

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 7; 10/7/20

Greetings!! We hope you have a great game. Please review this info during your pregame.

1. Week 7 (Oct. 9 & 10): In past years, as many of you know, we said to arrive at the site 2 hours before the first round of playoff games. For this year it depends on the **Crew**. If the **Crew** has no subs then 1.5 hours is good. If there is a sub or subs, plan on arriving 2 hours. Some **Crews** have been holding their pre games "offsite" so plan on arriving no later than 1 hour.
2. This week is a very special week for both teams and officials. There are many teams and officials that will be experiencing their first playoff competition. Emotions may be elevated this first couple of weeks, so please remain patient.
3. Halftime: It will be 15 minutes in length plus the 3-minute warmup. This is the State Policy.
4. Face Coverings: They must be worn until the KO to start the game at halftime, & after the game.
5. **Observers**: Ron Fuller (NE), Mike Harbison (SW), Tom McNerlin (E/SE), Ken Myers (NW), & Terry Williams (C) have graciously volunteered to be our District Coordinators of Observers (DCO) for the State Tournament FB Observers this year. We would like to THANK THEM VERY MUCH for their service. They have recruited 135 OHSAA FB Observers. We want to say THANK YOU for their volunteering to help us improve football officiating in Ohio. Please give them the respect they deserve by giving them your attention in the LR & NOT undressing or showering while they are sharing their thoughts. And personally thank them for taking time to help us.
6. Observers: Due to the large number of games played the next 2 weekends & since most of our Observers are officials there will be many games that do not have a Certified Observer there.
7. Observers: All Observers have been told to give the Yellow BOTTOM COPY of the Observation Form to the **Crew** after the Post Game Review. If they do not, then please ASK THEM FOR IT!
8. Observers: If you or the **Crew** has an issue with an Observer's comments, please email Bruce.
9. Rules: During pregame review Rules 2-32-16, 3-4-6, 3-4-7, 9-4-3g, 9-4-3n, & 10-4-2 exception.
10. **Wings**: It is IMPERATIVE that **Wings** get off the SL, especially when the dead ball spot is inside the opposite SZ. Minimally, the **Back Side Wing** must be at or near the near the hash mark. Otherwise, when the ball goes into the SZ we are officiating with 4 Officials. When space permits STOP a minimum of 5 YDS from the pile of players near you. **Observers**: Indicate in a separate email any **Wing** who wants to stay on or near the SL during the game.
11. Spectrum News 1 TV Games: Check this link for the 2020 TV Time Schedule -- <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports/Football/PlayoffTVTiming.pdf> for televised games. Follow this schedule & discuss it with the TV liaison. **LJ** is responsible for coordinating & recording TV TO's during the game.
12. Restricted Area: The 6' belongs to the officials ONLY when the ball is live. ENFORCE IT!! Warn, especially early, when warranted. **Observers**: Indicate in a separate email to me any **Wings & Crews** who fail to enforce the Restricted Area & Coaches who are too far out on the field.

13. Coin Toss: It is 20 minutes before KO. The coin is flipped at 20 minutes, NOT the officials secure the captains at 20 minutes. The CT can be earlier. Meet the first available HC 35 minutes before the KO time on the field. Inspect player equipment. Ask him if he might use a double pass.
14. If the HC wants to have an **R** conference to discuss a misapplication of a Rule, then do it. If the HC & the officials disagree with the ruling, then **EVERY CREW IS REQUIRED TO SHOW THE HC in the Rule Book, Case Book, or Gold Book, if asked,** what the ruling is. Use the Rules Index.
15. Snapper Eligible: If the snapper has an eligible number & positioned on the end of the LOS, he is an eligible receiver. A must still meet the requirements of having 5 players # 50-79, unless they are in a formation that meets the exceptions in Rule 7-2-5b. Such a formation is referred to as an "A Swinging Gate" & is primarily used on a Try. (Thanks Larry!)
16. Intentional Grounding (ING): If there is a receiver near the area where a forward pass lands, this is not ING. Do not read "Intent" of the QB. Simply look for players & communicate.
17. **R** Mechanics: IP is 15 YDS deep & 8 YDS wide unless the ball is snapped between the – 15 YL & - 10 YL where the **R** is 10 YDS wide (GB, P. 21, # 30 B 1). Once the ball is snapped on a running play, the **R** does not chase the QB or another runner. Simply look at the POA & check the appropriate blocks. And check yourself – do you have "happy feet"? Most tape we watch we see **R's** moving toward QB at snap. NO! One **R** was nearly run over when the runner reversed.
18. Clock Management: All officials must help, especially at the end of both halves. **Wings** need to communicate with the **Crew** whether the GC will start on the "ready" or snap, especially when the runner is tackled near the SL. And the **BJ** needs to know the GC status so he can communicate with the **R & Crew**. If, for some reason, the **R** mistakenly winds the GC then the **Crew** make a **Crew** Save. Especially inside 2 minutes, memorize the GC time whenever the GC is stopped by Rule. It gives us a "benchmark" if we have to add or delete game time.
19. End of Period: **R** needs to be patient when giving the End of Period signal to the PB – especially if there might be some controversy. If the coaching staff is yelling about some aspect of the last few plays, determine what their concerns are first before signaling End of Period.
20. **U** & Chop Blocks: Please be vigilant in looking for these potentially dangerous high/low blocks. Watched a tape where the **BJ** called a CHB on the "back side" – Excellent Call!
21. Low Blocks: A Crew had 2 low blocks F night. All were committed by the team we least expect:
A: B-3 cut receiver A-2 who was blocking ahead of the runner. B: On a KO the KT cut the RT to "break up" the blocking wedge ahead of the runner.
22. Awareness Games: In order to recognize these games, Officials can use Pink Whistles if the ENTIRE Crew uses them. This is the only pink item that can be used or worn. (GB, P. 47, 3L)
This way we do not have some members of a **Crew** placing "pressure" on other members. Teams can paint the field lines & numbers with pink paint. RB - white paint is "recommended."
23. OT: OT will be played in Playoff & Non-Playoff Varsity Games Only this season.
24. Chart Penalties: Yes, a **Crew** can bring someone to their assigned game to chart penalties.

BEST OF LUCK to everyone!! Ask yourself, do I have the courage to "step up to the plate" and help my fellow official. And does my ego welcome the "help" from a fellow official. THEN can

we both discuss it with no emotion and no ownership so we can "Get It Right". We owe it to the teams. Take Care!!