

FWFO Bulletin Week 1

Taking Care of Business

- Eligibility
 - For those of you who are still ineligible and are wondering what needs to be done to become eligible, **reach out to Karl Wright directly**. If you are a new official, please also reach out to your mentor.
- If you have not already, please take the time to watch FWFO's very own Rod McLain talk us through the Hydration Message from TASO that we send on August 22nd. The link is below:
 - <https://protect-us.mimecast.com/s/hi38CZ6DV3s49OwGujvjS?domain=brainshark.com>
- Veteran Officials - Please remember that our best recruiting and retention resource is our veteran officials. Take the time, give back, and take these young officials under your wing. Nurture and protect them.
- Incident reports
 - Most of you have heard this for years, but if something happens in one of your games this season, and an incident report is warranted, please make sure to fill this out within 24 hours of the incident. If you are unsure about when and why an incident report should be filed, please reach out to a chapter officer for clarification.
- HUDL
 - To view training tapes you need to have annotations turned on, use HUDL Classic, and it is best viewed in a web browser, not the app. If any of you have trouble using HUDL, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.
 - Drew has created a folder in the 2023/24 Season at the top called "Development/Training" –FWFO Training Tapes will be located here to make them easy to find.
 - When a new training tape is published, notifications are sent to emails of pool officials and crew chiefs. Crew chiefs should let their crew to let them know when a new film hits the inbox. My goal is to have these published Wednesday afternoon/evening every week.
 - Third, all issues with new accounts for pool officials boil down to two issues: looking for the email address in an email that is not registered with the chapter, or stuck in your junk mail, spam, deleted mail.

Training

- Brush up on the rule changes again prior to your games this week. Sometimes these things don't stick with us until we actually apply them in a real game situation and I can guarantee you the coaches aren't 100% on them either. The better you know it, the better you can communicate it with the coaches and players and thus avoid conflict.
- Face shields – Must be clear and colorless. Anything that has color is considered to have tint and you must have the player remove it prior to kick off. This must be enforced by every crew, every week.

What makes a good official?

- Mechanics- the official is in the appropriate spot at the appropriate time to officiate the play from his or her position
- Rules knowledge – the official is able to apply the rules correctly to the play in front of them
- Good judgment – Football officiating is not black and white. Which is why we have philosophies and when in question scenarios in the rule book.
 - On this note, I encourage each of you to look at the new Officiating Standards in the 2023 NCAA Rule Book. **However**, I will caution you that you must also know that TASO Philosophies located in the mechanics manual trumps or overrules the language in this section. This has to do with replay being involved in the college game and we do not have that.
- Being prepared – good officials are prepared mentally and physically to officiate each play. This preparation is continuous.
 - To have a good game, **you must be prepared.**
- If you don't bring you're "A Game" for multiple games, you really don't have an "A Game"
- Good officials work in cruise control, but at a good pace throughout the game.
- Good officials don't do one thing 100% better than everyone, **they do 100 things 1% better.**
- Good officials have good verbal and non-verbal communication, and don't sound or look emotional.
- Most plays can be officiated by anyone, but there are 4-5 in a game that make or break you.

Things to think about and put into practice this season.

- See the Play, Read the Play, Make the Call. GO SLOW
 - When you think you're going slow, slow down some more.
- Own your position, and trust your co-officials to do the same... but have the courage to speak up and question what you believe is incorrect.
 - This also means don't be afraid to make a crew saving call that you clearly see.
- You have heard it said, "Thou shall only throw on state championship fouls..." "Raise your level of tolerance. MAKE IT BIG!"...Some folks take this way too far, so let's recalibrate. These are great officiating proverbs, but remember, **we cannot ignore the things that give a team an unfair advantage.**
 - Be 100% on the basic non-judgment fouls for your position. Take your chances with the rest.
 - Always call player safety fouls.

Thank you all for being a part of the greatest chapter in Texas. I am so proud to work with such a great group of people. Please stay hydrated and take care of your bodies during this extreme heat. We need every single one of you. If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please reach out to myself, Stacy, Chad or Rod.

GOOD LUCK THIS WEEK!

Regards,

Ryan Vance

FWFO President 2022-2023

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