

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 5; 9/17/26

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 4 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Beau travels to watch multiple HS games (Last year he saw approximately 150 different officials). These are some of his observations: A. Cross Field Mechanics – Any time a receiver is hit & driven back the **Back Side Wing** needs to move into the field to the hash marks to mark Forward Progress & sound the whistle multiple times. B. Important Players: On each play identify the most important players based upon their movement.
2. Kick Ends on a Punt: K 56 punts to the RT 20 YL and the punt is bouncing on the field. Several RT players muff it (no new force & no illegal bat) & the punt crosses the RT's GL. An official signaled TD when K 21 recovered the punt in the RT's EZ. Is this correct? Is this a TD or TB? Did the kick end? This is a TB. Can other **Crew** members help? YES!! The same holds true for a KO. It is VERY Important to know when a kick ends.
3. **Crew** Communication: When communicating with the appropriate **Wing** do NOT give color. Instead, use offense, defense, KT or RT. Be specific on "what happened" so the **Wing** can communicate effectively with the HC. Rather than say "offense # 76 held", indicate "offense, # 76 restricted the opponent with his right hand on the shoulder & turned him at the POA".
4. Runner's Helmet Comes Off: Rule 4-2-2k. Runner's helmet came completely off on the attempted tackle (no foul) & the **Crew** sounded their whistles & had the exact FWP spot.
5. **BJ's** & Punts: Move while the punt is airborne to maintain your cushion. If the punt is short, be very careful about moving up more than several steps. Remember, we have the **Wing's** that can help with shorter punts. Plus this gives you a wider view. We have been missing some BSB's & BIB's because the **BJ's** are too close to the receiver (s).
6. Continuous Self Improvement: Ask yourself during the pre-game, "What will I work on this first half to be a better official by half time". State this goal to your **Crew**.
7. Rule 10-4-2 Exception: On a punt play, the KT has 5 in the backfield & both **Wings** correctly call Illegal Formation. Do you know the enforcement? Does the RT have to keep the ball? Discuss in your pregame. And, please do not send us your answer.
8. Punt Play: R 10 signals for a Fair Catch & R 25 catches the punt beyond the LOS. Is it a Fair Catch? Is R 25 afforded protection? Please discuss in pregame as it has happened multiple times. And REMEMBER, the **BJ** is the Expert on Rule 6.
9. Slow Whistle: Be very careful when sounding your whistle at the GL. SLOW DOWN.
10. Signaling TD's: Signal TD when the runner crosses the GL, not when you arrive at the GL. Of course, contenders will beat the runner to the GL, unless it is a long run or pass.

11. DB Officiating: Do not be too quick to look for a new FB. Watched several games on TV where **Wings** were doing this, as well as the **BJ** after the TD/Try – Kick. SLOW DOWN.
12. **Wings** & Backward Pass: A pass was thrown toward the **LJ**. The **HL** correctly punched back. **LJ** signaled incomplete pass incorrectly. **Wings** – do not be in a hurry to signal incomplete if there is any doubt whether it is forward or backward. Go SLOW!!
13. KO (Rule 3-6-2d): Kicker kicks ball before the **R's** Ready Whistle. Delay of Game must be called & enforced. Of course the **BJ** has told the Kicker to wait for the **R's** Ready Whistle.
14. Play-Conserve Time: Late in 2Q & A is driving for a TD. A completes a pass then runs up to the LOS & snaps the ball before the **U** is "in position". **R** throws flag correctly for DOG. What is the GC status? This is Conserve Time & GC is wound on the ready.
15. Whistle: We need a STRONG short whistle on every down. And usually only 1 or 2 officials sounding their whistles. And only after we see leather & the ball dead by Rule. Once the FB is snapped all officials carry their whistle in their hand until the FB is dead.
16. Team TO's: The **Crew** will communicate the number remaining with each other. It is Very Important that the number of TO's on the scoreboard is correct. The **R** will NOT mark the ball ready until the scoreboard is correct. Also, the **R** signals to the PB the "Steamboat whistle" when a team is out, even if there is a microphone.
17. Measurements: Let's not be "hard headed". If it is close to a first down, and we are not 100% positive, then let's take a few minutes & measure. Especially if it is 4th down.
18. Injury Time-outs: Teams must huddle between the top of the field numbers & the SL, & in front of their Team Box (25 YL to 25 YL) (Rules: 2-6-2a, 3-5-8c & 3-5-8a (3)).
19. Safety of the **U** & GLM (5/6 Officials): If the LOS is at the + 7YL the GB indicates that the **U** does Not stand on the GL so the **Wings** can see better. We suggest the **U's** IP is 1 YD deep in the EZ.
20. Halftime & Captain's Options (Varsity Games): The **Crew** must bring at least one captain for each team to the 50 YL at the center of the field to obtain their 2nd half options. Then the **R** will signal their option to the PB with the captain's positioned accordingly.
21. Scoreboard: Yes, scoreboard horn sounding at the end of a period is Legal. Rule 3-3-2.
22. Sub varsity Games: It is Mandatory to meet with both HC's prior to the game & cover the items listed in the Gold Book. P. 53. And remember, this is your most important game on that day!

It is hard to believe the regular season is nearly half over. Enjoy your **Crew** & the experience this weekend. Before long we will all be lamenting just how fast this Great FB Season went!! Good Luck this weekend!! And again thank you very much for all your help!!