

October 22, 2026

Football Officials,

I always have mixed feelings when we hit this point of the season. What a year it has been! There's been ups and downs, good calls, calls worth reviewing, and calls that we've flat out missed. There's been lots of memories along the way. As we complete the regular season, let's put our best effort on the field – and help these teams finish well. As always, please reach out with plays, rules questions, or anything else.

Week Eight Training Email

1. Rules Knowledge – Own Your Learning!

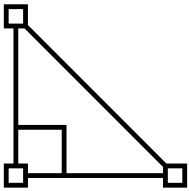
- a. Quiz link: <https://forms.gle/7TvxoXLFkgMXVM9K7>

2. Reminders from WHSAA

- a. If you have an ejection, you must explicitly notify the Head Coach of the offending team of this ejection. This is the responsibility of the Referee. Another official should always accompany the white hat when he notifies the coach, ideally the calling official.
- b. Be sure to submit any outstanding Good Sportsmanship Awards from the regular season. You may do so here:
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=4cnWJEKV0k60cgCroJPWQMsMzb3z2z5Bs5kjFVIPPdBUMDZLOFkyOUIRMIU2S0NJVzFNTFBWSlhSRy4u&route=shorturl>

3. Field Mechanics:

a. What's My Angle?



- i. It's amazing how a change in angle changes our entire perspective on a play. As a white hat, it was incredible how much better I could see my opposite tackle by widening my initial position. Instead of being so set (like freaking concrete) in one spot, be pliable and move so you can see what you need to. Show me an official with good judgment and I'll show you an official who strives for the best angle.

ii. A few key points on angles for football officials:

1. Make sure your initial positioning allows you to see your keys.
2. Wing officials - Take a half-step up or down the LOS if you're straight-lined by a WR and can't see through to your tackle.
 - a. Don't trail plays too closely. You can't see lead blocks when you're right on top of the runner. The spot will be there, expand your vision.
 - b. Don't be afraid to move into the offensive backfield, or otherwise allow the runner to pass you, and then trail the play.
3. Back Judges – you can move just about anywhere between the uprights, so make sure you're able to see your keys as well as (be able to) make eye contact with your R and with QB1.
4. Umpires – Movement helps you find the right angle to see your keys... but... it also may protect you! Good teams will see your (predictable) alignment and use you as a screen. It never hurts to mix it up a bit.
5. Referees – wide is our friend! It keeps us out of the way, allows us to see more than just QB1, and gives us leeway when the action moves out of the pocket.
 - a. Rarely will the passer foul, but if we're too close to him, we won't be able to see the oncoming rushers, how they got to QB1, or if they were fouled.

4. Officiating Philosophy

- a. Preventative Officiating

- i. Preventative Officiating occurs from the very moment we take the field. We speak about this topic a ton, but what constitutes this vitally important part of our game?
 - ii. Here are a few examples:
 1. Diligently look for illegal equipment during the pregame warmups.
 - a. Fix it now and prevent stopping things later!
 2. Before every varsity game, *watch film!*
 3. See some snaps during warmups to help your eyes get ready to officiate.
 4. Do not allow a preventable foul on free kick downs.
 5. If a player's actions are close to a foul, speak with the player and communicate what you want to see or what "right looks like."
 6. Be situationally aware.
 - a. Anticipate a coach taking a timeout and inform them they can leave the coaching box to get your attention.
 - i. "Coach, even if we're down by the goal line, come get my attention and make sure we get that TO for you."
 - b. Inform the crew if you know a field goal, onside kick, or trick play is going to occur.
 - c. Know when a team might "go tempo."
 - i. Are you discussing Tempo every week in the pre-game?
 - d. Is the line to gain close?
 - e. Do we have "double stakes?"
 7. Communicate which official has goal line responsibility.
 8. Keep coaches informed regarding remaining timeouts.
 9. Communicate whether the clock runs on the RFP or the snap.
5. Uniforms...
- a. I was hoping to not have to beat this to death this year... but here we are.
 - i. I hope we can find a happy medium while still emphasizing this player safety rule.
 1. Only send off the egregious offenders!
 - a. Don't wait until crunch time to enforce this rule.
 2. If the pant legs are pulled down *as far as they can*, but they still don't fully cover the knee...*Let it go.*
 3. **Coaches:** The onus is still on you to help us try and make this work... When the game officials ask, "are your players legally equipped and will they remain so throughout the contest?" – The responsibility is yours. Maybe have your get-back coach also police this.
6. Football Teaching Tape
- a. Link: <https://youtu.be/cSx5IMtU3EY>
 - b. Thanks to your WSOA State Football Representative, Chris Edwards, for creating last week's training video!! Thanks, too, to Allan Cummings for crew saving me on the old FK mechanics in the first iteration of last week's email.
 - c. Lastly... Many Thanks to the crews and officials featured in this week's film for their commitment to the improvement of *all* officials!

This week... No Downs Off!