Round 4 – Playoffs – Final

AA Game

Rain, rain, rain. That is never a good thing.

There were two dead ball fouls, one per team and the referee announced they offset.

Half the distance could have been involved, one foul could have been assessed on the try, the other on the kickoff or both could have been accessed on the kickoff. They do not offset and each carries its own distance penalty.

Even if the fouls occurred simultaneously they do not offset. We just stay where we are.

If this ever happens to you and a 1st down or half the distance are not involved, just announce the fouls and state the enforcement leaves the ball at this final spot.

AAA Game

Rain, rain, rain. Have I mentioned this before?

This game was really an example of poorly disciplined kids. Their actions were an embarrassment to the game of football. The crew handled it and got us out of the stadium without a brawl.

Coaches need to learn when kids misbehave, sitting them on the bench may be a big help in modifying their behavior.

A Game

No rain. Best game of the Super Six. The toughest team won.

http://wvmetronews.com/2014/12/06/photo-gallery-williamstown-and-st-marys-battle-for-class-a-title/

Need to view videos of these games to discern areas of concern to all of us.

Our officials worked hard and did really well. I apologized to the AAA crew for getting them
into such a mess. Someone has to work these games and they accepted the challenge and made the rest of the officials in WV proud.

**Round 3 – Playoffs – Follow-up**

I was misinformed regarding -- Under the heading “Can you Believe This?”

We had an opening kickoff and the ball was touched by K somewhere near R’s 35-yard line, then the ball bounced off of an R player, then K picked up the ball and advanced it into the end zone. The covering official signaled TD. The crew then assembled and decided K could not advance the ball and took away the TD. They then proceeded to give the ball to R because of “first touching by K”.

**NO NO NO**, This can’t be.

The ball should have been awarded to K at the spot where he possessed it. This was a free kick and first touching only occurs in the 10-yard wide neutral zone.

**What actually happened was a punt, so we do have first touching beyond the neutral zone.**

The play quoted above was not as bad as I thought. I finally got the game film and found out I was misinformed. The covering official did follow K to the end zone without killing the play. **K can possess the kick but may not advance. Add to that – R may take possession at the spot of first touching.**

**Round 3 – Playoffs**

Semi-finals report.

See you in Wheeling next week.

Hope I have nothing but good things to report.

Other than the stuff in this report the games this week went pretty well.

*Some notes from another State.*
1. **Spots/Lines:** Ask yourself each down – Am I covering the appropriate line – Goal line, End line, Line to gain, and/or Sideline? Do I know the down & distance on each down? Crucial Spot for Forward progress – Do I look to the Back Side Wing for help when needed? Do I know the spot of enforcement, yardage, & spot of foul.

2. **Player Equipment:** Watched a TV Game where there were numerous examples of illegal equipment such as shoulder pads & back pads exposed. We need to correct these immediately!

3. **Point of Emphasis:** Both Wings are responsible for the yardage on all penalties along with the U. Line Judge hold line and Linesman get to succeeding spot.

4. **Point of Emphasis:** Intentional Grounding is called & enforced at Previous Spot. Correct? No! How can 5 officials miss the enforcement? Please discuss. Who will step forward for a crew save!!!

5. **Unsportsmanlike:** A-3 thought he was interfered with & began aggressively signaling DPI to the Crew. The Crew did nothing. This is Unsportsmanlike!! The player is embarrassing the Crew. Take control of the game!

After a week of reviewing the UHS vs. SC game ending, I think the referee did an outstanding job of gathering information from the undecided crew to make the call. This same referee has been assigned to a D3 game this weekend. Seems like his reward for doing what he had to do.

Wings need to be cautious on out of bounds plays they cover. They need to quickly look to see if they are in danger of being run over, but then they must turn and officiate the action out of bounds.

Had a back judge give the NFL touchback signal. Why is this still a problem? Same back judge did not drop bean bag for possible momentum applications.

Wings and anybody else covering the goal line, give the TD signal as soon as you see the ball break the plane and there is no forward progress stopped short of the goal line.

Under the heading “**Can you Believe This?**”

We had an opening kickoff and the ball was touched by K somewhere near R’s 35-yard line, then the ball bounced off of an R player, then K picked up the ball and advanced it into the end zone. The covering official signaled TD. The crew then assembled and decided K could not advance the ball and took away the TD. They then proceeded to give the ball to R because of “first
touching by K”.

