

## Introduction

Greetings!! The 2017 **Gold Book** has been developed to clarify & standardize FB Mechanics & Regulations. The Mechanics are REQUIRED for all OHSAA Football Officials when officiating OHSAA Sanctioned Games. There are NO EXCEPTIONS. We EXPECT the **Referee** to become & be a Leader in this role. His Primary Responsibility is **Crew** Mechanics. He must know Gold Book Mechanics thoroughly for each crew position.

It has been 7 years (2010) since we introduced many new mechanics based upon today's contemporary game. It was a challenging first year. Then in 2011 we saw significant improvement. During 2012 we reached a much higher level of excellence. During the State Finals as we observe the Crews, we record Constructive Comments. That number has dropped by 85% over the past 6 years. WOW!! We are doing a much better job of communicating, reading & reacting, & anticipating the play rather than the call. Our judgment was better because we were working harder to get into position to make the call. We expect this Season will be even better.

Local Associations & Local Mechanics Interpreters play a pivotal role. In order to have a "bridge" from our wonderful Classes & Instructors to the Association, we require all Associations to hold & teach 5 classes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, & transfer officials. Once the Association Meeting has started, these newer officials will move to another room, gym, or FB Field.

We are separating "pretenders" from "contenders". Contenders accept changes in Mechanics. Contenders will work OHSAA State Tournament Games – "pretenders" will NOT or when observed at Games, will not in the future.

The term Primary used in the Gold Book does not mean "sole" responsibility. We are part of a team, the crew, so all officials share their responsibilities. However, Primary implies that the official becomes the "**expert**" on his Primary Responsibilities & takes Great Pride in his study & knowledge. It is important to have ownership, yet "reach out" for input when needed.

The Gold Book is much better than last year; more detailed & accurate. The result is from listening to all who provided Great Comments. It becomes better each year because of your interest & enthusiasm. It is by no means complete. Suggestions should be emailed to [bmaurer.38@gmail.com](mailto:bmaurer.38@gmail.com). There is a fine line between being complete & too many pages. Throughout the documents we have tried repeatedly to "streamline" the info.

Thank you very much for your amazing enthusiasm, dedicated rules study, & service to the 78,000 student athletes who play OHSAA Football Games. We are truly blessed to be part of something very special!

Beau & Bruce