Gold Book, if asked,** what the ruling is. Use the GB Rules Index.
20. IW & Backward Passes: We are in TOO BIG A HURRY on these. One league had 4 IW's on passes that were clearly backward. If there is any question, the **Front Side Wing** needs to look at the **Back Side Wing**. The **Back Side Wing** needs to "punch back" & yell back. The **R/CJ** can help.
21. Try Mechanics: If a team brings a "Tee" on the field we are either in Try-Kick Mechanics or Muddle Huddle Mechanics. If there is no "Tee" then we are in GLM Mechanics, unless the KT does not use a Tee, in which case ask the KT if they are going to kick the Try. Please discuss.
22. Coin Toss: It is 20 minutes before KO. The coin is flipped at 20 minutes, NOT the officials secure the captains at 20 minutes. The CT can be earlier.
23. Study the GB: Officials have had 17 years to learn and practice the mechanics. You are a State Tournament Official & expected to set the "Standard": A. When the FB is snapped from the + 15 YL to just outside the + 10 YL the **BJ's** IP is 5 YDS deep in the EZ; B. PE: All officials are responsible. **Know the Rules**. C. Pass/Run Plays: **R/CJ/BJ** – do not run to the pile. Stay back 5 YDS, swivel your head, & watch for DB fouls. We have watched late hits missed due to **BJ's/CJ's/ R's** too intent on the DBS.
24. Signaling: Review PP. 24 - 25. You are expected to use them as listed in the GB.
25. Communication: Give the Prelim Signal to the **R** when a foul is called & there is 1 flag. If there are 2 flags, then the 2 officials get together, discuss, & then one gives the Prelim Signal to the **R**.

BEST OF LUCK to everyone!! Ask yourself, do I have the courage to “step up to the plate” and help my fellow official. And does my ego welcome the “help” from a fellow official. THEN can we both discuss it without emotion and no ownership so we can “Get It Right!