**NO NO NO**, This can’t be.

The ball should have been awarded to K at the spot where he possessed it. This was a free kick and first touching only occurs in the 10-yard wide neutral zone.

In the same game we had an inadvertent whistle and it took several minutes to decide what to do with the play. The referee went to both coaches, which is a no-no in this case and placed the ball near the 2-yard line, then moved it back to the 20, then moved it again.

This is simple – if you ever (heaven forbid) have an inadvertent whistle and the ball is in player possession, there are two choices, take the result of the play where blown dead or replay the down. Don’t make a federal case of this stuff. The captains are to make the choice.

Unless something really awful happens we should not be conferring with the coaches, let the kids handle it. They finally decided to replay the down but did not really know where the previous spot was because the sticks had already been moved.

Is it any wonder why my hair disappeared and what is left turned grey?

Should be some good football during the Super Six. Frankfort and St. Marys are making their first appearance ever at this event.

**Round 2 – Playoffs**

Just a random bunch of thoughts and plays.

Everytime we have a play we don’t sell, we have problems.

Sell your call !!!!

**Carry over from week 1**

On a 3rd down play and Team A coming from near their own goal line, A1 advances near the line to gain. A2 commits a block in the back at the 8 yard line and unable to determine if the line to gain was reached I gave preliminary signal and then measured to find it was about 2 inches short. Then I proceeded to give B1 choice of 4th and inches or take the penalty which was only going to be a 4-yd penalty due to half the distance.
Correct way to handle?

I said yes. Get all the information you can to give captains the best options.

**From another game:** We almost got caught on a nice trick play in our game. The QB took the snap and put it behind his back and backed away from center and all the lineman screamed “BALL” like it was a fumble and dove in a big pile around the center. Then he underthrew the end but it was a long gainer. The defensive end smelled it out but was a little late to the QB. I took a couple steps in as well as my umpire toward the pile and the QB had it standing right beside me. **Luckily we stayed off the whistle!!!**

In the University vs. South Charleston game Friday night, there was a bang-bang play at the goal line.

The crew did not do a good job of selling their call.


Prior to the start of this game, the University team crept out to past the top of the numbers just before the coin toss. The referee motioned them back when he should have confronted them, directing them to the sideline. The University coach then took control and moved his players back.

In a game at St. Marys, the crew had a measurement and picked up the ball and carried it to the wing man rather than the wingman moving into where the real spot was.

Looked real bad.

We need to remind visiting coaches this week to stay off the home team’s logo for a display prior to the coin toss.

There were some ejections and the Special Report was late getting to the office. Don’t know if it was caused by the website being down or what. During playoffs get your Special Reports in as quickly as possible.

Overall the second round was pretty well officiated. Nice work guys.

**Round 1 – Playoffs**
24 games and we are all still alive.

Some had several problems, others had few.

Round 2 will be tough.

Good work guys, and thanks.

**Interesting question.**

Mike need correct interpretation:

3rd and 10 say on the 50 yd. After gaining 5 yards and being tackled, Team B taunts A and a player from A retaliates and commits a dead ball personal foul against B. Will this result in a new series for A?

Team B’s taunting foul penalty would take the ball past the line to gain, but the dead ball foul returns the ball back behind the line to gain. Would it remain 4th and 5 after both penalties are enforced or does A get a new series because the foul by B?

**Answer:** Since a 1st down is involved, step off the penalty against B to the 30-yard line, then signal first down for A. Remember this is a 3rd down play. Then come back to 15 yards to B’s 45 and set the stakes, 1st and 10 for A.

Had a play that ended up with Team A advancing beyond the line to gain then committed a dead ball foul. The crew penalized correctly and moved the sticks to 1st and 10.

The only comment I have is that the referee should have signaled 1st down before penalizing Team A.

Also there was an intentional grounding that was called but the passer thought he was outside the “tackle box” so it should have been OK to throw the ball away. The referee said the kid did not know he couldn’t do that.

In another game we had several problems.

Touchback and R was penalized for a dead ball foul, half the distance, ball was placed on the 15 ???

