



## Week -3 Notes

**PI Meeting** This Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm at the Elks Lodge 1751 S. Elk Ln. Santa Ana. The Elks Lodge is located just West of the 55, take the Edinger offramp and turn left on Lyons about a mile down Edinger.

Zoom information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9497560606?pwd=VThoenhmVzhMd2QyR29XdjdPZEk0QT09> . Do not forget to log your attendance using the Attendance app or you can go to <https://ocfoa.org/members-area/attendance/>

**Redding Guide** You have 1 week left to purchase your Redding Guide. The order form will not be available after July 31<sup>st</sup>. So far only 15 people have placed an order. I am frankly baffled by that number. This book is by far the best explanation of high school football rules. It contains easy to understand language, numerous examples, and testing. If you want to purchase one, please go here <https://form.jotform.com/231896564499174> All guides this year will be spiral bound and will come with a surprise.

**DPI Categories** - In anticipation of Thursdays meeting, please take a look at this document <https://ocfoa.org/2023/07/24/categories-of-dpi/> These categories will be the focus of the meeting and if you commit them to memory along with the descriptions, you will find it much easier to talk to coaches and players when discussing pass interference.

**Must see TV** If you haven't already, please watch these 3 videos

This video deals with the new penalty enforcement rule changes. Obviously, very important.  
[https://youtu.be/teUTjbfQ4\\_U](https://youtu.be/teUTjbfQ4_U)

This video deals with the change to the definition of legal contact to a defenseless receiver  
<https://youtu.be/8Fxut8lpB5M>

This video describes an updated process for dealing with equipment violations  
<https://youtu.be/EsVxtvcEEIk>

**Use of Whistle** We all know that the play often kills itself and a whistle is unnecessary. When should you blow your whistle? Here are a few examples.

- When any part of the body other than the hands or feet has touched the ground and you can clearly see the ball
- Forward progress is stopped
- Punts, Free Kicks and Fair Catch situations usually call for a whistle, but be sure the ball carrier is down with possession of the ball. In the case of a fair catch, delay until you are sure the receiver possesses the ball.
- When a ball carrier steps out of bounds
- To stop potentially escalating non legal contact during a dead ball

There are of course other times to blow your whistle, but the play kills itself, not the whistle. Slow whistles will help you avoid the dreaded Inadvertent Whistle!

**Movement** We are beginning to move away from movement just to move. We want to move with a purpose, and we want to have stopped moving prior to making a call, therefore having quiet eyes. Our eyes bounce when we run and that leads to poor perception. This will be a topic of focus throughout the season.

**Fitness** - Scrimmages are two weeks away! You want to look good out there so update your uniform, tailor those pants, and keep up your fitness routine. Don't forget to hydrate in this heat starting the day before the scrimmage and provide time for your stretching routine to prevent injury.

**When Does a Team Get to Choose Where the Ball is Placed?** – Prior to the ready-for-play, the offense may designate the spot between the hash marks: For a try; kickoff; following a safety; following a fair catch or awarded fair catch; touchback and the start of each new series in overtime.

**Proper Spots**-At the CFOA Instructional Meeting a week ago, it was emphasized that properly spotting the ball is not optional. There are associations that put the ball on a line on EVERY play. If this happens in OCFOA it will result in downgrade for the crew. Umpires must make every effort to spot the ball where the flanks are marking it. If they don't, the flank closest to the ball should inform the Umpire that the ball is not spotted correctly and the Umpire should adjust the position accordingly. Not only should the progress spot be correct, but also the spot where the play ended between the hash marks should be as exact as possible. Consistently moving the ball toward the center of the field is not acceptable.

### **Quick Tips for Communicating with Head Coaches:**

- a. Never, never, never ignore a coach's request. You may have to inform the coach that you will have to wait a play or two to get the information to the other officials, but never ignore!
- b. Make eye contact. A coach wants to be assured that he has your attention.
- c. Avoid "squaring off with the coach" rather, turn your body slightly at an angle.
- d. Refer to the coach as "Coach" or "Coach Jones".
- e. Keep your communication brief and formal.
- f. Avoid joking and sarcasm.
- g. Adopt a neutral tone and avoid any personal remarks.
- h. Stick to the issue at hand in a straightforward way.
- i. Ask them to help with problem players. Be sure to identify the problem in explicit terms, without making the player to be an evil person. Sometimes it's hard to do, but it can be accomplished with a careful choice of language.
- j. Remember: get used to the coach having the last say. This will most likely end the conversation.
- k. Remain calm under all circumstances. Let coaches have their say. When a coach approaches to protest or argue, adopt an instant "listening mode" and let the aggrieved individual finish his remarks. Don't interrupt.
- l. Use non-confrontational body language. To be aware of body posture, facial expression, head tilt and arm position, one must say, "I am going to appear receptive and contemplative. I can think best and measure my words that way. I am determined to not escalate the problem."
- m. If you make a mistake, admit it. A simple apology is sufficient; do not elaborate or rationalize (i.e. make excuses)
- n. When a coach raises their voice, lower yours. A soft voice has a way of triggering a reciprocal soft reply.
- o. Support fellow officials. Never betray partners by showing that you doubt their judgment. Instead indicate faith in someone else's decision by saying the partner had a better view of a more favorable angle than the responding official or partner.
- p. Give praises to promote sportsmanship. When a coach makes a gesture of consideration for the opponents or towards the official, be sure to acknowledge it. Sometimes a smile and nod of the head are enough.
- q. Keep your ego under control. Often a mere glance will carry a significant message, whether it's negative or positive, whether it is meant to curtail dialogue or to encourage it. A quizzical expression can signal a desire for additional input, whereas a frown may denote closure.
- r. Don't use your hands when talking to a coach. Your gestures will reveal more than you'll want to convey.

**"Our primary job is to be the integrity of the game. It is a player's game, it is a coach's game, it is a fan's game and we are there to support the sense of fair play!" Tony Corrente,  
NFL Referee**