

## Notes to Football Officials: November 22, 2010

1. **Local Coordinators and Attendance:** Local coordinators need to get the attendance reports in to Sheree as soon as possible.
2. **Playoff Crews:** Game night procedure----If you are not on site and have not contacted the game manager by 60 minutes prior to kick-off---CALL ME at 405-818-3541 so I can notify the site that you are on your way. I would prefer you are on site 90 minutes prior to the kick-off.

## Notes to Football Officials: November 15, 2010

1. **Local Coordinators and Attendance:** Local coordinators need to get the attendance reports in to Sheree as soon as possible.
2. **Playoff Crews:** Game night procedure----If you are not on site and have not contacted the game manager by 60 minutes prior to kick-off---CALL ME at 405-818-3541 so I can notify the site that you are on your way. I would prefer you are on site 90 minutes prior to the kick-off.
3. **Contact Game Site:** White hat should contact the game site manager to insure that your crew will be on time at the correct location. Official paychecks come from the host school in second round games.
4. **Round One:** Eighty-eight crews worked round one and everyone got to their game site on time. Thanks for taking care of business and being professional "off" the field.

## Notes to Football Officials: November 8, 2010

5. **Local Coordinators and Attendance:** Local coordinators need to get the attendance reports in to Sheree as soon as possible.
6. **Playoff Crews:** Game night procedure----If you are not on site and have not contacted the game manager by 60 minutes prior to kick-off---CALL ME at 405-818-3541 so I can notify the site that you are on your way. I would prefer you are on site 90 minutes prior to the kick-off.

7. **Second Round Playoff Assignments:** The protocol for football playoff assignments this year will be to have the assignments posted on the OSSAA website (white hats should enter the site used to give their availability---**check the site as opposed to waiting on an email**---the email that is generated to you will be delayed by the number of emails going out that night) **by 6 pm on Sunday. Acceptance responses will need to be received by Sheree or myself** (preferably by email) **by noon on Monday or we will assume your crew is not available to take the assignment and we will begin to find a replacement.**
8. **Playoff Crews and Review:** Take a few moments during pregame and review the following items.
- *Fourth down and offensive pass interference.*
  - *Overtime procedure.*
  - *Concussion procedures.*
  - *Illegal lineman down field penalty.*
  - *Illegal equipment: In enforcing the uniform requirements be sure you are concerned with player safety and if a piece of equipment gives a player an advantage.*
9. **Playoff Assignments:** The first round of playoff assignments went out on Sunday. I am sure there are several crews that are disappointed in not getting an assignment this week. **My thoughts on assignments and the assignment process:**
- *Over 120 crews turned in availability for the 2010 football playoffs. Several of those crews did not meet the basic criteria for selection: Having four certified officials on the crew, passing Part 1, Part 2 and the Mechanics test and having all members of the crew view the NFHS Concussion Video. **Taking the crew test was NOT a requirement.***
  - *Of the qualifying crews, rankings lists were made on the crew's three-year (2007-09) rating, the crew's one-year rating (2009) and the crew's points through the 2010 season. A composite ranking was then determined from the average of the crew ranking on each of the three lists.*
  - *Input and recommendations were received from OSSAA football observers, local coordinators and football assignors.*
  - *Other factors that are considered in determining assignments are geography of officials and games, level of games called during the season, experience in playoffs, and coaches' scratch lists.*
  - *The process is by no means totally an objective process. When adding the input from different sources it is not possible to arrive with a totally number-driven process.*
  - *Because of availability issues, there will be crews that will work the 2<sup>nd</sup> round that did not work the 1<sup>st</sup> round. Working or not working in a round does not guarantee or prohibit a crew from working the next round.*

## **Notes to Football Officials: November 1, 2010**

1. **Playoff Assignments:** The protocol for football playoff assignments this year will be to have the assignments posted on the OSSAA website (white hats should enter the site

used to give their availability---check the site as opposed to waiting on an email---the email that is generated to you will be delayed by the number of emails going out that night) **by 6 pm on Sunday. Acceptance responses will need to be received by Sheree or myself** (preferably by email) **by noon on Monday or we will assume your crew is not available to take the assignment and we will begin to find a replacement.**

- 2. First Round:** Due to change in the bracket format, there will be 88 first round contests this year.
- 3. Number of tests:** Many of you have brought to my attention the number of tests you had to take this year to reach the football playoffs. Be advised that I have heard your comments and will look to “streamline” our testing process for the future.

