

PIAA Football Officials Lancaster Chapter

UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES

Get to the game 1 ½ hours before game time, accompany Referee to meet the Head Coaches, write down all information discussed for the rest of the crew, make sure all points covered (halftime length, legally equipped, etc.) Be certain all required equipment is being worn (such as tail pads) and they are unaltered. During the pre-game, you will be asked/expected to discuss the responsibilities of an umpire.

Game Management: Talk to the players, let them know you are there. Don't talk too much and don't be too quiet. At the same time, you have to allow the D player(s) or captain to vent, within reason. Otherwise, frustration gets bottled up and WE then become our worst enemy. Utilize the Defensive captain. Talk to him like the leader he is. He can alleviate any potential problems that may be festering on the field.

Coin Toss: Read the Sportsmanship message; write down winner of toss and their choice.

Kickoff: You will be on the Press box side of the field, 20 yard line. Count "R" players.

Punt: Responsible for numbering requirements and for snapper protection. Move toward LOS after snap to watch for holding. Shade to the LJ side of the field, after kick is away rotate towards Line Judge side of the field and SLOWLY move downfield.

All Plays: Take a position over the ball, count Offensive players. Give "fist" to Referee to confirm 11 offensive players (try to do this while they are in the huddle). YOU are responsible to make sure the ball is not snapped until the referee is ready and the ball has been blown in for play. Check for correct numbering. Always know the position of the ball in relationship to the playing field, (left hash, left post, middle, right post of right hash). Use additional wristband if necessary. Use a finger whistle, and use of the whistle should be MINIMAL.

Runs: Take position between Tackles, key on Guards for Run or Pass, on run focus on point of attack (watch for holding in particular between the tackles). Spot ball via Linesman or Line Judge. Try to stay between the hash marks.

Passes: Move towards Line of Scrimmage, looking for holds, if QB rolls, watch for fouls in that direction. Make sure passer does not cross the LOS before throwing the ball. On quick passes over the middle, assist on completions with other officials. Watch for & signal passes that are tipped.

Main responsibility: Assist the referee in keeping the game running smoothly. Make sure everything is correct before walking them off, and during Timeouts and in between plays stay over the ball until it is blown in for play. When setting the ball down, face the chains instead of facing down field and looking over your shoulder to find the spot. TAKE YOUR TIME, better to be sure than too quick when placing the ball down.

Measurements: Take the front stake and after getting verbal from Head Linesman he is ready, pull it tight so the referee can make a first down determination.

Penalties: Get captain of offended team, verify penalty and mark off with referee before marking it off, verify end spot of penalty with your HL before placing ball on the ground. Know all enforcements and signals.