

September 9, 2026

Football Officials,

Please see the below items of emphasis for this week. As always, don't hesitate to reach out with questions or thoughts. I have enjoyed several phone calls and film reviews with officials and coaches from every corner of Wyoming this past week. Keep 'em coming! There's been some great football this season – be sure to enjoy it.

Week Two Training Email

1. Rules Knowledge – Own Your Learning!

- a. Week Two Rules Quiz: <https://forms.gle/h5hWtfjhpaT5C1Xg7>
- b. I invite your feedback on these quizzes. Please enjoy as you hit the road this week!

1. Field Mechanics

- a. Special timing considerations
 - i. Get in the book!
 1. NFHS Rule 3-4-7 (p. 47)
 2. Case Book pages 23-24 (3.4.7 Situations A, B, C, D)
 - ii. In essence, remember, when a foul is committed with less than two minutes remaining in either half, the offended team will have the option to start the game clock on the snap.
 - iii. You've heard me drone on about clock management being everyone's responsibility. This one is no different. When the game clock goes below 2:00 in the 2nd and 4th quarter, someone get on the radio (or use a hand signal) to indicate to your Referee that we're "in" the under-two-minute special timing rule. It's a tiny bit of information, but it can be extremely helpful.
 - i. Don't confuse this, though!
 1. We can make a live clock dead, but we can't make a dead clock go live.
 - a. No Zombie clocks!

2. Officiating Philosophy

- a. Heat Management
 - i. I encourage you to consider adding Official's time-outs for water breaks as you need during your games this week. It's cooling off a touch, but games can still be really warm, particularly on field turf.
 - ii. Recommended opportunities to take an official's time-out for heat include:
 1. Between the first and second periods (Extend to two minutes)
 2. Between the third and fourth periods (Extend to two minutes)
 3. Prior to a free kick (Extend to two minutes)
 4. Change of possession (Extend to two minutes or as needed)
 5. Halftime may also be extended, by mutual agreement of each team
 - iii. Rules Reference for the legality of these time-outs can be found in Rule 3.5 – Charged and Official's Time-Outs
- b. Illegally Helping (Aiding) the Runner
 - i. This one has come up a few times this week. It's a Point of Emphasis from the NFHS this year and it is something we should have an opinion on.
 - ii. First and foremost, be situationally aware.
 1. These plays occur when we're close to the line to gain, or to the goal line.
 - a. 4th down and Short; 4th and Goal
 - b. Two-point conversions

2. Watch the formations...
 - a. Are we suddenly under center? (after spending most of the game in the shotgun or pistol)
 - b. Is that a fullback I see in the formation?
 - c. Why are the backs closer than normal?
 - d. Motioning an end into the backfield
 - e. Why do I have a mouth-breather lined up in the backfield?
- iii. Remember, pushing the pile is legal; direct contact while pushing, pulling, lifting of the runner to assist forward progress is not.
- iv. Game officials should observe and judge an offensive teammate's actions and the runner's progress to determine whether a foul for illegally helping the runner is warranted.
- v. Collegiate and professional football rules allow offensive players to pile in behind and directly push the runner.
 1. The "tush push" is an example of such a play often used at those levels.
 2. Although direct contact with the runner is illegal under NFHS rules, these plays are becoming more common in the high school game.
 3. As guardians of the game, it is imperative that all stakeholders work together to remove "illegally helping the runner" from our high school game.

3. Film Room

- a. Link: <https://youtu.be/KQo83QGBWak>
- b. Many thanks to the crews featured in this week's film!

Friends, this Friday marks the 25th anniversary of an infamous day in our nation's history – September 11th, 2001.

Let's each take a moment to reflect on the privilege of being an American, what it means to serve our fellow man (like those FDNY and NYPD men and women did), and what it means to live out the words of John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Todd Beamer and his fellow passengers on United Flight #93 lived those words... and we should honor their legacy. These heroes fought a battle in the air that saved the lives of countless people who can never repay them.

We can't allow ourselves to waste their sacrifice. Do something kind for someone; with no expectation of anything in return. Tackle life. Don't let go without a fight. Every damn day is worth the fight.

"Are you ready? Let's roll....."