

August 20, 2026

Football Officials,

Welcome to the 2026 WHSAA Football Season! As we prepare for another season under the lights, I want to express my thanks to each of you for committing the time to serve our state and our communities. Here's to another safe and fulfilling season! Best of luck to all the coaches and teams this season, too!

As always, I hope to be a resource to you both in- and out-of-season. Know that my door is open for any questions or thoughts you may have. I will get you an answer quickly on any/all rule questions, mechanics questions, philosophies, or other questions or issues.

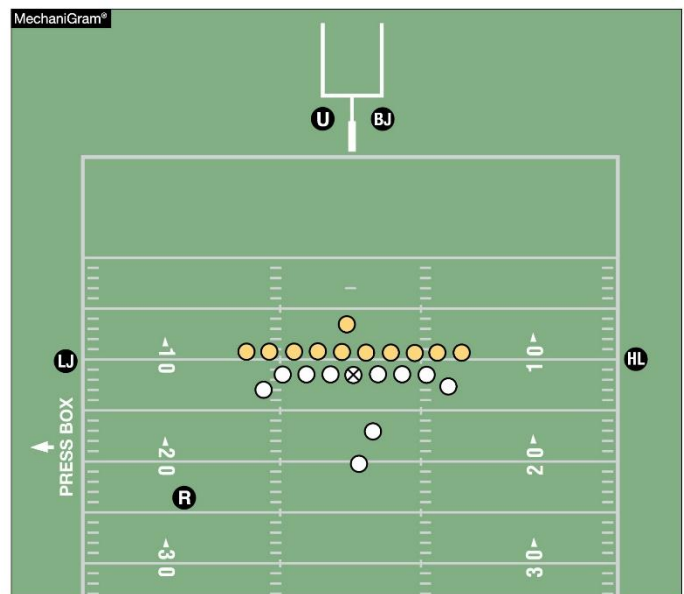
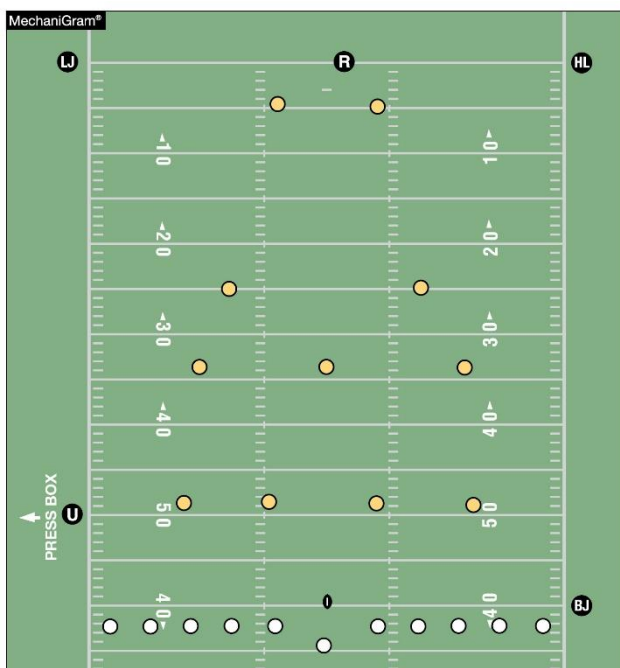
Also, please send me game film for review! I'd like to ask each crew chief to send me a play or two to help us share good film/situations across the state. We all see situations that merit sharing broadly.

This year, I'd like all football officials to emphasize the following (personally and on your crew):

1. Recruiting officials locally;
2. Improved rules knowledge;
3. Uniformity in on-field mechanics; and
4. Communication – amongst our crews, our associations, and with players and coaches.

Preseason Training #1

1. Rules Knowledge:
 - a. We will get into some in-depth rules knowledge items soon, but with this off-season providing a ton of mechanics changes, we'll start with our focus there...
 - b. That being said, here's the first Rules Quiz of the year!
 - i. <https://forms.gle/7dhLdXbz26L6z1Nv9>
2. Field Mechanics:
 - a. Make sure you're preparing and adjusting to the new free kick and scoring kick mechanics. Some of us have already utilized these mechanics, but some are still new. Take some time to get on a field and walk through these mechanics.



3. Officiating Philosophy:
 - a. Let's get these things right as it relates to uniforms:
 - i. A singular mouthpiece, worn as designed/intended.
 - ii. "Real" kneepads, not the 50-cent-piece sized ones.
 - iii. Cover up the midriff and the back pad.
 - iv. Keep the knees covered as much as possible. No Thigh Meat exposed!!
 - b. Remember – let's fix this early and *not* be the crew/official that sends off a player at an awkward time. Situational Awareness!
4. Football Teaching Tape:
 - a. New film study is coming soon!
 - b. In the interim, enjoy this video from MIBT titled, "Five Things Every Official Must Get Right."
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3cIMpqKfB4>

Thank you for your time! Again, my door is open, and I am eager to hear from you.

Make It Be There! --Tyler

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