

## **CONDUCT OF ASSISTANT COACHES**

We encourage game officials to allow head coaches opportunities to communicate & vent on the sideline as long as that venting doesn't show you up. The games at times can be challenging because there are a lot of moving parts; we want to be the calming force when a head football coach becomes aggravated and frustrated.

We also think it's important that the game officials have excellent communication skills with the head coach (both verbal & non-verbal). We should have a cooperative spirit where we communicate potential problems to the head coach before the situation escalates and rises to the level of a foul. This is true of player conduct on the field as well as assistant coaches or players on the sideline.

With that being said, it's important that we know this same privilege to vent with the officials on the sideline does not extend to assistant coaches.

Over the last several years we have had many instances where assistant coaches have entered the field to protest calls or no calls from the game officials. We have also had circumstances where assistant coaches were berating game officials from the sideline.

Our expectations are that when game officials observe this type of unsportsmanlike behavior from assistant coaches that we will immediately flag and penalize this type of behavior. This is NOT the type of conduct that we would want to warn the head coach about. These egregious acts are fouls the first time and every time when committed by assistant coaches.

As always, game officials should use all available tools to manage the game. Good communication and warnings are intricate parts of game management. We always expect game officials to use good common sense when applying the rules and enforcing penalties.

## **COACHES REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

From time to time during the game, the head coach may ask the sideline official a question about a call or no call from another official on the field. Game officials should never attempt to answer coach's questions if they do not have the first-hand knowledge of the subject. Officials should politely tell the head coach they will seek out the answer, at the appropriate time, from other members of the crew.

At the next dead ball interval the official should go and ask the covering official for information relative to the head coach's question or concern. When you receive information or share information with another official you should then, at the appropriate time, share that information with the head coach.

Being approachable and going and finding out information for the head coach is an essential part of good game management.

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

With the advancement in technology and a change in playing rules, more and more teams are utilizing equipment that allows players and coaches to review film of the game immediately on the sideline. While this technology is a great advancement and affords coaches opportunities to teach and share information with athletes, this technology is NOT available to game officials under current NFHS playing rules.

We have had instances where coaches have protested calls during the game and then followed up with challenges to game officials to review the plays on the sideline with a tablet supplied by the coach.

At NO time should game officials or auxiliary personnel on the sideline utilize team equipment to review plays during a game or enter into a debate with a coach about the benefit of such technology.

Our expectation is that game officials will report this type of behavior from coaches to the OSSAA in their game report following the game. The OSSAA has clear procedures in place and the game film, if available will be made available for each crew at the appropriate time.