

2018 Post Season Bulletin 1

In keeping with tradition at the end of each regular season, this Bulletin asks you to review the following information as playoffs start this week.

Clock Management

Every official on the field is ultimately responsible for clock management, regardless of which official has primary game clock responsibility. Officials need to take a quick glance at the clock during the dead ball period after each play and be prepared to make an adjustment if the clock is incorrectly stopped or left running. This is especially important at the end of each half when the score is close. Errors of this kind can be very costly.

45-Point (Running Clock) Rule

The 45-point (running clock) rule will be in effect for **ALL** games for **ALL** rounds of the playoffs.

Overtime

Please review Rule Book pages 84-87 which talk about resolving tied games. In Oregon, the first two series of overtime start from the **25 yard line**; the third and ensuing series begin at the **10 yard line**. Halftime is a good time to review overtime rules and procedures. Remember, you only toss the coin once in overtime, and ends of the field may change with each complete overtime series.

Play: In the 3rd OT, it is 3rd and goal on the B8. The ball is snapped and muffed by A7. The ball ends up back at the B28 where A25 falls on it. On 4th down, A attempts a field goal. The kick is not successful and the snapper is roughed. Is it 1st and goal or 1st and 10 from the B14?

Ruling: 1st and goal from the B14. The line to gain is always the goal line regardless whether or not any penalty enforcement places the ball more than 10 yards from the goal line to start a new series. Rule Book page 85, Resolving Tied Games, 5-3-1.

Professionalism

During the playoffs, we will work games involving teams from outside our normal service areas. It is important to be professional in our contacts with players, coaches, AD's and school administrators. Represent your local association well!

Several associations will travel long distances to work their playoff games. Allow plenty of time for road and weather conditions. Many crews conduct their pre-game conference in the car on the road to the game site. That's fine, but allow enough time to unwind, change clothes in a relaxed manner and go over last minute details before the opening kickoff. Try to meet with coaches as early as possible before the kickoff; they will appreciate the least amount of intrusion into their pre-game preparation and warmups.

Uping the Ante

Playoff games are more intense as teams look to advance towards championship games. Be confident in your rules and mechanics knowledge. Review your keys for every play situation. Go over your pre-snap routine. Work to put yourself in the right position to apply the philosophies that will help you make a great call or a great no-call.

By this time in the season, a lot of what we do is routine. It's easy to become complacent, like giving the signal for 11 players when you really haven't counted. Stay focused, be prepared mentally and don't take anything for granted.

Be prepared for the unexpected, such as an onside kick on the opening kickoff. Concentration between downs will help you prepare for the next play. Keep calm, don't be influenced by excited coaches, players and fans. People will be looking to see how you respond under pressure. Remember, a calm official has a calming effect on those around you.

I'm not suggesting that you are not going to miss one now and then, but it should not be from lack of effort, improper rules enforcement or poor mechanics. If you prepare yourself, know the game, know how to apply the rules and philosophies, use proper positioning and mechanics and give 100% to every game, you and your crew members can feel proud of the game you have worked.

Finish Your Season Strong!

And Finally.....

I know some of you will be hanging up your whistle at the end of this season. Brad and I want to thank you for the job you have done and the contribution you have made to football officiating in Oregon. Take a moment to look back on the great games you have worked and the friendships you have made. That makes up for those long road trips, games in the mud and rain, and the time you've spent away from your family, friends and your "real" job. Thank you again, and best of luck in your future endeavors.

I want to thank everyone who has sent me plays, video clips or questions. Hopefully, my responses have been helpful, informative and useful to you and your association, and have generated some good discussion!

I hope all of you have had a great season; best of luck in the playoffs.