

Observer Instructions: Volunteering Their Time to Improve Officiating

NOTE: Think Constructive Comments, Constructive Comments, Constructive Comments – Be Positive

1. Print CLEARLY; use OHSAA Abbreviations to save space.
2. **BOTTOM COPY GIVEN TO CREW**; top copy forwarded to League Assigner during regular season & Bruce Maurer (DOD), via email scan or mailed to his home address during the State Tournament.
3. We view ourselves as a teacher & mentor - we are there to help officials improve - not to grade them.
4. Please read & learn the 10 Commandments by Ed Hochuli on the other Observation Form (Reminders) -- excellent thoughts for our observers.
5. OHSAA Observation Forms are an Improvement Mechanism. Discuss "What Went Well" & "What Can We Do Better". Discussion must be open & frank. Ask questions rather than lecture.
6. Assess Game Administration & Game Management. Does the game flow with minimal delayed **Crew** conferences? Does the **Crew** manage the game without being noticed much by the spectators?
7. Be Respectful of the **Crew's** time -- hold discussions to 15 to 20 minutes after the game (10 minutes at halftime) unless it is a very unusual & challenging game that requires additional time.
8. All observations are **BASED** upon the OHSAA Gold Book Standards **ONLY** --please no personal preferences!
9. Ask **R** privately to ask his/her **Crew** for their attention -- not getting undressed or taking a shower. Let's be respectful of each other.
10. If possible, sit down with the officials, officiating chain crew (if OHSAA Officials) & their guests **ONLY** immediately after the game in the locker room to cover your comments.
11. Before discussing your observation, ask the **Crew** what are their thoughts on mechanics, communications, game management, & game pace.
12. Concentrate on observing the IP & R&R Then Flow on 11 Different Types of Plays for each official initially.
13. Watch each official individually: Do they "read the play" for a pass vs. a run? How do they react to a short pass vs. a medium or a long pass (R&R1, R&R2, R&R3)?
14. Listen to whistles when the ball becomes dead: 1 or 2 whistles or is the entire **Crew** "ball watching" by sounding their whistles?
15. Hand Signals: Is the **Crew** using the OHSAA Approved Hand Signals listed in the Gold Book? Do they signal stop the clock & incomplete pass in a slow & professional manner?
16. Communication: How is **Crew** communicating verbally & nonverbally with each other, PB & HC's?
17. Time Management: Enforcing DB LOS Fouls within 10 seconds, TO's limited to 60 seconds, & KO's after 60 seconds have elapsed after the Try?
18. Restricted Area: Does **Crew** enforce the Restricted Area & give SL Warnings when warranted?
19. Dead Ball Officiating: Do officials "chase the ball" or do they watch players on & off the field until there is no threat of a dead ball foul?
20. **Back Side Wings**: "married to the SL" or do they move on to the field & actively officiate the play?
21. **BJ**: Back pedal too soon & takes himself/herself out of the play or does he/she R&R. Is he/she an integral part of the **Crew** throughout the game? Does he/she signal **R** on game clock status?
22. Field Presence: Does the **Crew** hustle & communicate, have good "game pace", look like "they know what they are doing", & enjoy officiating?
24. Observers Mantra: Consistency! Consistency! Consistency! Comments are based on the OHSAA A FB Gold Book! (5/22/21)