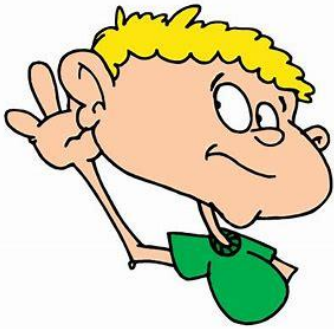


September 9, 2021 Football Weekly Reminders #2



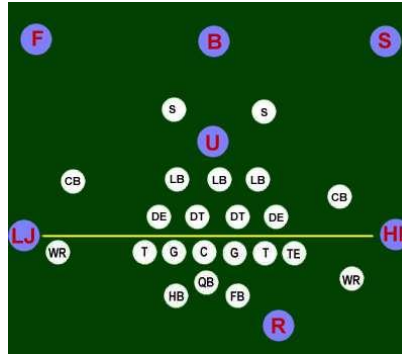
Here is a cartoon that illustrates a problem that can lead to distrust amongst your fellow officials. It creeps into our local meetings, side tracking much needed topics and contributes to why chapter members are not flocking to meetings. Still wondering? How about two clues, “I heard” or “Did you hear what so and so did?” Instead of talking about someone, set up what happened and discuss how the dominoes lined up and what can be done to alter the outcome. Maybe someday you will be in the same situation, will recognize the dominoes lining up and execute a ruling that will elevate you on the officiating ladder, so you don’t become the “so and so.”

Areas needing our attention:

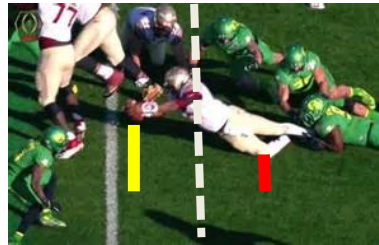
1. Proper mechanics vs. localized mechanics or your mechanics. When in Rome, do as the Romans do. A comment too often heard by observers is, “That’s the way we do it,” or “That’s the way I do it.” That might be, but it’s not the way your state wants it done. When you don’t advance or even get to the post-season, don’t complain.



No matter the number of officials used by your state, have the correct manual printed off. Too often we spend an untold number of hours studying the rules or discussing plays in our meetings but forget about the mechanics involved. If you don’t know where you are supposed to be looking, we will have too many eyes watching a few and the rest unattended.



2. The forward progress spot is



the furthestmost spot of the ball when the ball becomes dead. The forward progress spot is NOT the spot where the knee touches the ground. Don’t award extra yardage or take yardage away that was gained. Where do you spot the ball if the white line is the first down line?

3. Sideline problems continue to plague officials. You MUST have sideline space to operate in. Never mind about being the nice guy/gal, get them back. This condition needs to be addressed immediately, not late in the game. Know who the “get back coach” is. If diplomacy doesn’t work, throw the flag for a sideline warning and watch the other team take notice also.



What some sidelines are and what they should be.



4. It is said “Never assume,” but here are several assumes that we must consider:

1. Assume no one knows the clock status.
2. Assume the Referee doesn’t know who has the ball after a kick.
3. Assume no one has written down who the UNS foul was on or when.
4. Assume the Umpire doesn’t know the enforcement spot.
5. Assume the deep officials will let a receiver run after a fair catch signal.
6. Assume the “wing” officials will forget to kill the play when a defensive player enters the neutral zone.

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Observers