Another play Team A lined up with an unbalanced line with only 2 linemen on the Linesman’s side. He read 4 in the backfield and reckoned there were only 6 on the LOS. Flag.
NO, NO, NO.

The linesman is responsible for seeing there are at least 7 men on the LOS. I don’t really care how you do it but do not depend on the backfield count to determine the lineup.

On another play the crew moved the ball and the stakes, then realized it was close, reset the stakes and then brought them in to measure.

This isn’t even acceptable at the Middle School level.

Received several kudos to our crews for the good jobs they did. Had one crew give the home team a good report on how neat the sideline was during the entire game.

Round 2 coming up. It doesn’t get easier. BE READY !!!

Week 11

Good shot of a hurdle that was called Friday night.

By the way, to have a block in the back it must be inside the shoulders. A block on a shoulder blade is not a block in the back. The position of the head is not a determining factor. When you can see the number of the opponent being blocked then the contact was not inside the shoulders.
Coaches and fans do not understand the blocking rules nor do they understand the rules involving tackling, re; horse-collar.

Here's the situation: K 4/10 at K10, 8 seconds left. K punts the ball towards the sideline. R signals for a fair catch at the R45 right in front of me on the wing. After making the catch, he is tackled by K54 with 2 seconds remaining for a dead ball personal foul, enforced to the K40. Team B's coach immediately starts yelling he wants a free kick. We actually got it lined up and kicked pretty quickly. The ball went through the pipes and the R and U got to signal to end the half.

What is wrong with this play? I got it from some forum.

Week 10

One more week to the regular season.

Let us finish with a minimum of errors and with excellent game management.

Once again we had rain and more rain.

It looks like we are seeing a problem developing with the visiting teams coming out before the coin toss and stomping on the home team’s logo located in the center of the field. Last night the home team took umbrage and tried to protect their turf. This resulted with unsportsmanlike acts. We will probably have to change our coin toss mechanic.

In a high intensity, rivalry game, the officials flagged bad behavior right at the start and then the game stayed competitive and clean after that.

In another highly intense rivalry game, a flagrant foul was called because of a close call in an overtime game. The foul was for very foul language.


One last week before we begin the playoffs. So far our officials have done fairly well. The egregious errors have been kept to a minimum. Lack of concentration and communication among crews caused most of the bad things. You would think these kinds of problems would be easy to eliminate.

Question: May a coach request a conference with the referee to discuss a misapplication of a rule?

Answer: Yes. If the discussion is just to complain about something the conference which was originally taken as an official’s timeout will become a charged timeout and the timing of a regularly called
authorized conference shall continue. If the team has no timeouts remaining they will be charged with a
delay of game penalty and the interval shall end. The opposing team shall be notified that this is not an
authorized conference and they need to get ready to continue the game.

Week 9

Some crazy stuff out there.

Stay alert.

Thanks for all your hard work.

Play 1 - 3rd down and 33 from B’s 35-yd line, QB A7 completes the pass to A85 and runs down
to B’s 8-yd line where A85 fumbles into B’s end zone with the ball crossing over the end line last
in possession of team A. *(This last part of the statement may have led to the erroneous ruling:*

During the play B57 is called for roughing the passer.

This was the ruling: Team B would be penalized half the distance to the goal from the spot of the
last run (8-yd line), awarded an automatic first down and team A would have a 1st and goal from
the 4.

**Correct Ruling:** Since B, by rule now has possession of the ball because of the touchback, we
must penalize from the previous spot.

Play 2: - Same as above but the ball is fumbled into B’s end zone where it is recovered by team
B.

Ruling: *(Correct Ruling)* since there was a change of possession during the down, team A would
have possession 1st and 10 from B’ 20-yd line. Foul is penalized from previous spot and team A
is awarded an automatic 1st down.

Note that in both of these plays B has possession at the end of the down, either by rule or by
actual physical possession, therefore there can be no “tack-on” for roughing the passer.

K2 punts to R2 and K34 commits kick-catching-interference but R2 catches the ball and runs it
in for a touchdown. What are R’s options for the foul? Think about it.

Friday night I got to see a cute play.