## **Notes to Football Officials: October 25, 2010**

- 1. Crew Test:** I have had some feedback both positive and negative on the crew test and the posting of the crew test scores. Many of you expressed your views that the test was tough and demanding. The purpose of the test was three-fold. One, to give crews a chance to generate some data for playoff consideration that was not driven by coaches or observers. Two, to show crews how they compared in their knowledge of the rules to other crews in the state. Finally and most importantly, to make the crews see what they know and what they don't know and motivate them to “get in” the rule book. I was disappointed to hear that some crews spent time calling and comparing scores---this was unprofessional and was certainly never intended to be a part of the crew test process. I hope that many of you will use the results of the test to help improve your knowledge level and collectively the knowledge level of your crew.

## **Notes to Football Officials: October 18, 2010**

- 1. Crew Test Results:** All the tests have been graded and we have compiled a list of the scores. We will post the scores by Friday, October 22 by the white hat's ID number. Access to this results document will be in the same manner that the white hat filled

out playoff availability. The test with answers will be posted by Friday, October 22 on the Official's Page under Football Officials.

2. **Taking Care of Business Off the Field:** To be eligible to officiate in the playoffs; officials need to be enrolled with the OSSAA and have taken and passed Part 1 Rules Test, Part 2 Rules Test, the Mechanics Test and viewed the Concussion video. Many officials did not take care of these requirements and have put their crew in jeopardy of not receiving a playoff assignment.
3. **Availability for Playoffs:** Should your availability change after entering your information in the computer---call Sheree **immediately** to update your status.
4. **Rating Guideline:** This playoff season we will require four of the five officials to have a "C" rating through the semi-final rounds. All finals will have crews with all "C" rated officials.

## **Notes to Football Officials: October 11, 2010**

1. **EJECTIONS:** Please notify me within 24 hours by email if you have a player or coach ejection. Follow the protocol listed on the website at the link for reporting an ejection of a player or coach listed on the Official's Page. **BE SURE** the coach knows a player has been ejected and why the player has been ejected.
2. **BLACK PANTS:** The foul weather pants may be worn at any date as long as all members of the crew are dressed the same.
3. **Availability for Playoffs:** Please continue to register your crew playoff availability.
4. **Communicate:** Communication between coaches and officials needs to be professional and concise.
5. **Restricted Area:** Keep the restricted area clear of players and coaches while the ball is alive regardless of the level of play. **Do not enforce the rule differently on Junior High and Junior Varsity nights.**

## **Notes to Football Officials: October 4, 2010**

1. **Availability for Playoffs:** We are experiencing some computer glitches with the availability registration on the website. Please continue to try registering your crew and your playoff availability.
2. **Crew Test Results:** We will return the graded test to the white hat. We will post on the website a copy of the test with correct answers. We will post a list of all crews that took the test and the crew's score listed by ID number of the white hat. This will allow crew's to see what the scores were across the state. (If you do **NOT** want your crew's score listed email Sheree at [sriddell@ossaa.com](mailto:sriddell@ossaa.com)) Target date for posting these scores is November 1.
3. **Proper equipment:** Proper equipment includes that the pants of the players come down below the knee. Pants above the knee (as seen on TV on Saturday and Sunday) are **NOT** proper equipment under NFHS rules. Please have your crew do a proper pregame check of players.
4. **Hip/Tail Pads in a One-piece Girdle:** The NFHS rules have no specifications for the hip and tail pads other than these pads may not be altered from the manufacturer. There are several one-piece girdles with hip and tail pads sewn in the girdle on the market right now. As long as these girdles have not been altered from the manufacturer; the girdles would be legal.

