

September 1, 2021 Football Weekly Reminders #1



Ok, you just worked your first game. Some cleared the starting gate, others stumbled on the start and struggled to catch up, and some simply fell down. Now it is time to have an honest evaluation of your work so you can make changes for week two. Most coaches will tell you that a team improves the most from week one to week two. Do you believe you are any different? Some questions that only you can answer are: Was I in top officiating condition and able to keep up with the action, or is my mindset that I will officiate myself into shape? Were my verbal communication and signals sharp and clear, so as not to cause confusion? Was I mentally prepared for all the situations that were presented to me and my crew, or did I revert back to letting the Referee figure it out? Only you can answer these.

Areas needing our attention:

1. Ball relay:

Short, underhand passes as compared to long overhead passes. Too many balls were bouncing around the field.



2. It's not so much what we did, but what we said: Here are a number of words and phrases that got us into trouble: **I THOUGHT, I THINK, IT LOOKED LIKE, I'M NOT SURE BUT, IT WASN'T MY CALL, I BELIEVE, HE APPEARED TO, I WAS BLOCKED OUT.**



3. Goal line positioning: Get back and stay back. The further you can go, the better you are. Break the habit of moving up. Don't be afraid to use security, you need room.



4. Dangerous conditions:



Just as $1 + 1 = 2$, High humidity + High temperature = MAJOR PROBLEMS. Add the fact that many games are played on a turf field and you quickly have the ingredients for a MAJOR DISASTER. Discuss this with the coaches prior to the game. Let them know the approximate times you WILL have a BUILT-IN BREAK.

When they drink, YOU DRINK, EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT THIRSTY. Start hydrating days BEFORE your game, not the day of it.



5. NEVER. How many times does this need to be said: "Leave injuries to the medical staff."

6. Good luck, you have a 50-50 chance of being right. Same problem, different year. You have a 20+ yardage start, you don't have to be Usain Bolt, but YOU CAN'T BE SECOND TO THE GOAL LINE.



7. Deep officials need to get off the sideline. Visibility has a positive effect on players. Let them see you as compared to blending in on the sideline. Even if there is no action in your area, widen your visual field and officiate something.



TRAVEL SAFE