

TO: «AthleticDirector1Name», Athletic Administrator for ID# «OhsaaSchoolId»
«SchoolName», Head Football Coaches

FROM: Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating and Football Administrator
Scott Kaufman, Director of Sport Administration and Operations, Charles Anderson,
Manager of Officiating,

RE: 2026 Weekly Word, Week 5

We had fewer ejections this past week. Keep it up!

Questions of the Week

Here are a couple of questions I received this week:

1. Noise: Number 5 in this link: [FootballRegs.pdf](#) (page127) covers REGULAR SEASON noise. It talks about bands and amplified noise during play. It does not talk about fans. The host school is responsible for policies for fans in regular season. TOURNAMENT restrictions are different. They are 3.4 (page6) in this document: [2004 Boys Football Tournament Regulations](#)
Plastic horns that fans blow into are allowed in regular season and tournament.
1. It is that time of year for presentations. Remember NFHS Rule 3, Section 1, Article 6 states that halftime must be a minimum of 10 minutes and no more than 20 minutes. **I cannot grant permission to go beyond 20 minutes.** There are ways to “stretch” the time, but you cannot put 25 minutes on the clock.
2. The Neutral Site hosting questionnaire is available. The dates are 11/20 and 11/27. Here is the link: [2026 OHSAA Football Tournament Neutral Site Survey \(Nov. 20, & Nov. 27\)](#)

Rules

Blocking below the waist (BBW) may only be done legally by lineman on lineman **inside the free blocking zone (offense or defense). The contact must be on the initial line charge!** There is no BBW on kicks or by any player coming from outside the free blocking zone (FBZ). Here are two plays. One on a kick and one by the defense coming from outside the FBZ and after the initial line charge: [BBW.KO.mov](#) [BBW.DE.LG \(1\).mov](#)

Reminders

1. We have recognized Girls Flag Football as an OHSAA sanctioned sport for Spring 2027. Playing rules and tournament structure will be finalized by the end of the Fall. **The rules will specify 5 on 5 as the game format.**
2. The online Coach's state rules interpretation meeting is available on your MyOHSAA account, with a \$50 late fee. The deadline with a \$50 late fee is October 7.
3. **Schools that do not complete the online meeting will not be eligible for the tournament.**
4. The Experimental Rule Ohio is using on Kickoffs should help speed up play. Here is a link to the description of the rule: [2026 Experimental Rule.pptx](#)

Video

1. Your video clips are the best. Please send me any plays you wish!
2. I will give you my honest opinion on any play you send.
PLEASE EMAIL BEAU AT BRUGG@OHSAA.ORG WITH QUESTIONS