## **Notes to Football Officials: September 27, 2010**

1. **Availability for Playoffs:** The instructions for recording the crew's playoff availability will be e-mailed to the crew white hat October 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. **Mentor program:** Mentor program documentation is due on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Notes to Football Officials: September 20, 2010**

1. **Proper Equipment:** From David Gore, OSSAA Football Rules Interpreter;

There are certainly some situations where I will visit with a head coach about legal equipment and the head coach will sign the gold card and then I begin to see some evidence of all players not legally equipped. I would not suggest that is has become a major problem, but there are some coaches that "assume" that their kids are legally equipped when it would appear that no member of the coaching staff has checked that out. Missing thigh, knee, and hip padding is not always easy to see. Pants that are too short are quite easy to see.

2. **Illegal Shift:** From David Gore, OSSAA Football Rules Interpreter;

A player who is on the end of the line of scrimmage (uncovered) is allowed to shift which would certainly include picking up his hand off of the ground BUT he must do so in a manner that does not simulate action at the snap. I would suggest that officials need to be very strict with this if the TE is lifting his hand off of the ground with no intent to shift or change positions. He can lift his hand legally to re-position himself BUT he better do it in a very deliberate and slow manner. I would give him NO benefit of the doubt if he is not in fact shifting to another position. A quick, jerking motion would certainly call for a flag for a false start in my opinion. It is still a situation where you have to see it happen and make a decision based on his intent in your opinion.

**3. Kicking Tee Clarification: Recently I was asked to inquire of the NFHS if it was possible to attach two or more kicking blocks together to increase the surface area while not increasing the height of the tee. This is LEGAL. Below is the response for NFHS:**

Based on what we have written in the NFHS Football Rules Book, this would be legal as we do not address surface area, only height of the tee. This is something that the NFHS Football Rules Committee will discuss in more detail come this January when they meet.

**4. Waiver: There are a few equipment waivers that I have had to issue due to specific doctor-documented health situations of players. These waivers are on OSSAA letterhead.**

**5. District Play: The majority of our member schools begin District play this week. Please note your involvement is critical to the success of these events. Thanks for taking time to prepare both mentally and physically for these games. Remember the saying, “Without officials they would just call it recess!”**

**6. Special Thanks: Special thanks to all of you that participated in “Win-Win Week.” What a great cause to be a part of as an official, player or coach. *(Note the pictures of the Jeff Murray football crew on the home page. Jeff and his wife both are battling cancer at this time.)***

**7. Photos and Video: Anytime you get a photo of officials that you would like to share; please send our way and we will try to put it up on the rotating photo gallery on the Home Page. Any video that could be used as a “teachable moment” for others I would like to collect for training purposes.**

## **Notes to Football Officials: September 13, 2010**

**1. Hands to the Face: As the coaches are watching more video, I have received emails concerned about the number of incidents that are occurring between lineman involving “hands to the facemask” in the initial charge off the ball at the snap. Be sure this is discussed during your pre-game.**

2. **Dead Ball Officiating:** Discuss in your pre-game how coverage will be maintained of the players during the time the ball is dead. When officials huddle together to discuss penalty enforcement, there is still a need for coverage of the players to insure no other incident occurs.
3. **Inadvertent whistle:** Cover in pre-game the inadvertent whistle situation.
4. **Preventive Officiating:** There is a place for preventive officiating. However, after viewing an infraction is not the time for preventive officiating. “Warning” a player that repeating that action will result in a flag is not preventive officiating. When you see a foul----drop your flag.
5. **Fights:** Be sure you have discussed in pre-game about the actions of the crew should a fight occur. It is important for documentation purposes that we have an official’s account of who participated and what penalties were called and enforced but also it is very important that we get “eyes” on the bench area and on the non-participants. Cover in pre-game how your crew is going to handle this situation.