A’s left offensive tackle backs off the line after the snap and receives a backward pass from his
quarterback. The tackle then throws a 60-yard pass into B’s end zone where the A receiver was
wide open. The problem with the execution was that the big ole tackle led his receiver about 10
yards or so too far.
Near the end of the 2nd period, Morgantown leads 7-0 over John Marshall. John Marshall has the ball down inside their own 7-yard line and there are less than 40 seconds on the clock. John Marshall kneels twice then with 2 seconds on the clock they are about to kneel down again when Morgantown calls a timeout.

Needless to say this ticked off the John Marshall coach so he had his quarterback attempt a pass rather than kneeling down again to run the clock out.

This kind of behavior by our coaches amazes me. No wonder they hate each other.

Plus one school scores 91 points and only allows 14. What is that all about?

**Play:** Team A commits intentional grounding and it is flagged by the line judge. They penalized from the previous spot. **Ruling:** The line judge needed to go immediately to the referee and inform him of the foul that was committed and the referee then needs to drop his flag on the spot of the pass. This is NOT a loose ball play. See 2-33-2b, page 36. Illegal forward passes are running plays hence the need to know the spot of the foul. 5 yards and lose of down.

It appears many of our white hats have been watching too much NCAA football.

In a modern 7-man crew the referee is just a moderator. This is not the case in our 5- or 6-man crews. We want our white hats to be active game officials. Don’t hang back and turn your 5-man crew into a 4-man crew.

**Week 8**

It seems we are battling some bad behavior on the part of players and a few coaches.

Don't give up on cleaning this stuff up.

Had a JV game where the visitors wore light tan jerseys. The referee called an UNS foul on the head coach. The home team coach declined the distance portion of the penalty. The referee reported the jersey issue to the SSAC office in a special report. Good job in handling this situation correctly.

Had a punt that was muffed and then rolled into R’s end zone where R recovered. Ruled a safety. Oh My !!!

**Question:** If all 11 players including the kicker are inside the 5 yard belt can any one of them move and kick the ball as long as they do not go behind the 5 yards.
Answer: Yes if there are at least 4 members of K on each side of the kicker. We will have to wait until the kick to rule on this.

Check this out. [https://vimeo.com/109021986](https://vimeo.com/109021986) Watch upback. We need to pick these BBWs up on a more consistent basis.

Here is another BBW, [http://youtu.be/hFq9dKGZghw](http://youtu.be/hFq9dKGZghw)

Play: Runner A22 is hit on B’s 10-yard line and the ball pops out of his grasp and bounces off the back of B45 who is lying face down on the ground at B’s 2-yard line. The ball then bounces into B’s end zone and across the side line. Is this a touchback or a safety? See 2-13-1 page 28 in your Rules Book. Convince me.

No officials for Woodrow vs. Capital on Friday. Wonder how that happened? This is very important; crew chiefs need to contact schools early in the week to confirm contracts. If AD doesn't hear from anybody it should raise a red flag.

Saw a crew take captains out for 2nd half options, I swore we did away with that this fall.

In this game the linesman and back judge had excellent coverage on a long pass play where the receiver crossed the goal line at the pylon.

Just an observation from Friday night – Gallia 16 penalties for 129 yards and Pt. Pleasant 13 penalties for 121 yards. Is there something in the air down there?

4 unsportsmanlike fouls against one team Friday night. Bad behavior is a continuing problem.

You are not going to believe this one. Quarterback gets sacked for a 5 yard loss. During the play B is guilty of holding 5 yards beyond the line of scrimmage. The crew went to the spot of the hold to penalize B. B’s coach complained and the crew decided they had screwed it up. The box and chains had already been moved and of course no one knew where the dead ball spot was. For goodness sakes guys, learn the difference between loose ball plays and running plays. Then learn penalty enforcement.

Week 7

Rain, rain and more rain.

Not much happened that needs a lot of attention this week. Some penalty enforcements missed. Get in the books.
Hope for dry weather this week.

R2 muffs a punt on his 35-yard line. As he tries to recover, K34 comes by and is pushed in the side by R15 and K34’s foot contacts the grounded punt which then rolls to R’s 30-yard line where it is recovered by K14. R’s coach, in his twisted logic, states that the kick by K34 had to be illegal because Team K was gaining an advantage of 5 yards because of the kicked ball. Go figure.

