

Lana,

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

October 16, 2025

Football Officials,

Time to dig out the long-handles! We're finally getting some real football weather in the forecast this week. I'm here for it! When it gets cold, it can be tough to stay in the game – maintain your pre-snap routine to keep you focused. Stay warm this week and be sure to pack those extra socks. As always, please reach out with plays, rules questions, or anything else.

Week Seven Training Email

1. Rules Knowledge – Own Your Learning!

- a. Rules Quiz: <https://forms.gle/3FKgd5siJr6GhPJ4A>
- b. Your feedback on the weekly quizzes is always welcome!

2. Field Mechanics

a. Goal Line

- i. The “money line” is the most important line in our game. We absolutely must be in the correct position to make rulings whenever the goal line is involved!

b. Points of Emphasis – Goal Line Mechanics

- i. Wing officials **MUST** being in the correct starting position on goal line plays. (i.e. on the sideline, or OOB at the snap).
- ii. There **MUST** be an official on the GL when the football crosses the GL.
- iii. Let your mind digest what your eyes have seen before signaling TD. It's not a race to “throw up your hands!”
- iv. Do **NOT** mirror TD signals – only signal if you see it.
- v. If there's a pile, such as a dive up the middle, wing officials should crash in to see whether the runner has crossed the goal line.
- vi. **We DO NOT signal TD from *anywhere* but the goal line!**
 1. I can't begin to tell you how awful it makes the whole crew look when an official signals a TD from the 7-yard line.

2. NO ONE-HANDED TD SIGNALS!!!!!!

c. How to get there (as Wing Officials):

- i. When the ball is inside the 10-yard line, your initial key should guide you as to whether you need to break for the GL, or you can move slowly and with a purpose.
- ii. When the ball is on or inside the 5-yard line, break to the GL once you have a clean snap. Do so quickly. Then officiate the play and work back into the field of play once it's clear we're short.
- iii. This goes for **both** regular and reverse goal line mechanics.

d. Points of Emphasis – Reverse Goal Line Mechanics

- i. Anytime we're inside the 15-yard line, and especially when we're inside the 10-yard line, we need to be mindful of reverse goal line.
- ii. The Referee and Wings **MUST** communicate on every down re: Goal Line responsibility.

- iii. Referee's initial positioning is always on end line or goal line. Just like the BJ – I don't love officials being set up in no-man's land.
 - 1. Referees: if you're set up on the GL and it feels "too close," I'd recommend either releasing the GL to your wings or widening out your initial position – anything to make sure we have the money line covered.
- iv. We MUST have an official on the GL when the football crosses the GL (either way).
- v. Remember, the ball has to be 100% OUT of the end zone for it not to be a Safety. The only place you'll ever be able to see that is from the GL.

3. Officiating Philosophy

a. Communication!

- i. The phrase "*communication is inevitable*," means that communication is always happening, whether or not someone intends to communicate. Everything a person does sends a message, even if it's nonverbal.
- ii. Officials: We must *never* terminate the line of communication with our coaches. If things become heated, have a few de-escalation techniques in your hip pocket in case you need them. Obviously, the head coach has a "longer leash" than assistant coaches and players when it comes to interfacing with officials. Bench personnel have zero latitude. Please work to lend an ear to the head coach, **AND** to assistant coaches and players. We should **NOT** start off a game with the hard boundary of, "I won't talk to anybody but the head coach tonight."
- iii. Coaches: Understand that questions will lead to answers, but declarative statements aren't going to merit a response most of the time. Head coaches are the primary message carriers for their team to the officiating crew. Position coaches offer a unique perspective and can utilize information from officials to benefit their players. That being said, there isn't a free pass built into that opportunity that allows assistant coaches to "work the officials." The head coach is the primary voice for their team, but they're also the one on the hook for the decorum of their team.
- iv. Remember! **None of us should**:
 - 1. Threaten, become overly defensive, give in to the temptation to shut down or fire back, or become unwilling to discuss a critical call.

4. Football Teaching Tape

- a. Link: <https://youtu.be/VzI0x6jsW-A>
- b. Thanks to your WSOA State Football Representative, Chris Edwards, for taking on this week's training video!! And 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!*

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

