October 28, 2026

Football Officials,

Welcome to the post-season! No matter how far you go in the playoffs, know that you make a real difference in the lives of Wyoming's student-athletes. We can't do this without all your hard work. Know the WHSAA leadership shares our gratitude. Also, be sure to take time to thank your loved ones for supporting you throughout this season.

2026 Playoffs Training Email

1. Get The Little Things Right!
    a. As we all know, the little things become big things when we get to the postseason. In the same way a single dropped pass or missed assignment spells doom for a team… us flubbing a measurement or penalty enforcement, or ball watching when we shouldn't, can negatively impact the game. We've got to control what we can control! Own the little things this week!

    b. Penalty Enforcement
        i. We need to make sure we're marching off penalties correctly. Be sure to review Table 10-4 as well as the special enforcements in Rule 10-5.
            1. Don't be the crew that enforces Holding from the spot in the offensive backfield!
            2. Get the correct spot for fouls that have an exception (grounding, kicking, etc.)

        ii. Mechanically, we should also find time to practice marching penalties. Are we taking steps (pun intended) to ensure correct enforcement? How can you be a crew saver?
            1. Referees. After getting the penalty information and decision from the offended head coach (if required), verify that your Umpire knows the details and begin your penalty announcement/presentation. Use the stadium mic to your advantage!
            2. Umpires. Once you verify details with the Referee, get to the basic spot and prepare to march. Check off with the HL and march the yardage together.
            3. Head Lines. If your sideline is the effected team, help get a decision from your coach to the Referee. Then align with the Umpire and march together. AFTER the LJ verifies your enforcement is correct, move the chains quickly.
            4. Line Judge. If your sideline is the effected team, help get a decision from your coach to the Referee. Then, align with the U at the basic spot. You will HOLD that spot while the U and HL march. Then march the yardage and ensure everyone ends up at the same spot. This is your chance to be a crew saver!
            5. Back Judge. Observe, dead ball officiate, relay penalty information across the field, own the clock, communicate clock status to the Referee. Be the last line of defense in case something is flubbed! This is your chance to be the crew saver!
            6. **Our goal** is to have the penalty enforced by the time the Referee's penalty announcement ends! That way the R can simply turn, check clock status with the Back Judge, and blow the ready for play.

    c. Kicking Game
        i. This part of the game might be the bane of our very existence, but as we all know, if something is going to go "wonky," it'll be in the kicking game. As you prepare for the postseason, here are a few kicking game situations crews should be prepared for:

            1. Post-Scrimmage Kick enforcements
                a. What are the five requirements of PSK?
                b. Back judges -- tell me why you should carry two bean bags.
            2. Onside Kicks

a. For those working 6-man football, this will be like 94% of your FK's!
b. Walk through all the possible situations… kick doesn't go 10 yards, blocking too early, pop-up kick, touched in-bounds and then rolls out, etc.
c. When do we "cheat up" on free kicks?

3. Fair catch situations
   a. What makes a signal valid/invalid/illegal?
   b. Know the rules around fair catch/awarded fair catch (and the FK for score)

d. Every year, something completely "pear shaped" happens in the post season. A weird penalty enforcement exception, overtime, a timing issue… something.

-Our best defense against the "absurd" …… Proper Preparation-

e. SO… In addition to the above, be sure to cover these items in your pre-game meeting!
   i. Measurements
   ii. Overtime procedures
   iii. Momentum Rule
   iv. Long Field Goal mechanics (it's a live ball, *and* a scrimmage kick!)
   v. Goal-line and Reverse Goal-line mechanics
   vi. Force and when a New Force is applied
   vii. End-of-Half Clock Management (timing issues, under 2 minutes special timing rule, etc.)
   viii. When a period is extended/is not extended by rule
   ix. When in Doubts principles (see the attached document)
      1. What are the "automatic first down" fouls?
      2. How about the "loss of down" fouls?

2. Post-season Crew Exam:
   a. Link: https://forms.gle/Ypd37rBTYDBy5Z1PA
   b. Be sure to take this **as a crew** while you're on the road to your game. I love hearing positive feedback about the discussions these questions lead to while crews are on the road. Heck, you never know when one of these questions might turn into a real-life, on-field situation!

3. One more visit to the Film Room:
   a. Link: https://youtu.be/-HV7q0i1ZU0
   b. My sincere thanks to all the crews that sent in clips, asked to have plays reviewed, or otherwise shared their film this year. We *ALL* get better when we share our wins and our challenges!

Remember… *Set the tone! Communicate well. No Downs Off. Be The Crew Saver!*

This will be the final email for the season (barring a major message needing to be conveyed).

We hope to see you at State or somewhere down the road. Call anytime! --Tyler & Chris

Chris Edwards
WSOA State Representative for Football

Tyler Spear
WHSAA State Coordinator of Football Officials

October 28, 2026

Seven-Man Mechanics!

Football Officials:

My thanks to all of those who attended last night's 7-man mechanics training! Be on the lookout for the next one here in a couple weeks.

As a reminder, you can watch all our 7-man mechanics training videos here:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHYnTgvQujy4&si=jmcPko77ZlxLmI8P

The WHSAA 7-man Mechanics Manual can be found here:
https://whsaa.org/officials/updates/FB7-ManMechanicsManual.pdf

Give me a shout with questions! –Tyler

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