

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 2; 8/30/17

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 1 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Taking the Easy Way Out: Far too often Beau & I hear the incorrect interpretation of a Rule, a Mechanic, a Rules Philosophy, a Safety Policy, or a Regulation because we are “too quick” to think we know the answer, when in fact we do not know it. When one considers a 111 page Rules Book, a 106 page Case Book, & a 53 page Gold Book, it is nearly impossible for any of our 3,300 officials to know, understand, & remember all this information – especially when we only use it 3 – 4 months per year. We have had too many reports of **Crews** and/or Officials simply communicating the wrong ruling &/or interpretation to a HC. Simply say, as I did last week to a HC, “Coach we will check the Rules Book & get back with you before the game starts”.
2. TV Games & Items Observed: A. Jerseys with “Tradition” in large letters on the back – report to Beau; B. Pants not covering the Knees C. Back Pad exposed on players during the game on multiple plays – is this a Pretending rather than a Contending **Crew**. Please apply the OHSAA Player Equipment Experimental Rule.
3. Defensive Pass Interference (DPI): Twice during the game a **Crew** enforced DPI from the DBS where the receiver caught the ball & was tackled beyond the LOS. **NO!** DPI is part of All But One. It is enforced from the Previous Spot, if accepted.
4. Illegal Low Block: Called correctly but the official threw his flag to the spot which hit a player. Remember, it just needs to be thrown on the corresponding YL.
5. Game Clock (GC) Late in Game: When score is tight it is imperative to have a heightened GC awareness. Check the GC every play. Communicate with each other, especially the back side **Wing** & whoever is facing the GC – **R or BJ**. During a game the **Crew** had to reset the GC correctly three times in the last minute – well done!
6. Inside 2 Minutes (2Q & 4Q): Please review Rule 3-4-7. If the GC is stopped for an incomplete pass, runner going OOB, or COP, for example, and there is a foul, the offended team cannot ask the GC to be wound on the ready.
7. UNS & Personal Foul: Report from a game where A-1 shoved B-1. The **R** announced UNS. **NO!** This not a UNS Foul. It is a personal foul due to contact by A-1.
8. **BJ** & Punt: We do Not throw a bean bag (BB) on a muff by the receiving team on a punt. It is thrown when K is the first to touch a punt beyond the expanded neutral zone (“first touching”). When the **BJ** throws a BB when the RT muffs the punt, it only confuses the **Crew** which happened last week. Please, do not.

9. **Wings:** Ask yourself after each down do I know the down & distance for the next down. When space permits maintain a 5 YD “cushion” from the pile. 2 situations when the **Wings** must hustle into the pile: A. Close plays at the GL & B. Close to a 1st down.
10. **Wings:** Some reports from Coaches indicated that while watching tape of upcoming opponents they saw 6 players on the LOS. Nothing has changed regarding the Rule or interpretation. Ask yourself, did I signal my Crewmate (**HL or LJ**) before the snap on every play regarding 7 on the LOS. After the down communicate when needed.
11. **Wings:** If you see the A linemen before the snap lined up “looking like an airplane wing” check for Illegal Formation. Watched a video clip where the TE was clearly behind the Center. This must be called – check GB, P. 41, Rules Philosophy, – LOS # 1.
12. **Wing & OOB Spot:** When the runner touches the SL do not concentrate solely on the OOB & look down at that spot. Watched a game where we missed an obvious late hit OOB. Keep your head up & swivel it. **Be a Great Dead Ball Official!!**
13. **U:** When runner lands near the **U** he needs to sound his whistle. While attending a local meeting I heard **U’s** bragging they did not need to carry a whistle since they did not use it. We do a disservice to our **Crew** & increase chances for an inadvertent whistle. Remember we need a whistle every play, regardless of the lateness. Coaches expect it.
14. **R & Happy Feet:** The **R** needs to “stay home” rather than start moving at the snap. Make sure the QB moves in one direction a significant amount before following him. **R’s** that start to move forward at the snap narrow their field of vision too much.
15. Prelim Signal by Calling Official: Slow Down. Slow Down. A **wing** signaled False Start when actually the right side of the offensive line was clearly in the NZ (ENC Foul).
16. Victory Formation (VF): Review GB, P. 25. A Crew misapplied it at the end of the 1st half. Told B to take it easy & not cross the NZ. QB muffs the snap & B made no attempt to recover the loose ball. B’s HC was upset. Obviously, we cannot apply VF at the end of the 1st half. If the A HC says we are going to take a knee, the **R** tell both teams to “defend themselves & play FB”, unless the criteria are met in Section 36A.
17. **PUM & BJ:** We Must maintain the “cushion” with the Punt Receiver (s) to observe first touching, holding, KCI, & blocks in the back. Do not be in a hurry to hustle to the DB spot. We missed a late hit because the **BJ** was too concerned with the DBS.
18. Dead Ball LOS Fouls: We throw the flag high into the air, sound our whistle, stop the GC & give a preliminary signal to the **R**. (We do **NOT** drop the flag as seen on tape.)
19. GC: MS FB Game where the GC had to be corrected multiple times the 1st half. The **Crew** correctly kept the GC on the field the 2nd half. GB, P.35, # 9.

We hope everyone will have a wonderful Labor Day Weekend & the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your enthusiasm, energy, & dedication on behalf of the approximately 78,000 Student Athletes who play OHSAA FB in Ohio. We are truly blessed to be part of such a Great Sport!!