

Observer Reminders

Ed Hochuli's "Ten Commandments of Observing" Released on My Referee: October 2009 Copyright© Referee Enterprises, Inc. (Paraphrased 6/1/15)

Let's keep some things in mind when evaluating/observing/teaching:

1. Be Fair and Impartial. We know many of the officials we are watching. That shouldn't, & can't, affect our opinions. We must be above reproach.
2. We Do Not Know All the Answers. Find out why he did what he did before offering constructive comments. Find out what happened & why. Then offer suggestions on how it might have been done better.
3. Be Constructive. Remember the purpose of observers is to improve the officiating quality. The only way your comments can help an official improve is if you share them. Go in the locker room at halftime & after the game. Go over all your notes with the entire crew. If not, call the **R**. It is imperative that we share all comments with them — both good & constructive.
4. Be Consistent. The biggest complaint is we are inconsistent. We need to give everyone the same info. **Study & Learn** the OHSAA Gold Book Approved Standards for FB Officiating Mechanics.
5. Do Not be a Distraction. If the **R** invites us to the pregame, we should go if we can, but never go into the official's locker room without being invited by the **R**. Call the **R** before the game and ask permission to come into the locker room.
6. Be Discreet with Your Constructive Comments. Our comments should be shared with the crew, but not with other officials or coaches. We should be a positive influence on the program, & should never criticize officials to other officials or coaches.
7. Praise at Least Three Times as Much as You Criticize. We all know people respond better to positive comments than negative, so whenever possible, cast even your criticisms in a positive manner — perhaps by praising someone else on the crew as a means of pointing out to another crew member a better way "to do it."
8. Do Not be Afraid to Say "I Do Not Know". Often we are asked what we thought about a particular play, whether the pass was caught, what the proper mechanic or Rule is, or what happened on a particular play. And often we don't know.
9. Do Not Judge Fouls from the Stands. Our job as observers is primarily "mechanics oriented" rather than "foul oriented." When discussing "foul oriented" questions ask the official (s) "what did you see?" This allows us to assess & comment on their rules knowledge. We will occasionally be able to comment on a foul, but normally, we won't see it, or we won't get nearly as good a look at it as the official did.
10. Do Not Forget What It is Like to be on the Field. Remember how quickly things happen on the field. Remember the angles on the field are different & people can be screened or distracted by other action.