

## **Discussion Points:**

### 1—Pregame:

In order to allow ample time for the Referees to conduct proper pregame, it will be necessary to have our shoes polished prior to arriving at the gamesite. In other words, there will be **NO POLISHING SHOES DURING PREGAME CONFERENCE**. Please reference page 1 in the Mechanics Manual which speaks of having shoes polished upon arriving at the school.

Secondly, the game kits are usually handed out to the Referees the week of each particular ballgame. However, if the Referee is not at the meeting that week, another member of the crew will be selected at random as we distribute the kits. If you are fortunate enough to be selected, we are asking you to help us out and fill out the gamecards, coach cards, and penalty sheet before arriving at the game. There is no extra pay or extra glory in doing this, but it will be extremely appreciated.

Both of these items will be key in allowing us the proper time and attention needed for a thorough pregame. The Referees are asking for our cooperation in making sure we have this time. We all know the importance of pregames...we've all had good ones and we've all had bad ones, and we know it is a direct reflection on the game we work.

Also, please note that this year at the conclusion of each game, the HL's have 'graciously volunteered' to handle the game kits. Please do a good job of filling out your cards so they can complete the game report. Please note these are due to Bubba by the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting following each game, so let's get em in. And again, let's all thank the HL's for there hospitality.

### 2---Contacting Crews:

We have had some confusion in this area again this year. It is the umpire's responsibility to contact each crew member for each contest. Contacting does NOT mean sending an email saying 'I'll see you there'. Contacting means TALKING to them face to face or over the phone. Contacting means sending an email AND having them respond to you so you can verify they have the message. If you are a crew member, make sure you respond immediately to the Umpire's call so he doesn't have to wonder on and on about you. This is another cooperation matter we can easily take care of.

### 3---Spots:

This issue has come up in the past and is being discussed again this year. As a wing, when giving a spot to the U, we need to verify that the U has the correct spot before he places the ball on the ground. The U & wing must communicate so that we are properly spotting the ball. We, meaning ANY official, cannot move the ball once it is spotted!!!! Therefore, we need to work together and take precautions in this area.

#### 4---Goalline Plays

I feel we can never work too hard on goalline plays. Communication between the ENTIRE crew is essential during these type plays. We cannot afford to award any 'cheap' touchdowns or take any away that were rightfully earned. Here are a few guidelines to follow:

a-Anytime a wing official definitively sees the runner down short of the goal, he needs to charge in to sell his spot. This will leave little doubt as to the call you are making. PLEASE SEE THE BALL!!!! Let's not guess here...we're not in the guessing business.

b-Likewise, anytime a wing official definitively sees the ball, in possession of the runner, break the plane of the goalline, he needs to give his TD signal immediately and strong, again, to remove any doubt of the call you have. Please make certain the runner was never down prior to breaking the plane. This may involve checking with your partner across the way to make sure he is not selling a spot short of goal. If he has a spot, it wipes off your touchdown(insert Cloeism here).

c-If, as a wing official, you see a pile near, or on, the goalline, and you have no clue where the runner's progress is, we need to follow these steps:

1-Charge into the pile to find out what is going on

2-Glance at your partner across the way to see if he knows more than you, and echo any call he is making.

3-If your partner has no better idea than you(hopefully he has charged in as well), then both need to glance at the U.

4-If the U has his hand on his chest, we have a TD...signal immediately and strong.

5-If the U also has no better idea (i.e. no hand on chest), then get a spot short of goal as best you can because we do not have a TD

Keep in mind, the U's signal is only telling you whether or not he has a ball in possession of the runner in the endzone. It is not telling you how, or when, he got there; only that he's there. This is information that the wing(s) may or may not need, but it is the responsibility of the wing(s) to make this final call...not the U's. If we need to kill the clock and talk about it as a crew, then let's do it quickly, and let's get it right!!!!