

Lana,

Please send the below to all WY FB Officials. Thank you!

August 21, 2025

Football Officials,

Thank you for taking the time to complete the one-question survey about the closed book exam. I appreciate your feedback and thoughtful responses. For this year, we'll stick with the NFHS exam simply due to timing. However, note that the overwhelming response was to move to a more practical exam (73% to 27%). I will share the sample test questions for this year via the weekly quizzes. You should get a good flavor for the exam.

**As you have seen, we are moving away from the school-proctored (or not-really-that-proctored) exam format. I welcome ideas on a better system/structure, and we will take them into consideration as we find a more accountable way of assessing our rules knowledge. No idea is a bad one!

Preseason Training #2

1. Rules Knowledge:

- a. Here is our first quiz of the season!
- b. Link: <https://forms.gle/xPRWYPmn934aniWy7>

2. Field Mechanics:

- a. Bubble Screen and Bunch-Trips or -Quads Formations
- b. When we see this type of formation, it can and should lead to us focusing on our mechanics and how we'll cover this overload situation. With only 5 officials, we need to know which official is covering what. Truly, in this situation, we should move from individual keys to zone coverage almost immediately. A few key strategies:
 - i. Let them declare – If there's a bunch formation of receivers, we as the covering Wing and Back Judge, need to let those players show us where they're going before we focus in on who is keying whom. Our offensive tackle will show us run or pass, then we can open our vision to this part of the formation and allow the players to show us where the play is going. We can then focus on pass receivers, blocking downfield, etc.
 - ii. Wide scope of vision – when we let the receivers declare, we need to have a wide scope of vision, so we see everything in front of us, before zeroing in on specific action.
 - iii. Press coverage – this should always draw the attention of the Wing official. We don't see much of this in Wyoming, but when we do, it must be our priority.
 - iv. Forward or Backward Pass – as we allow the receivers to declare, we will be able to read screen pass. If so, our wide vision will allow us to rule on whether the pass is forward or backward – also whether the pass was caught behind or beyond the LOS. If beyond, our wide angle also allows us to see whether we have OPI for blocking downfield.
 1. Note: the opposite wing, who is also staying home, can be a crew saver on whether the pass was caught behind or beyond the LOS.
- c. Wings and BJ's – pregame this together!
 - i. Who has which receiver?
 1. Strength of formation?
 2. Inside/outside receivers?
 - ii. This is never a waste of time in our pre-game conversations! In times where we may have a sub on our crew, it's always worth making sure we're on the same page.

3. Officiating Philosophy:

- a. Get out to the field early!
- b. Why? Here are just a few of the things we as a crew can accomplish when we arrive early, dress efficiently, and get onto the playing surface in a timely matter:
 - i. Meaningful walk of field – instead of a glance, or assuming things are fine.
 - ii. Meaningful meeting with chain crew – they're part of our team and we need them!
 - iii. Meaningful meeting with clock operator(s) – they can be a huge benefit when properly briefed and empowered.
 - iv. See snaps from both teams (it sets our minds and eyes onto football!)
 1. Know who our studs/team leaders are
 2. QB is a righty or lefty
 3. K is a righty or lefty; and how good of a leg does he have
 4. Names of both QBs (for the R), names of both Centers (for the U)
 - v. Fix player equipment issues before the game even starts!
 - vi. Meet with the coaches, cover all the bases, and see what we need to see before the teams go into the locker room!
- c. This is worth our time and goes with the old saying... “an ounce of prevention.”

4. Football Teaching Tape:

- a. Just a single play this week. Tell me what you have and be sure to site your rule book/case book sources! Hint... it's a POE this year.
 - i. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1YJ7QrDtSb/>

Thank you for your time! Again, my door is always open. I love “talking shop” with anyone and everyone. Shout out to our affiliate officials from neighboring states for their interactions, too! It's all beneficial to all of us!

Remember to work on your Pre-Snap Routine – even as we are prepping for the year!
Cheers. --Tyler

Tyler Spear
State Coordinator of Football Officials, WHSAA
970-554-1600 (cell)
tyler.s.spear@gmail.com



THIS PHONE MUST BE YOURS.
IT HAS 40 MISSED CALLS.