

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 2; 8/27/26

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

1. Rule 7-2-5a Formations: "No more than four A players may be backs..." There is NO Rule about having to have 7 players on the LOS!! It is an "old" Rule.
2. Multiple Flags: If you see a foul then throw your flag. It makes no difference how many flags are thrown as long as the call is correct.
3. 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 3,300 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".
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. OHSAA SRI Meetings: Officials attended face-to-face meetings in record numbers this year. They received credit for 2 meetings. 970 officials (5% increase) took advantage of these highly informative mini clinics in Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Jackson, Maysville, New Philadelphia, Orrville, Toledo, Wapakoneta, & West Chester. A BIG thank you to the Associations who "stepped up to the plate" & helped us. Half the time was devoted to video review.
7. Officials State Clinic: Another BIG thank you to the COFOA, and especially Rick Barnes, for their tremendous help.
8. FK Experimental Rule: If you call a Rule 6-1-3a,b or 6-1-4 Foul send an email to Beau Rugg, Not Bruce Maurer.
9. 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.

10. Helmet Comes Off: If a player needs to be replaced because his/her helmet came off (no foul), the Crew needs to stop the GC & make sure the player has been replaced.
11. **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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. **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.
17. **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!**
18. **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 the QB backpedals, then the **R/CJ** must back pedal.
19. 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.
20. 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!
21. 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.
22. Official's Safety: After the game leave the field together.
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!!