## **Notes to Football Officials: September 7, 2010**

1. **LIGHTNING:** In the event the game must be suspended temporarily for inclement weather or lightning, the OSSAA has no specific policy on resumption of play. The NFHS guidelines located on Page 102 of 2010 Football Rule Book, has a recommendation of 30 minutes wait after a lightning flash. This is only a recommendation and should be taken as such. The OSSAA would recommend that the officials confer with school administrators from both schools to make a decision regarding return to play or cancelling the remainder of the contest.
2. **WIN-WIN WEEK:** The OSSAA in conjunction with OU Cancer Research Center are sponsoring WIN-WIN WEEK September 13-17. *(more info on WIN-WIN WEEK can be found on the Home Page of OSSAA website)* Schools in the OSSAA are encouraged to participate in “Pink Week” activities. This will include adding pink to the uniform of athletes playing in OSSAA contests during that week. Officials may chose to participate by using pink whistles, using pink bean bags or wearing pink wrist bands. Officials should be mindful of safety issues as it pertains to uniform adjustments.
3. **BLACK PANTS:** The foul weather pants may be worn at any date as long as all members of the crew are dressed the same.

4. **CREW TEST:** Test to be mailed from the office by September 17<sup>th</sup>.
5. **REMINDERS AND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:** Please read through the reminders and FAQ's located on the Officials' Page with the link "Reminders and Frequently Asked Questions for 2010 Football Officials."
6. **Mechanics Test and Part 2 Test:** Both tests are available now on line and both tests have been shortened to 50 questions. **Both tests end October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **Notes to Football Officials: August 30, 2010**

1. **EJECTIONS:** Please follow the protocol listed on the Officials Page for ejecting a player or a coach. BE SURE the coach is notified when you eject a player. NFHS Rules do not allow an official to sit a player for the remainder of a game.
2. **CONCUSSION:** Should a player suffer a concussion to the extent that the player loses consciousness, **DO NOT** allow that player to re-enter the contest.
3. **WHITE HATS:** Please email your crew names and any subs you know you will use this season to Sheree at [sriddell@ossaa.com](mailto:sriddell@ossaa.com) for our records.
4. **HYDRATE:** Insure that all crew members and players are hydrating properly during the contest.
5. **Mechanics Test and Part 2 Test:** Both tests are available now on line and both tests have been shortened to 50 questions.
6. **REMINDERS:**
  - *Good mechanics and signals are a must. Use only NFHS approved signals.*
  - *See the entire play---do no rush the call.*
  - *If you cannot see the ball---do not blow your whistle or signal a score!*
  - *Be a good dead ball official---see what is happening around the pile of players.*

## **Notes to Football Officials: August 24, 2010**

1. **WHITE HATS:** Please email your crew names and any subs you know you will use this season to Sheree at [sriddell@ossaa.com](mailto:sriddell@ossaa.com) for our records.
2. **HYDRATE:** Insure that all crew members and players are hydrating properly during the contest.

3. **Mechanics Test and Part 2 Test:** Both tests are available now on line and both tests have been shortened to 50 questions.
4. **Regular Season Begins September 2:** Take a few moments to review the 2010 Rule Changes and the 2010 concussion procedures.

## **Notes to Football Officials: August 17, 2010**

1. **Football schedules** need to be received by Sheree by August 20<sup>th</sup> to allow time to make assignments for the OSSAA Football observers.
2. If your crew wants to request an **observation** this season notify Sheree by email at by August 20<sup>th</sup>.
3. Notify Sheree if your crew wishes to take the **Crew Test** by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Crew Test will be mailed out on September 17<sup>th</sup>. More information on Crew Test on Officials Page.
4. To officiate in the 2010 playoffs, each member of the crew needs to have taken the **Concussion Video** at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com) and has sent a copy of the certificate to us in the office. ***(If possible, write your OSSAA ID number on the certificate and the name of your white hat!!!!)***
5. **Mentoring documentation** is due in the office by October 15<sup>th</sup>.
6. This season, 4 of the 5 crew members must have a **"C" rating** to call in the playoffs through the semi-final round. Finals will require all members to have a "C" rating. It is our intention not to allow **subs** on crews in the playoffs after round 1.
7. **Coach Ejection reports** are found on the official's page under football officials.
8. **All OSSAA rules and regulations apply to scrimmages.**