

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 6; 9/27/17

Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 5 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Game Control: A **Crew** expressed their frustration with the Assigner about the behavior of the players & coaches. However, the **Crew** issued no Sideline Warnings nor did they suspend any players from the game. The game was “chirpy”. When we step on the field one of our highest responsibilities is “game control”. The coaches share this same control because of the possibility of players getting hurt as a result. Please discuss this as a **Crew** & “be ready to step up to the plate” when any action by a player warrants suspension.
2. UNS: When a **Crew** suspends a player, if that player is later suspended again, it is UNS.
3. **Wings**, SL, & GC: “Let your mind digest what your eyes have seen”. Go Slow. Be Patient. We have had multiple reports of **Wings** stopping the GC when the runner is hit near the SL & driven back. If you are marking FWP ahead of where the runner went OOB the GC needs to be wound unless it is a first down.
4. **U** & Low Blocks: The **U** must be aware of a blitzing LB & what his position is at the snap – is he on the LOS or off the LOS. Obviously, if he is on the LOS he can be blocked low if the block is immediate.
5. 25 Second Delay of Game: If a team takes 25 seconds to snap the ball it is a foul. It is not 26, 27, or more. There is no Rule in the Rules Book that allows officials to modify this Rule. We had a report from a HC that the opposing team was taking more than 30 seconds to snap the ball.
6. Drones: We have had 3 reports this week about Drones flying over the field either during the pregame warm up or during the game. During Weeks 1 – 10 it is the decision of the school whether they are okay or not. Please check with Game Management. Once Week 11 Playoffs starts OHSAA Policy states that Drones are not allowed unless approved for an OHSAA Media partner.
7. Game Over: Once the game is over hustle off the field ASAP as a **Crew**. Do Not stop & talk with someone you might know. We are inviting the possibility of trouble if we do not hustle off.
8. **Wings** & FWP: When the runner is slowed down & players from both teams are attempting to “push the pile” (legal) **Wings** need to be very deliberate marking FWP. Do not move into the field of play until the ball is dead. Saw a video where the **Wing** hustled in too soon then had to take another step downfield. That step gave the offense a first down.
9. Pre-Game & Checking Game Balls: Make sure one other official helps or watches the **U** check the balls. Had a HC accuse the **Crew** that they ruined a game ball. **Crew** knew that when the balls left their LR that they were in great shape.
10. Flag Pole & Color Guard: If the Color Guard “presents the colors” on the field & the flag will be raised on the flag pole during the National Anthem, the **Crew** will “face” the color guard.

11. **BJ & GLM:** The **BJ** does not run from the EL to the GL to signal TD. It is the **Wings** responsibility.
12. **KO & GL:** Ball kicked very near the GL between the **R & LJ**. **R** was positive the ball was short of the GL & correctly wound the GC when the RT player muffed the kick. The **HL** sounded his whistle and signaled TB. This is an inadvertent whistle & a re-kick. The **HL** needs to be looking at the blocking.
13. **BSB Foul:** Watched a video where there was a Defensive Blind Side Block – first time I have seen it with all the BSB videos sent to us.
14. **Double Foul After COP:** Do you know the options? Can the team that ends up with the FB keep it? What must happen? Please discuss as a **Crew** (& do not send us the answers).
15. **Illegal Participation:** Two opposing players collided after the snap & the defensive player's helmet came off legally. Unfortunately, he then made the tackle – illegal participation foul on B.
16. **DQ Player:** The **BJ** calls a foul on A2 for targeting. The **Crew** gets together & decides to DQ A2 for the vicious hit. Due to down & distance B declines the penalty. Since B declined the penalty does that mean the DQ is declined as well? Check out Rule 10-5-6. It states that a "Disqualified player shall be removed".
17. **OHSAAFB.COM Website:** We post rule & mechanics interpretations during the week from officials who inquire – makes for interesting & informative reading.
18. **Block in the Back:** How do we know if it is a block in the back? Check to see how the player blocked falls to the ground. If he falls "on his face", it is a block in the back. If he falls on his side & then rolls, it is not. Rather than throwing the flag instantly, be patient & see how the blocked player falls. It is important to "anticipate the play, not the call". Especially on punt plays, repeat the color of the RT several times. Then watch for RT players who are "chasing" KT players – in "chase mode". These players become "suspect". But again, do NOT anticipate the foul. Let Your Mind Digest What Your Eyes Have Seen!! See GB, P. 40, Blocking/Holding # 4.
19. **Whistle Control:** We have heard of at least 3 inadvertent whistles this past weekend. The beauty of FB Officiating is we can be late & be right. Ask yourself this weekend, did I "see leather" every play & the ball dead by Rule before sounding my whistle. Several of these occurred on passes that were clearly backward. As discussed many times on most plays we only need 1 whistle or at the most 2 whistles unless there are additional circumstances like a player being grasped & driven back.
20. **Runner Downed or Fumble:** One official ruled the "runner downed" & by the time he sounded his whistle the opponent had possession of the ball. Again, the **Crew** did an excellent job of talking through the play & decided that it was a turnover since one official had a clear look "into the play" & the other official was trailing the play.
21. **First Touching:** If the spot of first touching is used on a punt or KO, the **R** needs to signal the PB with the appropriate signal.

Good Luck with Week 6 Games. Please Remember – Concentrate, Communicate, & Be Patient!!! And Remember, every game is a big game for those participating.