

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: FB Bulletin - Week 2; 8/25/21

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 110 page Case Book, & a 54 page Gold Book, it is nearly impossible for any of our 2,900 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 coach/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. Tinted Eye Shields: Had several reports of players wearing tinted eye shields & the HC/AD did not have a letter from OHSAA granting permission. Please check all players before the game to make sure they are legally equipped.
4. Player Safety: If a player appears to be disoriented or limping off the field, stop the Game Clock & beckon a trainer or coach on to the field. A player does Not need to be laying on the ground to do the aforementioned. Player Safety is paramount.
5. 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 several fouls because the **BJ** was too concerned with the dropping his/her bean bag. Simply throw your bean bag & continue to watch the action.
6. **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.
7. 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.

8. 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.
9. 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. 41 – 43; Rules Philosophy.
10. Official's Time-out: **R** will turn to the PB, signal TO (2X), & place his hands on his/her chest. We do NOT give signal S16 (Illegal Touching/First Touching) as seen.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. **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.
14. **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!!**
15. Whistle: We need a whistle every play, regardless of the lateness. Coaches expect it.
16. **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.
17. 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).
18. Victory Formation (VF): Review GB, P. 26. 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.
19. Dead Ball LOS Fouls: We throw the flag high into the air, sound our whistle, stop the GC, & give a prelim signal to the **R**. (Do **NOT** drop the flag.) SLOW DOWN! SLOW DOWN!
20. KO OOB: Drop the flag at the OOB spot rather than throw your flag into the air. Saw 2 sideline officials throw their flags that landed some distance from the OOB spot.
21. KO High OOB: The **R** will assist the **Wings** regarding the OOB spot if necessary.
22. Intentional Grounding: GB, #26C-3. Please review. It is okay for the **R** to drop a late flag at the spot of the foul once the **Crew** has discussed if a receiver was in the area.
23. Rule 6-2-6: The Neutral Zone is expanded into the EZ on scrimmage plays but not on scrimmage kicks.

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!!