

August 15, 2025

Football Officials,

Welcome to the 2025 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.

In addition to being a conduit between Wyoming's Football Officials and the WHSAA, my goals as your coordinator are to:

1. Increase the health and number of associations (and officials) in Wyoming;
2. Improve rules knowledge statewide;
3. Promote uniformity in mechanics; and
4. Provide educational (and other) resources to officials and associations.

Preseason Training #1

1. Rules Knowledge:
 - a. We all know the Forward Fumble Rule will create lots of questions. Please be sure to review this rule and other sources to help you master its intricacies. Below is one example of a rare occurrence that we need to have mastery of.
 - b. Situation: 3rd and 6 from the B-26. B24 intercepts A7's pass on the B-4 with his momentum taking him directly towards his goal line and into the end zone. B24 fumbles from the end zone into the field of play with the ball rolling out of bounds at the B-1. Ruling?
 - c. Ruling: For the purpose of administering this play, the ball is returned to the spot of the fumble (because it's a forward fumble that goes out of bounds between the goal lines). However! ... The momentum exception in 8-5-2 applies and, in essence, overrides the forward fumble rule. As such, it will be B's ball, 1st and 10 at the B-4 (8-5-2A Exception).
 - d. Comment: Had the fumble occurred in the field of play, prior to crossing the goal line, the momentum exception would not have applied, and the ball would have been returned to the spot of the fumble. See: Case Book P. 40
2. Field Mechanics:
 - a. Illegal Forward Pass
 - i. This is an interesting play to try and cover. You can look at Rule 7-5 for information on IFP.
 - ii. Back Judges: If you have an opinion on whether the QB has crossed the LOS, we have much bigger problems on our hands!
 - iii. Wings: Ideally, we're staying home on most passes. So we can have an opinion on whether the QB crossed the neutral zone – and can help out our Referee with that call.

- iv. Umpires: With the Wings staying home, most of the time, your help is limited, but there is a chance you might have information.
- v. Referees: As you trail your QB, this is primarily your call. That being said, if it's close, be sure to see if one of your Wings have information to assist you. A late flag here is totally okay! Let's just make sure we get it right.
- vi. What about the goal line??
 - 1. Here's where things get interesting...
 - a. 2nd and Goal from the B-5. QB1 rolls out to pass and steps forward, throwing the ball from the B-4 ½ yard line. The pass is caught for a TD.
 - 2. Obviously, the Wings are of NO help here if they are mechanically correct. They should both be on the goal line.
 - 3. Referees... you might have an opinion, depending on how closely you trail, but you are very likely going to need help.
 - 4. Umpires – this is where you can be a crew saver! We teach that you stay home for most plays, but here is a great opportunity to step towards the line – making sure not to stand on the goal line, of course. Here's a good opportunity to be near the LOS and help your White Hat make this call.

3. Officiating Philosophy:

- a. Uniforms...
 - i. Ideally this is the last time I have to talk about this POE, but I want to make sure it's touched on. Please review the attached 'legal uniform' attachment.
- b. 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.
- c. 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, please enjoy this video from MIBT on positioning and communication at the Goal Line! They have a great selection of videos to learn from.
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY-ZxWR8TbI>

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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