On a play I missed last month receiver R22 muffed a punt and the ball hit the ground under his body. The Back Judge missed seeing the ball hit the ground and ruled it a catch. The umpire did not turn around to provide any help. I have no idea what the two wings saw. Just an awkward play to explain to a coach who saw the ball touch the ground on a video of the game.

In 6-man the two deep judges should be able to get a long incomplete pass or punt exchange off of the field. The LJ and L can get a new ball in. In 5- or 6-man don’t be too quick to leave your players to get a ball off or a new one in – wait till things die down.

This is not how to manage a sideline
We gain nothing by ignoring our responsibilities! If the sideline warning doesn’t keep them back then the 5-yard penalty must be enforced. Do the right things.

Week 6

Uniforms are a problem. Thank goodness the game is more important. However, rules are rules!!!!

Penalty enforcement is one of the most important things we do. We must get it right. Game fairness depends on it.

Wings need to clean up formations early to prevent serious problems from cropping up later in the game. I see several schools whose linemen are not on their line of scrimmage. The head or foot has to break the plane through the waist of the snapper. (1-32-9)
If we can’t get the problems with pants not covering the knees and deltoid pads attached to shoulder pads cleaned up just by reminding the players, then we will have to apply the rules as written. When you check equipment during pregame and remind kids to cover up and they don’t, do not permit them to participate. If, through play, the pads or knees become uncovered, send them out to get it fixed.

From a week ago, I mentioned the color discrepancy of jerseys in the Capital – South Charleston game. The rule clearly states the visitors shall wear white. The head coach of South Charleston should have been flagged for an Unsportsmanlike foul. Of course the Capital coach can decline the distance penalty but the visiting coach still has the one Unsportsmanlike foul. If he should get another in that game he shall be ejected. Officials can provide preventative officiating by checking to see if the visitor jersey colors can be changed to white prior to the start of the game.

At a game Friday night in the N-Central part of the state, an altercation occurred and several players from one of the teams left the team box and went out on the field. No ejections but numbers were recorded. Somebody should have been disqualified. I’m at a loss for words.
Lots of wind and rain but the games I checked on went pretty well. I did see an umpire wearing a white towel, looks bad.

In a game up in the Northern Panhandle there was a crew that did a terrible job administering penalties from the proper spot. Administered penalties for fouls in side zone from hash mark and fouls on running plays where the foul was behind line of scrimmage from the line of scrimmage.

Looks like we still have a lot of work to do.

However, many crews are doing a really good job. How do we get this kind of performance to occur all the time?

Week 5

From last week; following a disqualification of a high school player, the media and parents got heavily involved. Some of our officials supposedly chimed in supporting the parents and media. This sounds like we are second guessing our fellow officials and have no direct knowledge of what happened. Local Boards need to press their members to behave in a more professional fashion.

Speaking of professionalism there was a Middle School game played this week and one of the officials was wearing a visor instead of a cap. Local Boards need to be the leaders of what is acceptable and what is not.

**Question:** If the front line of the defense is 2 yards off of the line of scrimmage, may they be blocked below the waist? **Answer:** No they may not. Since they are not within 1 yard of their line of scrimmage they are not defensive linemen and they may not be blocked low.

**Another question:** If K has to re-kick from Team R’s 45 because of a foul moving the free kick line, where can the ball be placed if the kick then goes out of bounds on the 10-yard line? **Answer:** Team K may be penalized 5 yards from the previous spot and re-kick from the 50-yard line, or Team R may take the untouched kick from the 10-yard line or R may take the ball from their 20-yard line (which is 25 yards from the free kick line).
Umpires – you need to stay out of the line of fire.

What about the jerseys? Capital is at home and wearing light grey, South Charleston, the visitors, wearing their black. I wonder how this was accomplished.

Had a play in a neighboring state to the north where a pass was intercepted and run back for a TD. The problem here is this was in overtime.

Had a visit at the Wayne – Mingo Central game and there was no drone. Disappointed.

**Here is an example of good officiating.** 4th down and A12 throws a forward pass. The receiver muffs it and it drops to the ground. A defender then comes in and hits the defenseless player (the would-be receiver). The wing flags the hit. Since this play did not give Team A a new series, the ball goes over to Team B. They were penalized from the previous spot and given the ball 1st and 10. Some crews would have penalized and given Team A a new series.

