

NSAA/NHSOA Football Points of Emphasis

All Officials:

- Arrive on field 30 minutes prior to KO
- Meet Home Coach then Visitor Coach “give each coach equal time”
- Look professional from the time you get to game site until you leave
- No conversations with fans while inspecting the field
- Give the same effort from start to finish “no matter what score of game is”
- Look like an athlete, run like an athlete and carry yourself like an athlete
- Participate in a professional pregame
- Proper Dress and decorum “all officials dressed alike”
- Keep flag tucked out of sight
- Have great ball mechanics “ball should never hit the ground”
- Don’t be in a hurry to pick up the ball, keep your eyes on players until they separate
- Continue to officiate after the flag is thrown
- Officiate dead ball action after whistle is blown
- The only signal given on the run is for a Timeout
- Whistles from only covering official(s)
- Only covering official(s) wind clock on kickoff “don’t watch the flight of the ball”
- Communicate-Communicate-Communicate-Communicate
- Hustle-Hustle-Hustle-Hustle-Hustle

REFEREE

- Conduct a professional Pre-game
- Initial position 5 yards deeper than deepest back, on passing arm side of QB
- Confirm offensive player count with Umpire
- Consistent ready for play, step out to signal-- then back into position
- Give down and distance both verbally and with proper hand signal, communicating the down with other crew members, making eye contact with entire crew.
- Stay wider and deeper than QB, stay with until he is no longer a passer, then move downfield. You are no help from 50 yards away
- Stay with punter until he is no longer a kicker, then move downfield.
- Yell “balls away” on pass plays-scrimmage kicks and PAT or field goal attempts
- Blow whistle as soon as ball is kicked on PAT
- Clean up behind play
- Help Umpire on short plays
- Cover wide plays to sideline

Penalty Signals:

Move to an open area "give preliminary signal"

STOP-Slow down and make your signals clear

Talk your way through signals as if you were on a microphone

Umpire

- **Stay over ball until RFP is blown, then back out.**
- **Position 1 yard deeper than linebackers**
- **Vary position between tackles**
- **Confirm offensive count with Referee**
- **Slide/Pivot to avoid contact when run is coming @ you**
- **Follow play inside/out**
- **Move with play "hash to hash"**
- **Get to the pile quickly and talk to the players as you are sorting them out**
- **Step up to the expanded neutral zone when you read pass**
- **Stay with blockers after pass**
- **Turn and find ball on short passes over middle, be ready to rule on catch**
- **On scrimmage kicks position 4-7 yards deep on LJ side, step up to LOS. Stay with interior line and blockers until players move past you, then pivot to LJ side and watch that area. Protect the snapper.**
- **Field Goal and PAT attempts, position on vacated side-outside of the end if possible Step up to LOS read interior lineman and check action on snapper**

Linesman-Line Judge

- **Start out-of-bounds "this will allow you to monitor the sideline better"**
- **Count defense and signal to BJ**
- **Move in based on formation "don't stay on sideline"**
- **Establish LOS with up-field foot**
- **Stay parallel to runner, then square off dead ball spot**
- **Stay with player who goes out-of bounds until he returns to field**
- **Squeeze in and clean up backside when play goes to opposite side of field**
- **Plays snapped inside the 5 yard line get to goal-line "B's or A's" and work back if needed**
- **Plays snapped inside the 10 stay ahead of runner to goal-line**
- **Move down sideline as required when you read pass**
- **COMMUNICATE w/crew when kicking tee is being brought in from your sideline "this will allow crew to position for FG or PAT attempt"**
- **If you are on the LOS for a FG or PAT, position off the sideline according to formation, can come to #'s if necessary. Get off the sideline**

LINESMAN:

Echo Referees signal for down both **ver**bally and with proper hand signal

- Make sure chains are back
- Do not move chains until referee gives OK
- Go to succeeding spot for penalties

Line Judge:

- Release on snap for punts
- Hold enforcement spot on penalties

Back Judge:

- Position to formation strength, no deeper than 20 yards off LOS
- Don't step back on snap, read tackles to determine run or pass
- Count defense and signal to LJ and LSM
- Maintain inside-out coverage, keeping play boxed in
- Cover sideline to sideline, let players know you are there
- Come up and be a presence on short gains between the hash marks
- Consistent 25 second count, crisp 5 second count
- Move quickly to ball on pass plays and assist with relay
- Stay deeper than deepest receiver, don't get beat deep.
- Be the kicking and passing rules expert on your crew
- Take care of all timing issues, know time on clock. Especially timeouts, incomplete passes, out of bounds and injuries.
- Hustle to retrieve balls along the sideline and assist with relay
- Scrimmage kick position 10-12 yards wider and 2-3 yards behind returner on LSM side
- Beanbag all punts