

FWFO Bulletin 09/29/2022

A lot of you might wonder why I include information that was included in previous bulletins. Simply put, the only reason I am having to repeat myself is because these things are still occurring. I wish it wasn't that way.

I'll also say this...If you take care of your business, and the bullet points or emails don't apply to you, move right past it. We have talked about how this is a two way street. If everyone would do things the way they are supposed to be done, we wouldn't have to keep sending this stuff out.

Taking Care of Business

- **There are some officials who think that they can wear out of state or CFO uniforms. There is a TASO approved uniform for sub-varsity and varsity these are the ones to be worn.**
- Update your availability in Reftown. Please guys, it is not hard. Our assignors put in a ton of time to get these games covered. The time spent is much more than you realize.
- Incident reports
 - If you are the official who makes a call to throw a player out of a game, YOU, the calling official, is the one who files the incident report. Not your crew chief, not the listed "R" on sub-varsity, YOU.
 - Please make sure you are filing incident reports in a timely fashion. If you are unsure about when and why an incident report should be filed, please see the forms section of the FWFO website.
- Face shields on helmets – **DIRECTIVE FROM THE UIL**
 - Face shields must be completely clear with ZERO tint of any kind. This includes the "clear" face shields that have a rose colored tint. Notice the word tint in the last sentence. The coaches won't like this, but we have to enforce it. They must be removed at any level. You may see these at the college level, but the UIL Exception is universal and there is nothing that can make a tinted visor legal. The UIL may approve tinted glasses or goggles for a player, but they are only allowed if the coach presents a letter from the UIL. A doctor's note does not make them legal.
- Sub varsity requirements and waiver
 - Open on the website, and will close on the 15th of October at midnight.
 - Please review the OPs and Karl's email that was sent out this week regarding the requirements.

- Crew Chief Training
 - Classes will be held on three dates
 - Monday, October 3, 6:30 pm
 - Sunday, October 9, 6:30 pm
 - Monday, October 17, 6:30 pm
 - Each class will be presented on Zoom and the link will be posted by Karl at a later date. Each night will include Module 1 and Module 2. Members are not required to attend all three nights as each night will contain the exact same material. You can attend Module 1 on one night and Module 2 on another, if you wish.
 - These will be the only opportunities available this year, so please plan accordingly if you wish to be a crew chief during the 2023 season. If your name is not on the list under on the website (forms/general), you are required to attend the Referee Training Class if you wish to be a Crew Chief for the 2023 season.
 - Please note that the list is through today, 09-29-2022.
 - Rod will update this list weekly as classes are held.
- Film requests
 - We are not getting as many films as we have in the past from some schools, please note that we are working on getting in the schools' ears about getting us that so we can all get better. We ask for it every week...I PROMISE. Bear with us...

Training

- Fourth training tape shared via HUDL.
- Blocking below the waist
 - **Under no circumstance, can a pulling offensive lineman be legally blocked below the waist by the defense. We are still seeing this not called.**
- Game management
 - This dovetails into our discussion last week about arbitrarily disqualifying players for one UNS.
 - Our interaction with these kids needs to be positive, but we also need to understand we are not these kids' parents or coaches. We must use common sense and good judgment.

- Common sense would tell us that we should not insert ourselves in a conversation between two coaches on the sideline so why would this not apply to a conversation between teammates?
 - Common sense would also tell us that we handle 7th graders and Varsity players differently.
 - The vast majority of the time, coaches will handle any disrespect towards us or the other team from their kids as long as we give them the chance to.
 - Rabbit ears are never a good thing and situational awareness is also key in being a good game manager.
- In our officiating basics there are a few statements that stand out.
 - Warn whenever possible, as long as they respond.
 - “Thou shall only throw on state championship fouls.”
 - Raise your level of tolerance. MAKE IT BIG!
 - Manage the game without interjecting yourself into the game.
 - **Use your flag as a game management tool as a last resort.**

Good luck to each of you this week and I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please reach out to myself, Stacy, Chad or Rod.

Regards,

Ryan Vance

FWFO President 2022-2023

806-674-1045