

# FWFO Bulletin Week 1

## Taking Care of Business

- Eligibility
  - For those of you who are still ineligible and are wondering what needs to be done to become eligible, **reach out to Jason Pierce directly as you have already received an email from him detailing what you are missing.** If you are a new official, please also reach out to your mentor.
- Veteran Officials - Please remember that our best recruiting and retention resource is our veteran officials. Take the time, give back, and take these young officials under your wing. Nurture and protect them.
- Incident reports
  - Most of you have heard this for years, but if something happens in one of your games this season, and an incident report is warranted, please make sure to fill this out within 24 hours of the incident. If you are unsure about when and why an incident report should be filed, please reach out to a chapter officer for clarification.

## Training

- Please be diligent with equipment enforcement. We have to be consistent with this chapter wide.
- Brush up on the rule changes from the preseason bulletin again prior to your games this week. Sometimes these things don't stick with us until we actually apply them in a real game situation and I can guarantee you the coaches aren't 100% on them either. **The better you know it, the better you can communicate it with the coaches and players and thus avoid conflict.**
- Clarification on UIL Exception 58
  - Previously it was written that "there is no foul AFTER it is obvious a place kick will be made." **This should read "will be attempted."**
- If you haven't had a chance to watch this video on the Rule 7 changes regarding offensive and defensive player movement prior to the snap, please do so today. It is only 10 minutes long.
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gm\\_phTR4Sv0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gm_phTR4Sv0)

### 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.
  - On this note, I encourage each of you to look at the Officiating Standards in the 2024 NCAA Rule Book. **However,** I will caution you that you must also know that TASO Philosophies located in the mechanics manual trumps or overrules the language in this section. This has to do with replay being involved in the college game and we do not have that.
- 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.

### Things to think about and put into practice

- 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, and trust your co-officials to do the same... but have the courage to speak up and question what you believe is incorrect. We always want to get it right.
  - This also means don't be afraid to make a crew saving call that you clearly see.
  - Keep crew conferences to a minimum, but get it right.
  - Penalty enforcement, the down, and clock management is the whole crew's job.
- You have heard it said, "Thou shall only throw on state championship fouls..." "Raise your level of tolerance. MAKE IT BIG!"...Some folks take this way too far, so let's recalibrate. These are great officiating proverbs, but remember, **we cannot ignore the things that give a team an unfair advantage.** Use the philosophies and techniques you've been taught and be consistent from start to finish.
  - Be 100% on the basic non-judgment fouls for your position. Take your chances with the rest.
  - Always call player safety fouls.
  - A foul with no flag is infinitely better than flag with no foul.
  - 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. Be non-memorable.
  - Use your flag as a game management tool as a last resort.
  - Always penalize the instigator
  - Always be professional in everything we say and do.

Thank you all for being a part of the greatest chapter in Texas. I am so proud to work with such a great group of people. Please stay hydrated and take care of your bodies. The break in the heat is nice, but it can still jump up and bite you if you

aren't taking care of yourself. We need every single one of you. If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please reach out to anyone on the VAC.

**GOOD LUCK THIS WEEK!**

**Regards,**

**Ryan Vance**

**FWFO Immediate Past President 2024-2025**

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