

Lana,

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

September 4, 2025

Football Officials,

There's a touch of "fall" in the air these days! Hopefully you've been able to knock off some of the rust from the offseason and are working towards your goals for this year! I certainly saw a lot on film that I need to improve upon. Below are a few things to focus on this week, please. Be sure to reach out if there's anything that comes up during your prep, or after your games. *Smart* Whistles out there!

1. Rules Knowledge -- Own Your Learning!

- a. Week One Rules Quiz: <https://forms.gle/qqnQfw8jHn4Z5eUp7>
- b. I welcome feedback on this new format for the quizzes! Please enjoy this as you hit the road this week!

2. Field Mechanics

a. Punt Coverage

- i. Back Judge – In addition to covering the punt receivers, it's important to maintain a wide angle and view of the whole kicking situation. You have a TON to do on these plays and it's truly your time to shine! A few reminders:
 1. Make sure you're still in view of the punter for play clock status
 2. Watch the gunners on the chains side of the field.
 3. Be mindful of the goal line (whether you're close to it, or if it's a distance away!)

ii. Line Judge

1. Signal to the HL that you're leaving early. Then move downfield, with urgency, after a clean snap. Don't wait for the play to develop first... Beat feet!
2. You have the gunners on your side. Look for first threat.
3. Stay wide. Be the crew saver on a bad/poor fair-catch signal.

iii. Head Lines

1. Stay home! You are the sole opinion on whether the kick crossed the neutral zone.
2. Move downfield only after a clean kick, then move to the second level of threats.
3. Look for head-hunters and be prepared for long return. Off-ball officiating.

iv. Umpire

1. The Snapper's protected! That's all you.
2. Be sure to pivot after the kick (and when the masses go by you), your job is huge!
3. Be the crew-saver! – If the kick is over the punt receiver's head and rolling towards the goal line, you have eyes on the punt receiver for possible foul. Just because he let the ball go, doesn't mean he's not still vulnerable...

v. Referee

1. Don't leave the punter too early.
2. Think about reverse goal line – both for bad snap and for long return
3. Your Back Judge is super busy here... think like your colleague and own the clock after things settle down.
4. Be sure to find the result of the play as early as possible

3. Officiating Philosophy

a. Communicating clock status

- i. We all like to think that the Back Judge owns the clock, or maybe the BJ and the Referee – BUT – I happen to think the clock is, ultimately, everyone's responsibility.
- ii. I heard there was an abundance of clock operator issues this week. Yuck.
 1. As such, let's make sure we all have some level of ownership over the game clock.
 2. Don't wait... if you see an issue, get on the hammer, shut things down, and make sure we have it right.
- iii. There is additional value to getting to the field early and having a real meeting with the clock operator. Don't pass this by.
- iv. I've attached a supporting document you can print and hand to the clock operator.

b. A few tips

- i. Everyone should incorporate game clock into their pre-snap routine. The only exception would be the official whose back is to the clock. Don't turn around or take your eyes off the players.
- ii. Wings Officials – if you have the direct view of the clock, and your Referee doesn't, take two seconds and communicate that the "clock's good" to your white hat. As an R, that's the ultimate peace of mind. This is a great tool to use after penalty enforcement, after a first down, or anytime when the clock operator is less than stellar.
- iii. Umpire – this is something to quietly reference to the Referee on penalty enforcement. Share the result of the play and clock status, if you can, to help level-set your Referee.

- c. Note: the same philosophies can also assist the BJ with the play clock. If we're not sure, let's make the time to get it right. A simple radio shout to the BJ of "25" or "40" is worth it.

4. Football Teaching Tape

- a. Link: <https://youtu.be/Ew7amf2TORQ>
- b. Special thanks to the crews featured in this week's film!

Lastly -- **Congrats** to all those who successfully passed the closed-book exam!

Remember to set the tone well. Whomever throws that first OH, PI, SW, etc. sets the standard for your whole crew for the whole game for that foul type! --*Tyler*

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