

Lana,

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

September 24, 2025

Football Officials,

Hard to believe we're at the halfway point of the season this week! I hate how short our season is, but then again... we're in the thick of it now! Lots of the lower-level seasons are finishing up soon, so hopefully we all can breathe a little easier here soon. As always, give us a shout with any film review, play situations, or other questions or concerns. Travel safely this week!

Week Four Training Email

1. Rules Knowledge -- Own Your Learning!
 - a. Link: <https://forms.gle/aiAcPuEd6Tk8zZaG9>
 - b. Feedback on this new quiz format is welcome! Please enjoy this as you hit the road this week!
2. Field Mechanics
 - a. The Play Clock
 - i. Back Judges, and really all officials on the crew, we are having multiple questions related to the play clock. Some think we're too quick on the play clock, and some think we're too slow. Regardless... let's take a moment to remember a few key points on the play clock.
 - ii. When do I reset the clock to 25/40 – by rule.
 1. Rule 3-6 (p. 48-49)
 - iii. How does this *actually* work?
 1. When there is a ready-for-play whistle, you'll start the play clock a short moment (less than a second) after the Referee blows the ready.
 2. After a play is over, we start the play clock when the ball becomes dead by rule. However... Remember...
 - b. It's a Balancing Act:
 - i. We ask you not to be too quick on the draw after the play is over. Let things settle down first. Don't stop dead-ball officiating! Set the play clock in due course after the "dust settles."
 - ii. Then again, you don't need to wait until the Umpire sets the ball to start the play clock. That'd be too slow.
 - iii. Find that reasonable balance with your timing.
 - iv. Also – be willing to adjust. If you find yourself counting a ton for near-delay-of-game, maybe work with your Referee and see whether it's your timing that's the issue.
 1. What we don't want is 8 delay of game flags in a game... if we can prevent it.
3. Officiating Philosophy (or more mechanics this week!)
 - a. Forward Progress -- (you can find this in the game officials manual on p. 127)
 - i. The wing officials are primarily responsible for forward progress.
 1. Long runs or passes – the back judge may also be responsible.
 - ii. Progress should be indicated by using the downfield foot, and ideally with both feet marking the spot.
 1. Keep your head up and observe players while marking the spot.
 2. Do not go around or jump over players.

3. Move into the field until you approach players.
- iii. If a spot is close to the line to gain, spotting official must come all the way to the spot where the play ended, but without running through players.
- iv. The primary official responsible for determining the forward progress spot is the official who can actually see the ball when the play is declared dead.
- v. Be aware of double action!
 1. If a runner is down, but then reaches the ball forward for some extra yardage, don't fall for it! We give the ball carrier only the yardage he's earned -- no more and no less.
- b. Goal-line Plays -- (you can find this in the game officials manual on p. 146)
 - i. When the ball is snapped between Team B's 10 and 5-yard line
 1. Wing officials release slowly downfield at the snap.
 2. Stay ahead of the runner to the goal line, if you can.
 - ii. When the ball is snapped between Team B's 5-yard line and the Goal line:
 1. Wing officials move quickly to the goal line in order to see if the ball carrier breaks the plane of the goal line.
 2. Get to the goal line and then officiate back into the field of play if the runner is stopped short.
 - iii. The touchdown signal is given only by the official who actually sees the ball in possession of a runner break the plane of the goal line!
 - iv. When Team A snaps the ball at or inside its own 5-yard line:
 1. Wing officials move quickly to the goal line in order to see if the ball carrier advanced the ball completely out of the end zone. We call this, "Reverse Goal Line."

4. Football Teaching Tape

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

Enjoy this week! Thank your loved ones for allowing you to enjoy another Friday night under the lights!

-Tyler & Chris

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