

Observer Instructions: Volunteering Their Time to Improve Officiating

NOTE: Be Positive - Think Constructive Comments, Constructive Comments, Constructive Comments –

- Print CLEARLY; use abbreviations as much as possible to save space.
- **Complete the CFOA Observation Report on the Arbiter by Monday evening for varsity games**
- CFOA Observation Forms are very similar in nature to the forms used by the FHSAA during the playoffs. The goal is to improve officiating and consistency across the association.
- We view ourselves as a teacher & mentor - we are there to help officials improve - not to grade.
- All observations are **BASED** upon the FHSAA/NFHS FB Officiating Mechanics **ONLY** -- no personal preferences!!
- Please use the Observers instructions & Reminders by Ed Hochuli -- excellent thoughts for our observers.

Areas we will observe include:

1. Pregame – contact the R the before the game; try and attend the pregame if possible
 2. Assess Game Administration & Game Management - Does the game flow with minimal delayed crew conferences? Does the Crew manage the game without being noticed much by the spectators?
 3. Watch each official individually - Concentrate on observing the initial position (IP). Do they "read the play" for a pass vs. a run? How do they react to a short pass vs. a medium or a long pass (R&R1, R&R2, R&R3)?
 4. Listen to whistles when the ball becomes dead - 1 or 2 whistles or is the entire Crew "ball watching" by sounding their whistles?
 5. Hand Signals - Is the Crew effectively using the approved Hand Signals?
 6. Communication - How is Crew communicating verbally & nonverbally with each other & sidelines?
 7. Time Management - Enforcing DB LOS Fouls within 10 seconds, TO's limited to 60 seconds, & KO's after 60 seconds have elapsed from the Try?
 8. Restricted Area - Does crew enforce the Restricted Area & give SL Warnings when warranted?
 9. Dead Ball Officiating - Do officials "chase the ball" or do they watch players on & off the field until there is no threat of a dead ball foul?
 10. Back Side Wings – Are they "married to the SL" or do they move on to the field & actively officiate the play?
 11. BJ - Back pedal too soon & take him out of the play or does he R&R. Is he an integral part of the Crew throughout the game?
 12. Field Presence - Does the crew hustle & communicate, have good "game pace", look like "they know what they are doing", & enjoy officiating?
- **Half time** - Sit down with the officials, review the half and ask crew what are thoughts on mechanics, communications, game management, & game pace. Discuss "What Went Well" & "What Can We Do Better". Discussion should be open & frank. Ask questions rather than lecture.
 - Be Respectful of the Crew's time -- limit discussion to 10 minutes at halftime unless it is a very unusual & challenging game that requires additional time.
 - **Post game** - Before completing your observation on arbiter, if possible meet briefly with the Crew and ask what their thoughts about mechanics, communication, game management, & game pace.
 - Use the Arbiter to complete the report - point out positives and provide individual assistance on mechanics as needed.

Observers Mantra: Consistency! Consistency! Consistency!