**In a tough game,** the box man of the chain crew was on his cell phone a lot of the evening; Solution – have him replaced. Don’t mess around with less than acceptable chain crews. They are too important.

In this game the home team wore light grey jerseys and the visiting team wore black. Not sure if this is appropriate. No penalty is prescribed but it should be reported to the office.
If #32 can get his epaulet inside his sleeve pocket why can’t #14 do the same? Are we not looking for these things?

Look at this. Does this look like the right size of eyeshade?

Until we make coaches live up to their responsibilities they will continue to ignore the rules.
OH MY! No call?

Week 4

Rule 1-5-1,d,3: Shoulder pads and attachments must be fully covered by the jersey. Check on the pads in pre-game so that there will be few problems during the game.

Those epaulets that hang below the short sleeve are not legal.

Just a reminder – contact to a defenseless player may or may not be a foul. If the so-called defenseless player is involved in a play, such as a blocker off to the side of a runner or in chase of a runner, etc. they may be contacted free of foul if contacted legally otherwise.

Some referees are unsure of how close to the new LOS they need to be when the play ends. If the play ends between the numbers and is not a long-gainer, being within 5 yards of the pile is
usually sufficient. Sometimes you may need to get right up on the edge of the pile to let players know they are under close scrutiny.

Wings must help the back judge get the ball off the field after punts and incomplete passes. It really looks lazy when they don’t do this. Wings also need to remember to monitor their teams during timeouts. Keep the outside the numbers huddle outside the numbers. Also get to the 9-yard makes between the 25 yard lines to get teams to congregate in the correct area.

A couple of crews did not take care of their sidelines. Coaches coming out on the field except during timeouts is not permissible - use the sideline warning. Coaches on the field of play during live ball action requires a 15-yard penalty. Don’t worry about coming back next year, if you ignore these things - you don’t deserve to come back. Referees who are not communicating with coaching staffs and team captains is creating a problem.

Have you had a school that turned up the sound from the booth when their opponents have a 3rd down play?

Keep studying the game rules and mechanics.

We may be almost halfway through the season but I haven’t seen a perfectly worked game yet.

Week 3

My comments from Week 3 and some Week 2 leftovers.

Hope your season is going well and problems are few and sparsely spread.
Always check player equipment prior to and during the game. Note unbuckled chin strap on #2 and shiny knees on #24.

Had a couple of players from Northern Panhandle that did not wear pants long enough to cover their knees. I don’t know what was done about it. The photo on the right was from a Northern Panhandle game.

Another 5th down raised its ugly head. Really had no bearing on outcome of the game but a 6-man crew messed this up.

Reportedly had a running clock in a MSAC game. After investigating, the media got it wrong. Can you imagine that? If you haven’t already learned this – you don’t want to take what is reported in the media as gospel.

Drones are becoming a headache. Treat them as any other media form. When the game starts they are to be outside the plane of the restraining lines and must not become intrusive toward
either team. Keeping them grounded is probably a good idea.

In a game Friday night, the referee (who works passing arm side) the umpire (who didn’t move well) and the line judge missed a block in the back. The play started on the right hash and ended well outside the numbers on the left side of the field and well beyond the line of scrimmage. The referee had too much field to cover (had he been wide side this would not have been a problem), the umpire was way behind the play and it appeared the line judge was concentrating on the runner. The block in the back was near the runner in the left side zone. Let’s talk about getting proper coverage on these types of actions.

Wings, when a QB intentionally grounds the ball (you know there is no eligible receiver in the vicinity) run to the referee and tell him and make him toss the flag. We need that spot for penalty enforcement. Referees, don’t be shy about calling these acts on your own. It is not a difficult call to make.

Kickoff went out of bounds and R elected to have K re-kick. Line Judge did not inform R they could move up to K’s 45.

In a game going along well, all of a sudden there is a helmet to head contact on a quarterback. The play was not flagged. It appears the referee failed to continue to focus on the quarterback until he was free of foul.

Other than these few items (and some others that need no mention) we are doing well. Keep up the good work.

Week 2

Loose ball Plays / Running Plays

Some of our officials are having difficulties with penalty administration and the types of play in question.

