

FWFO Bulletin Week 6

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Disqualifications

- When disqualifying a player, you must be confident of what you saw and discuss it with other crewmates before acting on the disqualification. **Players are disqualified when they commit TWO unsportsmanlike conduct (UNS) fouls in the game (9-2-6).** Do not combine UNS fouls with personal fouls. This is for UNS fouls only. The rules do allow for disqualification after only one UNS, but that foul **MUST BE FLAGRANT!** Before disqualifying a player, ask yourself and your crewmates, “Did this rise to the level of a flagrant foul?” The only times a player is disqualified on the first foul are:
 - Flagrant Targeting
 - Flagrant Personal Fouls
 - Fighting
 - Flagrant UNS fouls such as spitting on an opponent
- Rinse and repeat from the Week 3 bulletin...
 - The play is never over, be great dead ball officials
 - Warn whenever possible as long as they respond
 - Use your flag as a game management tool as a last resort
 - Have presence and use it whenever possible
 - Use common sense.
 - If we are going to DQ a kid, we need to make sure that we are 100% on it. This means there needs to be another official involved and discussed before we make this decision. I am not saying that you shouldn't DQ a kid when it is the right thing to do and he earned it, but it seems we sometimes don't try and deescalate the situation or have much of a discussion about it. Let's make sure that we slow down and fully assess and discuss the situation before we make the decision.
- **Please read section 13 of the officiating basics on Unsportsmanlike Conduct. It is on FO-6 under the new officiating standards section of the NCAA rule book.**

Foul reports

- We did better with this this week. Only 4 crews out of 61 games did not turn their foul report in. Thank you all for your efforts. Remember, even if you are a pool crew, you still need to enter in a foul report. Designate someone from the crew that night to keep track of fouls, or better yet, the whole crew can write down their fouls and put it together. **There is no excuse for a crew not to turn in a foul report.** I will also ask that the more information you put in the foul report the better. Things like comments, the score of the game, etc. These are all very helpful not only for the coaches when it is sent to them, it helps you and the VAC when fouls are reviewed at a later date.

HUDL

- Training tape 7 has been published. Please go review and let us know if you have any questions.

TRAINING

Face Shields

- Until this is fixed, I am going to have to keep putting it in the bulletin. Must be clear and colorless. Yes, this means the rose colored ones and the colorless ones that have a mirror effect. Clear is clear folks, by not enforcing this, you are cutting the legs out from your co-officials. **If you aren't sure it's clear and colorless, make them take it off.**

Confirmation Bias

- Defined - the tendency to search for, interpret, favor, and recall information in a way that confirms or supports one's prior beliefs or values.
- Why is this important for us as officials to watch out for this personally and as a crew? In order to judge our calls and decisions accurately after the fact we cannot let confirmation bias creep into our minds.
 - Don't look at calls you made on film with the mindset of "I was right" going into it. Assess it with a clean slate or else you will ultimately spend an inordinate amount of time trying find a way to justify your call with video that is either inconclusive or you may just be flat wrong.
 - Inconclusive video and incorrect calls are inevitable things in this business. Assess the play for what it is and find the things you need to do to be a better official rather than confirming your correctness. You and your crew will be better as a result.

Defensive Pass Interference

- You've heard it said, "Know a category for your foul before you throw." This is especially true when it comes to defensive pass interference. We'll talk about OPI in next week's bulletin.
- Remember, if you cannot put the action by the defender in one of the six DPI categories, you do not have a foul.
- Must haves for DPI to occur:
 - A catchable, legal forward pass that is in the air (when in question it is catchable)
 - Pass must be untouched beyond the NZ
 - The action must be against a player who is eligible to touch a legal forward pass
- Categories of DPI are:
 - Not playing the ball
 - The overwhelming number of DPI calls that are made, involve actions where the defender is not playing the ball. Not playing the ball is not a foul in and of itself, but it puts the official on high alert for contact that may occur prior to the ball's arrival (early contact).
 - If the defender is playing the ball, he is afforded more latitude relative to incidental contact. We see this on fade routes, especially in the end zone where both players have their hands on each other and as the ball arrives, provided the offensive player does not push off to create separation (OPI) and the defender does not grab the receiver or his arms restricting him from getting his arms up, all other contact is incidental to making a play for the ball.
 - Grab and Restrict
 - This is another version of not playing the ball where the defender grabs the receiver's jersey or body restricting or impeding him from jumping towards the ball or taking the receiver's feet away from where they are trying to go. In other words, this is defensive holding against a receiver while the ball is in the air. Remember that just because you see a jersey grab, does not mean that it is DPI. There must be a material restriction. When you see this, get your eyes on the receiver's feet.
 - Playing through the back of a receiver who has established position.
 - If both players have what we call "equal position" (example of this would be on the same yard line, shoulder to shoulder) then both players have equal rights to the ball and any contact from this position is considered incidental.

- Hook and turn
 - A defender is positioned slightly behind or to the side, trailing the receiver with one hand on the receiver and as the ball is arriving, reaches across with the other hand to bat the ball down. If he hooks or turns the receiver as he is reaching to bat the ball, then this becomes a foul.
 - Just having the hand on the receiver with no hook or turn and then batting the ball is not a foul.
- Arm bar
 - The defender uses his hand or arm to restrict the receiver from getting one of his hands or arm up to play the ball
- Cutoff
 - The defender places his body in front of the receiver while riding him out of bounds or intentionally slowing down to prevent the receiver from running his route and both of these are usually associated with not playing the ball as well.
- Please review DPI enforcement on FR-83 of the rule book and also remember that the categories are listed in the mechanics manual.

When Team A can relocate the ball

- PAT (8-3-2-c)
- Free Kick following a score or safety (6-1-2-a) & (8-5-2)
- Following a completed fair catch on a free kick (6-5-1-a)
 - Provided that the fair catch is completed inside the 25 yard line and the ball is moved to the 25 yard line for the next play.
- After a touchback (8-6-2)
- Start of an OT series (3-1-3-d)
- Following an unsuccessful FG where the ball is next put in play at the 20 yard line (8-4-2-b-1-a)
- Use common sense when working through these situations.
 - Rarely will a coach want to relocate the ball for a try where they are going to kick an extra point, so don't go ask the coach before every try where they want the ball. They'll tell you if they want something different.
 - Same goes for a two point try, this is not a situation where you need to stop down the game to ask.
 - Again, same thing for a kick off. The kicker is going to put it where he wants it.

- The best times to ask where they want the ball spotted is when you are bringing a new ball in. This would be the situations listed under bullet points 3-6.

The coaches' comments/complaints again were again fairly minimal this week and when they were lengthy, we were right most of the time. Thank you all for stepping up on a very difficult week. Proud to be a part of the best chapter in the State of Texas! If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please reach out to myself, Stacy, Chad or Rod.

GOOD LUCK THIS WEEK!

Regards,

Ryan Vance

FWFO President 2022-2023