

FWFO Bulletin Playoffs Week 1

UIL Incident Reports

- Please make sure before filing any UIL incident reports that you let the VAC know about it before hand.

Playoff Recap

- FWFO received 39 UIL playoff games in the first round and 6 private school games. The chapter ranked 2nd only behind Houston in total playoff games received. Last year we had only 36 playoff games in round 1 and we were able to bring back 15 games. If the same percentage holds true, we should get 19 in the second round. I would love to see us exceed that and have 25 next week. Let's set that as our goal!

Expectations

- At the banquet I told you all that the vast majority of the playoff requests we received were from repeat customers. This and the above results is a testament to your hard work and effort not only this season, but past seasons as well. Kudos to all of you for bringing games back to the chapter. That being said, the fishing boats have been sent out, reel these folks back in. **The goal is leaving both the winning coach and the losing coach wanting to use FWFO again in the future.**
 - The way to succeed in this is to call the game how you see it and the way you have done it as a crew all season.
 - There is no calling the game different because it is playoffs. You should have been calling your games this way from the first week on.
 - Communication with the players and coaches is key.
- If you did not get a playoff game in the first round, don't get discouraged. Take the opportunity to go out and support the crews we have working this week. You might learn something new that you can apply to your officiating going forward or for your crew. We have and will continue to take a rising tide raises all boats approach to playoff assignments.
- I want to leave you with a list of officiating proverbs/basics. Most of you have seen this list before, but it would be good to review them again in your pre-game tonight and tomorrow. If we stick to these, rest assured that your performance will be very solid.

FOOTBALL OFFICIATING BASICS

- See the Play, Read the Play, Make the Call. GO SLOW
- When you think you're going slow, slow down some more.
- Own your position
- Get in position to make the call. Mechanics are the key.
- Use the philosophies and techniques you've been taught.
- Missed calls are usually because you stayed with your key too long or not long enough.
- Blow the whistle only when you see the football.
- Officiate lines and threats by their order of occurrence and level of importance.
- Be 100% on the basic non-judgment fouls for your position. Take your chances with the rest.
- Warn whenever possible, as long as they respond.
- Know a category for your foul before you throw.
- Use common sense.
- Always call player safety fouls.
- Call the things that give a team an **unfair** advantage.
- Raise your level of tolerance. MAKE IT BIG!
- Thou shall only throw on state championship fouls.
- Ask yourself..."how can I not call this?"
- A foul with no flag is infinitely better than flag with no foul.
- Don't overthink. Go with your gut.
- Be decisive when making a call.
- Keep crew conferences to a minimum, but get it right.
- Penalty enforcement, the down, and clock management is the job of the entire crew.
- Have the courage to question what you believe to be incorrect.
- The play is never over. Be great dead ball officials.
- Have presence and use it whenever possible.
- Manage the game without interjecting yourself into the game.
- Use your flag as a game management tool as a last resort.
- Be non-memorable.
- Always penalize the instigator
- Always be professional in everything we say and do, and never miss a good chance to shut up.

What makes a good official?

- Mechanics- the official is in the appropriate spot at the appropriate time to officiate the play from his or her position
- Rules knowledge – the official is able to apply the rules correctly to the play in front of them
- Good judgment – Football officiating is not black and white. Which is why we have philosophies and when in question scenarios in the rule book.
- Being prepared – good officials are prepared mentally and physically to officiate each play. This preparation is continuous.
 - To have a good game, **you must be prepared.**
- If you don't bring you're "A Game" for multiple games, you really don't have an "A Game"
- Good officials work in cruise control, but at a good pace throughout the game.
- Good officials don't do one thing 100% better than everyone, they do 100 things 1% better.
- Good officials have good verbal and non-verbal communication, and don't sound or look emotional.
- Most plays can be officiated by anyone, but there are 4-5 in a game that make or break you.

This season has been challenging but we made it through with flying colors. We appreciate each of your efforts. I am 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