

TO: OHSAA Football Officials

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

Subject: Defenseless Receivers Bulletin; 8/1/23

A note from the Director of Officiating:

There seems to be some confusion on 6-person crew scheduling. I am clarifying the policies in a memo to schools, but I wanted to make sure officials are clear. Existing 6-person crews are to be paid the full rate if they are scheduled for games. **We do NOT want existing 5-person crews to “poach” officials from other crews to become 6-person crews. We will grow to full 6-person varsity crews as we bring new officials on board.** You may contact me at brugg@ohsaa.org with questions.

These Rulings supersede any previous ones that you have heard or read regarding new Rule 2-32-16d & Rule 9-4-3g.

1. Rule 2-32-16d (RB P. 38): “A receiver in (b) & (c) above, including the person intercepting the pass who is forcefully contacted by an opponent & that contact is not:
1. Incidental contact as a result of making a play on the ball; 2. Initiated with open hands; or 3. An attempt to tackle by wrapping arm(s) around the receiver”.
2. Rule 9-4-3g (RB P. 73): “Make any other contact with an opponent, including a defenseless player (as in 2-32-16), which is deemed unnecessary or excessive & which incites roughness.”
3. Impact of This New Rule: This is a dramatic change from how players have been taught to contact receivers over their career. Considering the number of passes now thrown in today’s game, this new Rule will “come into play” many times during each game.
4. Scrimmages: We need your help as well as your Crew’s help when working scrimmages over the next few weeks. When you meet with both Head Coaches spend some time discussing this new Rule. Then ask the Head Coaches to point out their Defensive Coordinators & Secondary Coaches. Spend time with them explaining this new Rule.
5. Scrimmages **ONLY**: If in doubt, throw your flag when it is close as to whether a foul has occurred regarding this new Rule. Why? This is an excellent teaching opportunity for players, coaches, & your fellow officials to discuss this new Rule.
6. Crew Discussions: When there are breaks during the scrimmages or after the scrimmages, get together & discuss as a Crew regarding your coverages, Rule application, & judgment. This is important since we are also ruling on DPI & OPI on those “bang bang” plays where it is very close as to a foul or not.
7. Crew Calls: As we know the game is all about angles to make these calls. Sometimes another Crew member who is not as close to the receiver/opponent (s) will have an

excellent angel & will need to make a “Crew Call” – he or she will have to come from a distance to make this important call. Be ready to assist & make this call.

8. Defenseless Receivers - Video Review: Many of you (750 officials) have already attended the OHSAA State Officials & Interpreters Clinics as well as OHSAA SRI Face to Face Meetings. Many more (450 - 500 officials) will attend OHSAA SRI Face to Face Meetings at New Philadelphia, Columbus, Findlay, & Cleveland in the next 2 weeks. These are excellent “first hand” opportunities to view video & hear the discussion. In addition we will discuss these Rules during our first Virtual Meeting.