

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 2; 9/2/20

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 104 page Rules Book, a 109 page Case Book, & a 53 page Gold Book, it is nearly impossible for any of our 3,200 officials to know, understand, & remember all this info. We have had reports of **Crews** and/or Officials simply communicating the wrong ruling &/or interpretation to a HC. Simply say, as one **R** did last week to a HC, “Coach we will check the Rules Book & get back with you before the game starts”.
2. Continue to follow the NFHS Rules and OHSAA exceptions as written. **The only exception would be written permission from the OHSAA Office (Beau Rugg)**. Example: The HC/AD presents a letter signed by Beau Rugg giving permission for an equipment exception (tinted visor or prosthesis). Grant the exception. If you question the authenticity of the letter, contact Beau the next business day.
3. PUM & **BJ**: We **MUST** maintain the “cushion” with the Punt Receiver (s) to observe first touching, blind side blocks, & blocks in the back. Do not be in a hurry to hustle to the DB spot. We missed a several fouls because the **BJ** was too concerned with the dropping his bean bag. Simply throw your bean bag & continue to watch the action.
4. **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**.
5. TV Games & Items Observed: A. Cloth hanging below the back of the helmet; B. Two different colored towels worn by a team; C. Back Pad exposed on multiple plays – is this a Pretending rather than a Contending **Crew**? Please apply the Player Equipment Rule.
6. 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.
7. Phantom Flags: Watched 2 video clips where an OH & BIB were called that were clearly not fouls. As stated in Bulletin # 1 all **Crews & Officials** need to study & thoroughly learn the GB, PP. 40 – 42; Rules Philosophy.
8. Game Clock (GC) Late in Game: When the 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/CJ or BJ**. During a game the **Crew** had to reset the GC correctly 3 times in the last minute – well done!

9. BB: Hurry up Offense & **CJ/U/R** does not have a chance to pick up the BB at the previous spot. Pick it up later when time permits. Carry extras for this situation.
10. GC & Signaling Mechanics: When the runner touches the SL & ruled OOB the **Wing** must stop the GC immediately, rather than getting to the OOB spot. When a pass play results in a 30 YD gain & is 20 YDS beyond the LTG the **Crew** knows to stop the GC immediately when the ball is dead rather than wait until they mark FWP. While watching video clips a minimum of 3 extra seconds ran off the GC in these instances.
11. “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, & there is a foul, the offended team cannot ask the GC to be wound on the ready. Also, the offended team has the option to have the GC start on the snap if the GC will be started on the Ready for Play.
12. KO OOB (6-1-9): Know the options when calling this foul. Please review.
13. Punt & KT Foul (10-4-2 Exception): KT called for ILF. RT caught the punt & was tackled, keeping the FB. REMEMBER: The ILF can be “tacked on” at the DBS as one option.
14. B DPI on an A TD (8-2-2): REMEMBER: A has the option to have DPI enforced on the Try or KO. This is in “either/or” hopper. Do NOT let the HC decline this penalty.
15. **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.
16. **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!!**
17. Team TO’s: Yes, players can leave the field to obtain water.
18. **R MIC**: Yes, wear & use it. Bring sanitizer to the game & use it on the mic equipment.
19. Whistle: We need a whistle every play, regardless of the lateness. Coaches expect it.
20. 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).
21. Victory Formation (VF): Review GB, P. 25. A **Crew** misapplied it at the end of the 1st half. If the A HC says we are going to take a knee, the **R** tells both teams to “defend themselves & play FB”. Know the VF thoroughly like you know the OT Rules.
22. Dead Ball LOS Fouls: We throw the flag high into the air, sound our whistle, STOP GC, & give a prelim signal to the **R**. (Do **NOT** drop your flag.) SLOW DOWN! SLOW DOWN!
23. Ineligible: When an Ineligible Receiver is Illegally Downfield throw your flag on the YL where he is. Even though it is not a spot foul, it shows the HC where he was.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your enthusiasm, energy, & dedication on behalf of the approximately 75,000 Student Athletes who play OHSAA FB in Ohio. We are truly blessed to be part of such a Great Sport!!