

## August 23, 2017 Football Weekly Reminders #2



### **NO, it wasn't just a scrimmage**

Now that most of us have had the opportunity to work our first scrimmage, did some of us fall back into a familiar trap of, "It's only a scrimmage" mentality? Here are a few thoughts that can lead to this conclusion: "It's only practice. It doesn't count. I don't do that in a game." Really? Coaches use scrimmages to evaluate their players and to make corrections in technique and mental attitude so these occurrences don't become habits. The players are fighting for a job and so are you. Do you think coordinators, evaluators and assignors are watching the action? The moment you walk onto the field, you are setting the tone for that event and projecting your image and attitude. Rest assured you were being watched and filmed. If you don't get that fill-in game because one of your fellow officials can't make it, that scrimmage where you loafed could very well be the deciding factor. There is no one to blame except yourself.

May the "force" be with you this Friday if you are unfortunate enough to be on

the field with an official who, for a million reasons, couldn't find time to work a scrimmage.

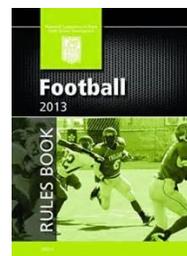
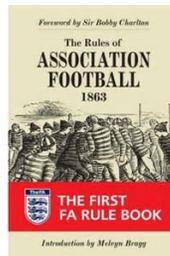
Just as tailors make alterations, so must we. Let's eliminate and improve on some of the following:



**1. Appearance, Appearance, Appearance.** Look the part and they will believe you. Uniform should be second to none.

**2. Conditioning, Conditioning, Condition.** If you plan on officiating yourself into shape, you are living in a dream world. It is already too late, but get out and do something.

**3. "Wing officials"** Why are we blowing our whistle when the ball goes out of bounds on the opposite side of the field? Who is watching the players in your area?



**4.** Forget any other set of rules other than NFHS and PIAA adoptions and be sure they are the current rules.

**5.** Why does the Umpire have a whistle in his/her mouth during the play? Spit it out at the snap.

**6.** As you move to the out-of-bounds spot, signal to **STOP THE CLOCK**, on the run. Time is vital.



**7.** Unless Superman is playing, the odds of DPI, OPI, KCI and illegal blocks at 40 feet are not our concern. They are our concern at ground level. Keep your eyes down and on the players.



**8. COUNT, COUNT, COUNT, and RECOUNT ON EVERY PLAY.** Count with your eyes, not your finger.

**Possible Opening Night problems:** New parking procedures, officials dressing room location, team locations, chain equipment, chain crew members, special pre-game ceremonies, new scoreboards, markings on field and others. Get there extra early and address these so all are on the same page.



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