

Observer Instructions: Volunteering Their Time to Improve Officiating

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

1. Print CLEARLY; use OHSAA Abbreviations as much as possible 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 for FB Officiating Mechanics **ONLY** -- no personal preferences!!
9. Ask **R** privately to ask his Crew for their attention -- no 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 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 him out of the play or does he R&R. Is he an integral part of the Crew throughout the game?
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! (6/1/15)