

Lana,

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

October 2, 2025

Football Officials,

We've made it through the grind of the busiest month of the football season! Whether it's a Friday night under the lights, or a Tuesday middle school game, be sure you're getting meaningful reps and refining your craft. If you've gotten into film study at all, I'm sure you have a few things to keep working on. Let's make sure to get those in line before the postseason. As always, send me film, questions, etc.!

Week Five Training Email

1. Rules Knowledge -- Own Your Learning!

- a. Weekly Quiz: <https://forms.gle/8xtY3j8WS9yvtka69>
- b. Your feedback on quizzes is always welcome!

2. Field Mechanics

a. POE Revisit -- Uniforms

- i. I've received a few 'comments' about both football pants and exposed back pads in recent weeks. We're asking all coaches, athletic directors, and officials to help with making this issue a thing of the past.
- ii. Think about uniform requirements as you would speed limits along I-80.
 1. If you're driving 75 in a 75 (i.e. your pants cover the knees fully) then you have nothing to worry about.
 2. If you're driving 80 in a 75 (i.e. the knees are partially covered, or the pants are down as far as possible) you're probably okay.
 3. If a player decides to "drive 90+ in that 75 zone," (aka the "bike shorts") they're going to get lit up – **Send off the egregious offenders, work with the rest.**

b. **Remember** -- fix this stuff in the pre-game. Go out early and inform the players to fix issues as they warm up.

- i. Something as simple as, "Hey #24... during warm-ups, it's fine to have your back pad showing, but make sure its fully covered when it's game time..." goes a long way towards both correcting the issue and towards building credibility.

3. Officiating Philosophy

a. **Fix It!**

- i. Much of what occurs on the gridiron is automatic. However, from time to time, we encounter situations where something strange and/or out of our control happens. In those moments, it's important to know what we can and cannot fix. Here are a few examples of things we can and **should** fix.
- ii. Penalty Enforcement
 1. I certainly hope you aren't asking the captains for their decision on penalty enforcement. Just go to the head coach.
 - a. On "nickel-dimer" fouls like False Start, Encroachment, Delay of Game – just get marching! There is no need to slow things down and wait for an obvious decision.
 - b. When there is a decision to be made, go to the head coach, get the decision, and get moving.

2. **Fix it** -- if you march off a penalty and then the coach decides to decline the penalty. We can correct this! Go ahead and take the time to make it right.
 3. If you march a penalty in the wrong direction, for the love of all that is good and holy... **FIX IT!**
 - a. We have nothing but time to correct these errors.
 - b. Who's going to be the crew saver??? -- Perhaps it's *you*!
- iii. Down errors and the Chains
1. Make sure you're working with the chain crew each week. We all get the, "we've done this for 27 years," speech from them... and then they burn us. Treat each crew like they're brand new. Importantly, they don't move unless told explicitly by the HL. They can also "crew save" us by spotting a penalty marker that the HL doesn't see.
 2. The referee can correct the erroneous moving of the chains, or the number of the down. Don't short a team a down... or give them an extra one.
 3. Remember, once the ball is legally snapped, it's too late to fix these chain and down errors! (Rule book: 5-1-1b; Case book: 5.1.1B, 5.1.1A).
- iv. Judgment errors (from the 2025 Redding study guide; p. 182)
1. "Another type of error is when the officials allow action to take place after the ball is dead by rule. Examples include, but are not limited to, allowing Team R to advance a ball after a fair catch signal or returning a kick out of the end zone, allowing Team K to advance a kick, and keeping the ball live after an incomplete forward pass."
 - a. If one of these occurs, only the illegal personal contact fouls in 9-4 and 9-3-6 as well as Unsportsmanlike Conduct fouls are enforced. They are enforced as dead ball fouls.
 - b. Example: A7 throws a pass forward which hits the ground. The LJ incorrectly rules the pass to be backwards and does not blow his whistle. While the ball is loose, there is a (a) 5-yard facemask foul, (b) holding foul, or (c) targeting foul. After the play ends, the HL and the U offer information and the crew correctly rules that the pass was forward and incomplete. **RULING**: The ball is returned to the previous spot. In (a) and (b), the fouls are ignored. In (c), the foul is enforced as a dead-ball foul because it is a personal foul.

4. Football Teaching Tape

- a. Link: <https://youtu.be/PciZ3kpYLA8>
- b. My thanks to the crews and officials featured in this week's film for their commitment to the improvement of *all* officials!

This week... Let's all communicate well!

Tyler Spear
 State Coordinator of Football Officials
 970-554-1600
tyler.s.spear@gmail.com