



Communication

TODD BOYD/TOM MAWHINNEY

Overview

- ▶ Pre-game
 - ▶ During the week
 - ▶ Game Site
- ▶ During the game
 - ▶ Communication between the crew
 - ▶ Chain crew – H/L
 - ▶ Ball boys – S/F
 - ▶ Clock Operators
 - ▶ Replay Official
 - ▶ Communication with the players
 - ▶ Communication with the coaches
- ▶ Post-game
 - ▶ Coaches
 - ▶ Supervisor
 - ▶ Fellow officials



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 – email is generally best
 - ▶ Let coaches know what time R/U will meet them
 - ▶ Give them the names of the crew

Pre-game Communication

▶ 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 going on 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 (1)



- ▶ Verbal
 - ▶ 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

Crew Communication (2)

▶ Signals

- ▶ Use 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 makes the decision and signals the U



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



Communication with Coaches

- ▶ 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



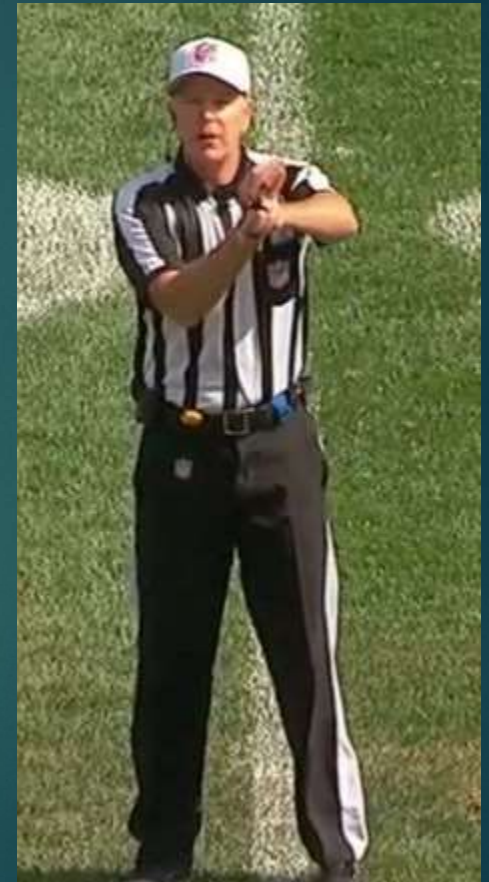
Communication with Players

- ▶ Always be respectful
- ▶ R – Know the QB's name
- ▶ U – Control the game in the middle
 - ▶ Center's Name
 - ▶ Defensive captain name
- ▶ All – Know the captains names – write them down so you can call them by name



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.



Referee 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.



Postgame Communication

- ▶ Coaches – Get foul reports to coaches
 - ▶ At game site
 - ▶ Via QwikRef
- ▶ Observers/Technical Advisors – they are there to make us all better
 - ▶ Be respectful
 - ▶ Be honest – tell them what you saw and why you did what you did
 - ▶ Do not argue
 - ▶ Take notes so the crew can review the following week

Postgame Communication

- ▶ Supervisor – Referee is focus
- ▶ Referee call him immediately when you have an ejection or other major issue – supervisors do not want to be surprised by a phone call from the coach – Hot Sheet??
- ▶ If the Supervisor needs to talk to other members of the crew he will contact them



Postgame Communication

- ▶ Fellow Officials – Be honest with yourself and your fellow officials
- ▶ Nobody has a perfect game
- ▶ What could we have handled better this game?
- ▶ Most mistakes happen from lack of Communication



Thanks for
your
attention!

TODD AND DR. TOM

