

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

FROM: Bruce Maurer, DOD & Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating & Sports Management

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 1; 8/23/17

Thank you Very Much for your incredible dedication to the youth of Ohio. Indicated below are some items that have arisen during State Rules Interpretation (SRI) Meetings & at Local Officials Association Meetings this year. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Ohio Officials are Contenders Because They Want to Get Better. With great support by Local Associations OHSAA hosted 9 FB Clinics this summer that were attended by nearly 1000 officials. Congrats to those Contenders who attended.
2. Rule 1 – Player Equipment: Check the players before the game for any illegal equipment as well as required equipment. Such items include, but not limited to, towels, eye shade, clear eye shields, wrist bands, legal numbers, & undershirts/jerseys that need to be tucked in. Remember all hard surfaces must be covered by the jersey on every down. Let's get it straight Week 1 so all teams are on the "same page". **In the area of Jerseys: If you see anything on the jersey as it relates to color or lettering that you feel is illegal, play the contest and report it to Beau at [brugg@ohsaa.org](mailto:brugg@ohsaa.org). Once the game starts apply the OHSAA Player Equipment Experimental Rule for 2017.**
3. New 2014 Format was continued in 2017 for OHSAA SRI Meetings: Officials had the opportunity to attend face-to-face meetings and receive credit for 2 meetings. Approximately 1300 officials (record number) took advantage of these highly info mini clinics in Athens, Cleveland, Columbus, Findlay, Hamilton, Lima, New Philadelphia, Orrville, & Toledo. A BIG thank you to the Associations who "stepped up to the plate" & helped us. Approximately half the time was devoted to video review & discussion.
4. OHSAA POE for 2017: There are 3: 1. Illegal Low Blocks by B, especially against "pulling" linemen; 2. Illegal Low Blocks by A; & 3. Ineligibles Illegally Down Field. Please discuss these during your pregame this week.
5. Blind Side Blocks: Please read the Rules carefully as we have heard comments that are Not part of the Rule. To summarize the Rule there are 5 criteria that must be met to call the BSB Foul: 1. Outside the Free Blocking Zone (it disintegrates when the ball leaves it); 2. Not with Open Hand (s); 3. Forceful; 4. Not against the Runner (Check Rule 2 – how is the Runner defined); & 5. Out of the Visual Field of the Opponent. You must be 100% sure to make this call just like any other call for a foul.
6. Gold Book, P. 40 – 42. Do you consider yourself & your **Crew** as contenders or pretenders? Through self-study & **Crew** discussion, we must all have a thorough knowledge of the Rules Philosophies. Learn these 3 pages just like you learn & understand the RB, CB, & GB. Pick a Section & discuss it weekly at your pre game.

7. **Crew Communication:** It is imperative that the entire **Crew** get together & talk about any unusual or challenging plays that occur. The **U** had a foul for an Ineligible Illegally Downfield. The video showed the ball was caught behind the LOS. It was R & R1. The **Wings** needed to come in & explain this to the **Crew** & pick up the flag.
8. **Game Control:** We are paid to Control the game. It is one of our highest priorities when we officiate the game. The Gold Book, Section 17, Game Management, gives us the authority to suspend players if their behavior warrants it. Please use it.
9. Defenseless Player (2-32-16): There are definitions added for Roughing the Kicker & Roughing the Kicker. However, nothing has changed from last year regarding how we make these challenging calls.
10. BJ IP: On run/pass plays inside the + 20 YL – do you know your IP? Please review P.17, 26 B-4. We have seen too many BJ's at scrimmages that need to know their IP.
11. **ENFORCE THE RESTRICTED AREA BEGINNING WITH THE OPENING KO!!!!**
12. [WWW.OHSAAFB.COM](http://WWW.OHSAAFB.COM) Website: A Big Thank You to Jerry Peters & Dave Ramsey for their excellent help this year creating the Quizzes that will appear on our website.
13. Ejection Reports: Please be specific regarding the actions, language, & behavior. The Official who DQ's the person MUST file the report online with OHSAA within 24 hours.
14. **R & Microphone:** NEW – See P. 16, Item 23A & 23D-7, for changes from last year.
15. **U & Timer Meeting:** Take the Point Differential Card found at OHSAAFB.COM to the Timer. Give it to him/her, & discuss it. Please review during your pregame as quite a few games last year were Point Differential Games.
16. Reminder: UNS Fouls are Non-Contact & Personal Fouls are contact.
17. Concussion: When a player has signs or symptoms of a concussion he is suspended from the game & may not reenter, even if a doctor says he is "okay". When any player is injured, bring available medical personnel onto the field. Let them do their job first, then check with them regarding the player. Obviously when there are no doctors or trainers on site then we must make the decision.
18. Inclement Weather: If there is a forecast for possible lightning and/or thunder enlist the help of Game Management & Coaching Staffs to help the **Crew** observe it.
19. **HL:** It is your responsibility to hustle to the SL & "set" the Down Box with your foot for each new set of downs. Also, instruct the Down Box Person to switch the next down at the succeeding spot, not at the previous spot.
20. Officials Dress: All officials must wear the same uniform for Varsity Games Only.
21. NFHS Rules Book: Delete PP. 84 - 87 regarding OT as OHSAA starts the OT from the + 20 YL rather than the + 10YL. (Remember in Ohio we play OT in Varsity Games ONLY). Also delete P. 102 as OHSAA states "any" lightning rather than "cloud-to-ground" lightning.

22. Gold Book Corrections: P. 14, 17 B – change to “by holding the VT until the HT has a chance to enter or leave if they are “together”. Also, change P. 36, 11 A -- ... “hold” VT until HT has time to clear field. See Case Book Play 1.1.6.