TO: OHSAA FB Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 12; 11/5/26

Greetings!! We hope you had great game and a wonderful experience during Week 11. I have received over 60 Observations and there were many positive comments along with areas where we can all improve. Please cover during your pre games. This bulletin will cover items that have been observed during Week 11. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Bruce at bmaurer.38@gmail.com.

1. **Crew** & Individual Goals: One of the best crews I was on in the NFL was led by our **R**, Gary Lane. Before each game each official would state a Goal for that game that he/she was personally going to improve along with a Goal to help the **Crew**. We stated these Goals in front of our Crewmates & discussed them openly.
2. **Checking Footballs**: During Weeks 11-16 the official FB is the Wilson GST. However, a team may use any Wilson FB. They must use a Wilson FB. Do not approve any footballs other than Wilson footballs.
3. **OBSERVERS**: We want to thank them for an outstanding job. Please extend a heartfelt thanks to them for volunteering their time to help us all improve. And please give them your undivided attention by not getting dressed. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
4. Extension of Period (Rule 3-3-3): It is Imperative that the **BJ** checks with the **R** & state "there is No Extension" or "we need to extend". This past Friday a **Crew** did not extend on a punt play when there was an accepted penalty. Incorrectly, they enforced it during the next period. All 6 officials are required to know the Rule & communicate with the **Crew** as needed.
5. Pass Plays: It is imperative that both **Wings** know & use R&R 1, R&R2, & R&R 3. We cannot stay at the LOS on R&R 2 and R&R 3, thus leaving the **BJ** alone downfield to make some very challenging calls regarding PI, catch/no catch, & others. Read the play & move accordingly.
6. Restricted Area (RA) – We have reports of coaches/players in the RA during a live ball. **Observers**: Make a Special Note if the RA is NOT enforced and email me regarding the name of the official & the **Crew**. Coaches are allowed 2-3 steps on the field between downs. Enforce It.
7. UNS: We have had 2 reports of coaches 6 – 7 YDS out on the field protesting calls made by the **Crew**. This is UNS. If the coach is only several steps on the field protesting a call then a sideline warning (SLW) is warranted.
8. GC/TO/Late in Half: **Crew** needs to be aware that a HC might call a TO base upon time, ball location, & score in either half. Officials not in the area of the Dead Ball can take a look as whistles are sounded. **R** needs to look at the appropriate bench when ball is in the red zone.
9. TFM (3rd & 4th Down & 5 or Less Yards): When this occurs the most important line is the LTG. It is imperative that the **Wings** move to the LTG immediately at the snap. The **Wing** did not & they incorrectly awarded a 1st down when the tape showed the runner was short of the LTG on 4th.

10. TFM & RM (R&R 2): If 3rd/4th down & LTG is 5 YDS or less, the **HL/LJ** will take one step toward the GL, then pause to see if GL is threatened by B. If so, move to the GL. If not, hustle quickly to the LTG. Remember the GL is the most important line in this situation.
11. Game Control: One of our Primary Goals when we accept the contract is controlling the game. Just because we are doing a PO game, it does not change anything regarding conduct of players & their opponents. Send players off the field as needed. Tell HC "that he/she can reenter when you think he/she is ready to play FB". If the same player has another incident, it is UNS.
12. OKOM: KT kicks the FB down the field near the SL & pylon. **U or LJ** need to hustle downfield.
13. PE: DPI called correctly. **U** marked off a 13 YD penalty rather than 15 YDS. Both **Wings** are responsible to walk off the yardage independently of each other so we have a triple check.
14. GC & Foul Called: Observers have noted several instances of a Live Ball Foul called & the runner was tackled inbounds. The foul was enforced & guess what the **Crew** did not do – start the GC on the ready. All 5 or 6 officials are responsible to know the GC status whenever it is stopped by Rule – do we start it on the ready or on the snap. Discuss during your pre-game!
15. GC & Ready: **R** wound the GC correctly after a first down & the GC did not move. Six seconds later A snapped the ball. Officials, especially the **R/CJ** or **BJ** (whoever is facing the GC) need to check the GC to make sure it is moving. If not, correct it.
16. SL Warnings: A second SL warning on the same team is a DB Foul & 5 YDS, Not a live ball foul.
17. Whistles: Once the ball is live our whistles are in our hand, NOT in our Mouth, until ball is dead.
18. GC at End of Period: Can a team snap the ball when the GC is stopped with 1 second or less & the **R** will wind on the ready. YES, if A is lined up and set for 1 second prior to the ready.
19. **CJ** & KOM: Rather than start to slide downfield after the FB is kicked, wait until the KT Players have passed you. Then turn & move slowly to the – 40YL watching for any appropriate fouls.
20. **HL** & Down Box: The **HL** Must check the down box after each down. Look at it each time. And be sure to instruct the DB Operator to change it only after he/she reaches the succeeding spot.
21. Catch Signal: We never give a "catch" signal into the field of play; only on a boundary line by the **Wings** or **BJ**. Why? What if another official is signaling incomplete pass?
22. GLM: We still have officials who do not know their IP on GLM. Discuss this in your Pre-Game. **Wings** need to be 2 YDS outside the SL prior to the snap & move toward the GL at the snap. You Must be at the GL prior to the Runner crossing the GL.
23. Before Game Starts: Yes, **Crews** can go back into the LR after the CT & before the game starts. However, if teams have a "common entrance point" from their LR then we must leave the LR & have officials there to prevent anything from happening as they move from their LR to the field.
24. **R** & MICM: If **Crew** calls multiple fouls, then, if needed, a **Crew** Member can be located near the **R** to help him/her with communicating the players' numbers.
25. **Crews:** Please be at the Game Site 1.5 hours before the scheduled KO time.

BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS WEEKEND!!! It is a Great time of the year in Ohio. We are all truly blessed to be part of the State Playoffs. And ENFORCE the Restricted Area.

"Keeping our eyes on continuous improvement is surely the most likely way to motivate people to work on getting better."