

October 7, 2026

Football Officials:

There's a touch of fall in the air! Cooler mornings, warmer days, and that chill when the sun goes down. If you haven't already, it's time to pack the long sleeves... and the arctic gear... in the bag! We're getting down to the end of the season, and the games have a ton of meaning for these teams. Let's refresh and be at our very best!

Week Six Training Email

1. Rules Knowledge – Own Your Learning!
 - a. Week Six Rules Quiz: <https://forms.gle/ig8rYu5w8KtHco4V7>
 - b. As always, feel free to take the quiz as an individual, or together as a crew.
2. In case you didn't notice!
 - a. Please check your inboxes for information on 7-man mechanics! We'll be utilizing these mechanics for the State Finals as a pilot this year. It's on all of us to prepare well... so it's part of our game moving forward. Attached to this weekly email is the memo and supplemental information.
3. Six-Man Moment
 - a. Rule 7b (p. 94)
 - i. "The Ball may be handed in any direction during a kickoff down and during a scrimmage down after a direct handoff, clear pass, a legal forward pass, or kick has been made."
 - b. Rule 7e
 - i. "A direct forward handoff may be made during a scrimmage down before a change of possession, provided both players are in or behind the neutral zone... unless it is to the snapper."
4. Field Mechanics, Officiating Philosophy, and Tyler's Rambling Thoughts!
 - a. Every Week is a New Week:
 - i. In our state, it's tough at this time of the season. We're seeing schools for the second, third, or fourth time.
 - ii. When this happens, remember that every day is a new day. Treat each contest as it's the first time you've seen a school. No pre-conceived notions.
 1. It's tough but try to have clear eyes on each contest.
 - b. Trust and Service
 - i. The North Star for my employer, our higher purpose statement, is Trust and Service.
 - ii. These goals can really transcend a day job. We could and should strive to build Trust and Service as spouses, parents, community members, and referees. So... what does that look like?
 1. For every contest, arrive on "Lombardi Time"
 - a. "Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable."
 2. Communicate well with both teams
 3. Leave the locker room in better condition than we found it
 4. Help players with minor equipment issues (without sending them off right away)
 5. Take care of your chain crew and ball boys
 6. Admit when our mechanics were excellent, or when they weren't the best
 7. Present our foul calls cleanly and concisely
 8. Find ways to thank players, coaches, fans, and admins.

- c. Who Owns the Clock?
 - i. We all like to think that the Back Judge owns the clock, or maybe the BJ and the Referee – BUT – I happen to think the clock is, ultimately, everyone's responsibility.
 - ii. Everyone should incorporate game clock into their pre-snap routine. The only exception would be the official whose back is to the clock. Don't turn around or take your eyes off the players.
 - iii. If you have the direct view of the clock, and your Referee doesn't, take two seconds and communicate that the "clock's good" to your white hat. As an R, that's the ultimate peace of mind. This is a great tool to use after penalty enforcement, after a first down, or anytime when the clock operator is less than stellar.
- d. Flag Throwing Locations!!!
 - i. This week, I saw probably a dozen plays where officials threw their flags into the crowd of players. Yikes! We can't have that!
 - ii. In 1999, Jeff Triplette — in his first year as an NFL referee — was working a game in Cleveland when he spotted a false start. He threw his penalty marker and somehow the flying flag went between the bars of Orlando Brown's facemask. Brown's injury was so severe he had to give up the game until 2003.
 - iii. In 2023, Memphis Tigers player Joesph Scates took a penalty marker to the groin! Oops!
 - iv. The spot of the foul is not the exact spot of earth where the foul occurred. The yard lines run the whole of the field. The proper yard line is good enough. We can also go and fix our flag if it's off point.
 - v. Don't toss your flag into a crowd!
 - 1. For non-spot fouls, sky your flag upward.
 - 2. For spot fouls, worry about the yard line and not the exact geo-location of the foul. Heck, take a brief pause and find an open area first. We have that time.
- e. As the season begins to wind down --- Stay Fresh on the 2026 POE's
 - i. Helping the Runner
 - ii. Sideline Management and Control
 - iii. Flagrant and Unsportsmanlike Fouls
 - iv. Legal Equipment, Worn Properly

5. Film Room

- a. Link: <https://youtu.be/nVtQG6PyQo4>
- b. Many thanks to the crews featured in this week's film!

This week... be the crew saver!

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