

Weekly Bulletin week ending 10/8/21

* **Testing –** Please go here [https://ocfoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Summary-of-Officials-that-have-passed-2021-tests-as-9-29-21.xlsx](https://ocfoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Summary-of-Officials-that-have-passed-2021-tests-as-9-29-21.xlsx%20) to get the lowdown on the required testing. The testing is open till 10/7 midnight. If you need more time, let me know
* **Tinted Shields** – I can’t believe this has become an issue again, but it has. No player, regardless of a doctor’s note, can play wearing a tinted shield. I’ve had numerous reports of multiple players on a single team wearing them in lower-level games. When they are told to take them off, their response is that they’ve been wearing them all season. We’ve all have heard that before and we know it’s probably BS, but don’t be that guy that lets this go.
* **Classification Test** I’m gonna get pissy here. The next person that calls or emails me that they got over 80% on the Classification Test but Arbiter says they failed is going to owe me a beer. I’ve sent numerous emails and discussed this several times during our meetings. Something is wrong in Arbiter, it failed EVERYONE. Don’t worry about it, I know you passed you will get credit for the test.
* **Conduct during meetings** – I’ve received more than a few comments regarding behavior during our meetings. People are making dinner; they are watching TV, and some are having an adult beverage. Please, if you are going to have a beer or whatever during the meeting, turn your camera off while you are sipping and please do not imbibe to the point of obvious intoxication. Myself, I love these virtual meetings, I don’t want to have to stop doing them.
* **Meeting 4 video**: If you missed meeting #4 and want to watch it for credit, please email me.
* **Meeting 5** – My intention is to have a position focused meeting. That means I need a list of issues from the crew chiefs. I need someone to volunteer to run the meeting for the Referee’s, Umpire’s and Back Judges. It will be my decision who does this. I will run the Flanks meeting.
As of this writing I have heard back from exactly 1crew chief with his issues for the other positions. I have also not had any volunteers to run the R, U and BJ class. If I don’t hear back from at least half of the crew chiefs and I don’t have volunteers to run the position classes, we are simply going to have a standard meeting.
* **Master Schedule is posted–** Week 7 is here https://ocfoa.org/members-area/master-schedule/
* **Meeting Attendance Tracking -**Please make sure you submit on the attendance app for every meeting. Meeting 1 was code 1000, Meeting 2 was 2000, 3 was 3000, 4 was 4000 and 5 will be 5000. If you didn’t attend do not say that you did until I give you the OK. You will have to pass a short quiz after viewing the recording of the meeting to get credit. If you submit an attendance code and you didn’t attend, that is an ethics violation. I have other records of who attended the meetings
* **Umpire positioning, turning on passes.** After last week’s somewhat contentious meeting about the new Umpire mechanic, I am calling a meeting with all Referees (crew and non -crew) as well as all Umpire (crew and non-crew) on October 12th at 6:30pm. The intention is to massage the mechanic and talk about individual modifications that are acceptable. We also want to discuss issues from the R and the U that they’ve encountered using the new mechanic. Steve Coover will attend to offer insight and address concerns. Hopefully we can resolve the issues
* **Holding** – An offensive player shall not use his hands, arms or legs to hook, lock, clamp, grasp. Encircle or hold in an effort to restrain an opponent.  When we view action that shows signs/indicators of holding as described above, then we check to make sure the restraint is a significant restrain (a material restriction).  Once the action rises to a level considered/judged to be “significant” we pause for a third and final step which is to determine if an advantage has been gained by viewing the play itself.  If the runner is tackled for no gain, then we’d have an example of holding action that would not be penalized.  Same thing if the pass had already been thrown or it were on the opposite side of the field from the direction of the point of attack.  We are currently see more “throw down” type blocks which at the point of attack must be penalized as holding 10-yards.  “Throw down” blocks away from the play must be penalized as a personal foul which is a 15-yard penalty.
* **Communication with Players and Coaches** – Communicating with players is like communicating with the coaching staffs.  What you say to players is going to be repeated to the coaches.  So comments like, “you’re not getting held, you’re getting beat” or “it was a 5 yard loss anyway we’re not going to call holding”  or “I'm not calling that unless my grandma can see the foul” does nothing for the game and makes us look quite bad.  I have no defense for these types of comments to players or even coaches. Please respond with facts, or the rule, or “I saw the block and it was close but legal.”  “I was focused on other action on that play, I’ll watch for that foul.” “Coach we just saw the play differently.”  “I hear you, I understand.” “What did you see?”  Remember, positive and proper communication starts as we arrive at the school.  If we get to a difficult situation and then want to establish strong, positive responses, it’s too late.  Be professional from the time you park your car – through pregame of the varsity contest and at all times during the game , and post-game.
* **Who Fouled First – FST or DOF?** - We have all had this, and there are times at all levels of football the officials can spend quite a bit of time trying to get it right.  Did the offensive team False Start or Defense Encroach first?  R and U can have a flag down for FST and can offer input.   Encroachment is generally a LOS official’s call.  This is a “Big Picture” call that HL and LJ need to have all the information whenever possible. Remember an exaggerated shift or body motion by the QB, if it draws the defense to encroach should seriously be considered a false start. Get together and discuss it.
* Food For Thought –

1. A 1/10 from the B-26, run to the B-12, where player A88 is down by rule. When A88 gets up he taunts Team B and is penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct. Immediately after the play, and before the penalty is assessed, the chains move from their previous location.

Ruling: The play ended beyond the line-to-gain so Team A is awarded a first down. The unsportsmanlike penalty is enforced as a dead ball foul and the chains moving are of no consequence because a first down has been earned on the play. The dead ball UNS is penalized back 15-yards where it will be 1/10 at the B-27.

2. A1 takes the snap and fakes a handoff to A2, then hands the ball to A3. B3 bites on the fake and attempts to tackle A2. The impact causes the helmet to come completely off A2's head. A3 advances 10 yards and is downed. (2-32-14; 4-2-2k)

Ruling: The ball remains live when A2's helmet comes off.

3. After fair-catching a punt, team A snaps from team B's 45 yardline. A1 runs for 10 yards. During the down, B2 grasped and pulled A1's facemask. With the ball at team BS 20 yardline, team A wants to attempt a field goal. (4-1-2c; 6-5-4; 8-4-1a; 4-3-7; 6-5-4)

Ruling: The attempt can be a free kick or scrimmage kick.