

# Veteran Advice: Short Flank Breakout Session

Fort Worth Football Officials  
Training Program





# 1. Consistency and Concentration

- You have one job. Call the game.
- Short flanks have more responsibility than any other position on the field.
- Eliminate distractions as much as possible.
- Call the game the same way in the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup>



## 2. Know your Mechanics

- Best way to leave a good impression with other officials, coaches
- Keep your signals clean
- Be that person who knows how to work the game
- Player safety on out-of-bounds plays



# 3. Have a Pre-Snap Routine

- Best way to stay locked in and focused
- Be a good dead-ball official.
- Count – Formation – Line to gain - Keys



# 4. Look down the line

- Pre-Snap: Main focus is the Line of Scrimmage
- Awareness of movement in your peripheral
- After the snap, quickly observe the Tackle on your side. Will usually indicate the type of play.



# 5. See the whole play

- See what you call and call what you see
- Be confident! If you only *think* you saw it... you didn't see it clearly enough.
- Easy to get fooled on a low block or block in the back
- Keep officiating after you throw your flag



# 6. Keep your Chain Crew involved

- Learn their names. Use them when communicating.
- Have them give you the down and distance or the line to gain.
- They are part of the crew – treat them that way.
- Keep your routine consistent – especially on a Crew of 7



# 7. Communication

- Communication with coaches: Be direct but approachable
- Communication with players: Preventative officiating
- Communication with on-field officials: Keep everyone informed
  - Cross-field communication and mechanics with your fellow short flank
  - Remember to keep your chain crew involved





# 8. Don't blow your whistle unless you see the ball

- Finger whistle can be a life saver
- Lack of focus will lead to an inadvertent whistle.
- Forward Progress? Goal line plays?



# 9. Know your penalty enforcements

- H: You are moving the box (and possibly chains) Work with your Umpire and have a system.
- L: Hold the enforcement spot. You are the safeguard!
- Hold up the snap if necessary to get it right. Clock is already stopped.



# 10. Have Fun!

- You are doing something that most can't. Take pride in that!
- Every game, every crew, every play has the potential to be a future story.
- If it stops being fun, you need to make a change.