For loose ball plays the ball must be loose behind the line of scrimmage and prior to a change of possession, from a snap, fumble, muff, legal pass, backward pass or legal kick, and a foul committed during this interval makes the basic spot the previous spot for penalty administration. There may be any number of runs preceding these instances. Use the all-but-one for penalty enforcement except for roughing the passer with the play ending beyond the LOS (those may be “tack-ons”)

.
If a running play develops and the foul occurs during the run and no further loose balls occur behind the line then we just have a running play. A running play is just that (including illegal forward passes) and the end of the run is the basic spot for penalty administration and we use the all-but-one for penalty enforcement.

**Play 1:** 1st and 10 for Team A on B’s 33-yard line. The Team A passer completes a pass to his teammate, A81 who is tackled on B’s 38-yard line. The passer is roughed.

This is a loose ball play and the foul must be penalized from the previous spot, not the end of A81’s run.

**Question:** A73 has a broken chin strap buckle. He is sent out by an official. Can he come back in for the next play if Team A calls a timeout? **Answer:** Yes. This is not an injury and the player could have come back in immediately if he had a way to repair the buckle without assistance and did not delay the ready.

**Situation:** Sub A84 comes toward the huddle and the wing on that side notes the A84’s pants do not cover the knees. **Result:** A84 shall not be permitted to participate. If the coach says he is the only sub for his tight end - **tough.** “Coach get another player in or take a timeout to get A84 properly dressed.”

**Comments regarding this year’s Part I and II Exams**

*We have quite a few officials who don’t take advantage of the exercise in rules by not really applying themselves on the Part I Exam. Out of 603 scores, 96 scored below 80% on the Part I Exam. Then when we look at the Part II scores there are just 27 who scored below 80%. We need to know the rules knowledge base of our officials but the Exams are as much for helping you get into the books as anything else. Remember this next year.*

**Situation:** A’s ball near their own goal line. Referee, if snap is from the 5-yard line in be sure to start on the end line. If K is in punt formation from their 15-yard line in, start on the end line. This will permit accurate coverage on bad snaps, fumbles, etc. rolling around in the end zone.

**Situations:** We had two illegal substitution calls that I am aware of. One was a call by the referee by mistake but no one on the crew conferred with the referee of the error. At least one of the crew knew of the error. Another called by the referee and I could not see the count given by the umpire. This referee was on his own. There needs to be better and quicker communication within a crew.

**Situation:** There was a “block” by a BJ that permitted a team to score a long TD play. This was a 6-man crew. How can one of the 2 deep judges get in the way of a defender? Think about
Several positive comments from officials across the state regarding good treatment and behavior. GREAT !!!

**REMEMBER**: Remember to remind all interested in playoff assignments to send in their SN form.

**Week 1**

Rusty, rusty, rusty.

Some good stuff however.

We do need to get better.

First game.

Problems with pants not covering the knees, no penalties for this called.

We had the kicking team line up with no members of K in the 5-yard belt. The official tried to correct them on the next kickoff but it didn’t work because there were 2 K players outside the 5-yard belt and the kicker.

In this first game the LJ had a terrific withhold of the whistle when a runner was pulled down on a defender, rolled forward then was grounded.

In this game the wings did not monitor their teams during outside the numbers timeouts.

Wings are not doing a very good job of keeping the sideline clear during live ball play and some are even allowing coaches out on the field to call plays.

In another game LOTS of helmets came off players. Report these instances on a special report.

In another game the crew screwed up their alignment on kick tries. The referee had already given the ready then he stopped action, realigned, then remarked the ball ready. This is not the way to do this. If you misalign let it go and get it right the next time. Use the holder to determine who goes back under the uprights and where the referee goes. Asking the coach if he has a right-or left-footed kicker before the game may be a clever idea but the actual action should determine your mechanics on these kick tries.
There was a play in this game where a runner cut inside his tight end and the defensive linebacker came in to make the stop and drove his shoulder into the shoulder of the runner. The wing on that side flagged a targeting foul. We need to CLEARLY see the whole thing.

We expect some rust the first week of play. Like allowing a team to put the kickoff tee on their own 35 and kick from there. Let’s get better next week.