

# Communication & Penalty Enforcement

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# Pre-game Communication

- Referee
  - Notify crew (include clock operators) of schedule for the week
    - Travel plans
    - Arrival time
    - Pre-game meeting assignments
  - Contact school – FB Ops / Assistant / etc. (email or phone)
    - Check on parking, special situations (pre-game/halftime/etc.)
  - Contact coaches (as per supervisor) – email is generally best
    - Let coaches know what time R/U will meet them
    - Give them the names of the crew
- Everybody
  - Review any bulletins/plays from CFO / Supervisor
    - If you have questions/issues then discuss with a crewmate, referee, director, etc.
  - Review any situations from the previous week
    - Talk to Crewmates or reach out to Referee – Conference Call?
    - “How could we (the crew) have handled this better” vs “You should have done this”
  - Scouting reports - Utilize the internet / check the teams stats
    - Do they run or pass
    - Who are the “stars” – this is who they will go to at the end of the game

# Pre-game Conference

- Should not be a recitation –
  - Mix things up, especially late in the season
- Needs to be interactive – if you are not participating then you have probably NOT properly prepared
  - Everyone needs to be involved
- Review plays from previous week – should be on-going during the week but discuss refining mechanics
  - “What could the crew have handled better”
- Review any bulletins/plays from CFO / Supervisor
  - Everyone needs to be on the same page
  - Remember the coaches see these bulletins so everyone needs to be prepared to answer any questions
- Should generally be a discussion of mechanics and how you will work on the field – if you are reviewing rules it is **TOO LATE**

# Communication During the Game

- Communication starts with appearance!
  - Professionalism has NO Limits – Look the part, act the part!
- POISE – Never meet emotion with emotion
- PROPER – Make sure the proper people get the proper information at the proper time

# Crew Communication - Signals

- Utilize approved signals

- Players off/on the line
- Preliminary signals on penalties
  - Everyone needs to know them
  - If you don't know it, don't give the wrong one
- Punches on passes
- Touching signal on tipped passes
- Wind/Snap –always signal/tell the referee, even if he does not respond...it is the one time nobody tells the R that he needs it!!!
  - The clock is EVERYONE's responsibility – this is CREW MISS if we get it wrong
- Iron Cross – H/L/S/F give it to the R, R signals and moves the U up



# Communication with Coaches



- Always be respectful – never meet emotion with emotion
- H/L/S/F – PROPER information at the PROPER time
  - Penalties – for and against
    - The coach makes the decision on accepting or declining
  - 10 second run-off – you need to understand this rule to help the coach with potential options
    - Time and Down/Distance
    - Who is leading
    - Time-outs remaining
- R if coach wants to talk to you
  - Do not talk in middle of field – get to the sideline, the coach will follow you
  - Never talk to coach alone (H/L/S/F should be with you)
  - If you need the calling official – get him there also

# Referee Microphone



- Practice your signals, enunciation, and delivery, in front of a mirror.
- Coordinate your signals with the oral explanation.
- Pause appropriately to allow the stadium PA system to maintain clarity.
- Refine and develop your microphone skills, even in stadiums where there is no microphone available. Deliver the information orally in conjunction with your signal(s), as if you were using a microphone.
- Practice the pace of your signals. Pause between signals so they do not run into each other.
- Look out at playing field level; do not look up to the press box.
- Give preliminary signal (if someone else has not) as soon as possible. Step to an open area. Everyone is watching and waiting for your communication.

# Penalties



- Penalty enforcement – discuss in pre-game how you are going to relay to the Referee
  - If you use predetermined sequence it will become a habit
- Everyone needs to know what the penalty is
  - Wings (H/L/F/S) need to let the coaches know (give all the news, all the time – good news and bad news)
  - U/H/L need to make sure of the enforcement
- Any official with pertinent information on a play (penalty, etc.) needs to bring it forward on the field
- On the field is not a the time to critique – work to keep everyone in the game



# Penalty Enforcement Overview

- People can always debate judgment BUT
  - Penalty enforcement is one thing that cannot be debated
  - If we get it wrong someone will realize it!!!
  
  - The CREW must get it right
  
  - Do not sit back and allow there to be mis-enforcement
  - Wrong starting point
  - Live Ball Spots vs Dead Ball Spots
  - Wrong yardage

# Enforcement Mechanics

- How are penalties relayed to Referee?
  - O20
  - Without O20
  - Every R and official is different
- Moving flags
  - Move with a purpose and for a reason (i.e. weak arm or flag bounced)
  - Pick it up and put it in the right spot
  - Move before reporting to the R
  - If there are 2 flags down for the same foul; move them to the same spot – communicate with your partners
- Conferences
  - If you call a foul involving another official's key you should talk to him/her
  - If someone calls a foul involving your key seek them out and talk
- Preliminary Signals
  - Calling official should give preliminary – if it is a DBF, bow and start signaling right away
- Multiple Fouls
  - Do not assume you have the same thing as your fellow official
  - A/B fouls
  - Live Ball/Dead Ball
- Enforcing – true team effort
  - R makes the announcement
  - U marches it off (you have to know the enforcements)
  - H/L – walk off and hold previous spot until done

# Enforcement Mechanics

- Efficiency is key but do NOT RUSH
  - Knock out the easy ones...FST, DOF, DOG, etc.
  - Wing officials be cognizant that coach may want to decline a 5 yard DBF
    - DOG on Offense on 4<sup>th</sup> down at 50 yard line – some coaches do not want to give an angle for punts
    - DOF on try – moving the ball closer (3 to 1 ½) is not always preferable
- Enforcing the penalty is a true team effort
  - Calling official makes preliminary signal (especially if only 1 flag)
  - R gets penalty info and makes the announcement if obvious (Not obvious make a preliminary and get coaches choice)
  - H/L verify the yardage with the U
  - U marches it off (you HAVE to know the enforcements)
  - H/L on chains-side” walk off independently
  - H/L and U verify you are at the same spot
  - U puts the ball down
  - L/H hold previous spot until the ball is placed back down and mark off to verify
  - S/F help communicate with coaches if needed
  - B/F/S – all should be triple checking the U/H/L that they are in the right spot