

Lana,

Please send the below to all WY FB Officials. Thank you!

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September 11, 2025

Football Officials,

There's been some tremendous football being played across our state so far this season. Hopefully y'all are reaping the benefits of it as much as I am. Please see the below items of emphasis for this week. As always, don't hesitate to reach out with questions or thoughts. I have enjoyed several phone calls with officials and coaches from every corner of Wyoming this past week. Keep 'em coming!

### **Week Two Training Email**

1. Rules Knowledge -- Own Your Learning!
  - a. Week One Rules Quiz: <https://forms.gle/LARvr2GgXfzhTxwEA>
  - b. Feedback on this new quiz format is welcome! Please enjoy this as you hit the road this week!
2. Field Mechanics
  - a. Visible Play Clocks
    - i. We have seen an increase in the number of schools with visible 25/40 second play clocks.
    - ii. **Officials**: When you are working a contest with a visible play clock present, please note the following:
      1. While it's ideal for the play clock to be operated by game administration, that may not always be the case. As such, we ask you to do your best to work with the schools.
      2. Even though there are visible numbers, please continue to also use the approved hand signals (arm up for 10 seconds, chop the last 5 seconds). Since our players and coaches aren't likely to see a visible clock every week, we want to maintain the on-field mechanics they're used to.
      3. Remember to tempo the reset of the play clock accordingly. With visible numbers, there is zero flexibility in our count, so don't be "lightning quick" to reset the play clock. This goes for both play clock operators in the sky box, and for on-field operation by the Back Judge.
    - iii. **Coaches and Game Administrators**: It would be greatly appreciated if the play clock were operated by someone in the crowd's nest as opposed to asking the officiating crew to do so. If you haven't explored this, I ask you to do so.
      1. Please ask both your game clock and play clock operators to come to the field to meet with the officiating crew before the contest.
3. Officiating Philosophy
  - a. Hurdling and Leverage
    - i. We are seeing a significant increase in actions by defensive players, particularly on scrimmage kicks (including FG's and Try's) that constitute Hurdling or Leveraging.
    - ii. Now... you won't find the vernacular, "Leverage or Leveraging" in your rulebook. That phrase is only found at the college and professional level. However, we still have rules that assist us in what is and is not allowable.
    - iii. Hurdling
      1. Rule Book: 2-22; 9-4-3d

2. This one is pretty simple – no player of either team can hurdle an opponent unless they have a body part other than their feet on the ground. It is a foul regardless of whether they “clear” the opponent or not. They also don’t have to go over the middle of the opponent, any hurdle attempt over any part of the opponent is a foul.
3. **This is a Safety Foul and must be thrown!**
4. Umpires and Wing Officials – be looking for this on the line during scrimmage kicks. All officials can see this when it’s the runner – and since it’s becoming “fashionable” at the higher levels, we need to nip it in the bud at our level. Remember, a hurdle is knees or feet first...

iv. Illegal Personal Contact

1. Rule Book: 9-4-3e
2. Case Book: 9.4.3 Situation E (Advantage Gained Illegally)
3. Now... I’m not going to make friends with this one. **It is Illegal** for defensive players to, “position himself on the shoulders or body of a teammate or opponent to gain an advantage.”
4. We are seeing defensive players try to “shoot the gap” between the Center and Guard in an attempt to block a kick.
  - a. If that defensive player puts his hands on an opponent in order to accomplish this -- whether to raise their body higher up off the ground, or to make their way through the A-gap (or any gap) easier -- it is a foul.

v. Officials:

1. If you see this in the pre-game, talk to the players about it.
2. During the game, Umpires, you can remind the defense that they can’t hurdle or leverage off of the offensive line. While that word isn’t in the book, it’s an easy term to use here. As it states in the Case Book, it’s an Advantage Gained Illegally.

4. Football Teaching Tape

- a. Link: [https://youtu.be/oJG\\_3Dw65q0](https://youtu.be/oJG_3Dw65q0)
- b. My sincere thanks to the crew featured in this week’s film!

In conclusion, I’d like to share something for all of us to cling to in these heavy times in our world. Yesterday was heavy, today is heavy, and tomorrow... no one knows.

"Are you ready? Let's roll."

24 years ago today, on September 11th 2001, Todd Beamer and his fellow passengers on United flight 93 fought a battle in the air that saved the lives of many people who can never repay them. To them, it didn't matter who their fellow passengers had voted for, the religion they practiced, or the color of their skin. Together, they fought for their fellow travelers on that plane, and for the untold hundreds on the ground.

We can’t allow ourselves to waste their sacrifice. Live. Love. Be kind and understanding and empathetic. Treat our fellow travelers on this planet as neighbors. Tackle life and don't let it go without a fight. Even when it's hard and heavy, it's worth it, friends. Every damn day is worth it.

"Are you ready? Let's roll...."