Indicated below are some items that have arisen during Week 1 & at Local Officials Association Meetings. These Rulings supersede any previous ones issued.

1. Taking the Easy Way Out: Far too often Beau & I hear the incorrect interpretation of a Rule, a Mechanic, a Rules Philosophy, a Safety Policy, or a Regulation because we are “too quick” to think we know the answer, when in fact we do not know it. When one considers a 111 page Rules Book, a 106 page Case Book, & a 53 page Gold Book, it is nearly impossible for any of our 3,300 officials to know, understand, & remember all this information – especially when we only use it 3 – 4 months per year. We have had too many reports of Crews and/or Officials simply communicating the wrong ruling &/or interpretation to a HC. Simply say, as I did last week to a HC, “Coach we will check the Rules Book & get back with you before the game starts”.

2. Unsportsmanlike Conduct
   In 2016 there were 11 coach ejections all season. **We had 5 coach ejections in week 1 of 2017.** Coaches, officials and players each perform vital functions that make up this great game. It is fine for officials and coaches to respectfully disagree. It is not fine to be disagreeable. There were some nasty incidents last week. There is something wrong if these three groups cannot come together respectfully for the sake of this great game.

3. Rule 2-32-16: Defenseless Players
   The basic misunderstanding with this rule is: The rules makers broadened the definition on defenseless players that basically eliminated the fact that hitting a **defenseless player is a foul.** Rule 2-32-16 says "A player who initiates contact against a defenseless player is responsible for making legal contact." Thus a player can contact a defenseless player legally. The rules for roughing the passer, kicker and holder have not changed. In fact, none of the personal foul penalties have changed except for the new blindside block rule.

4. TV Games & Items Observed: A. Jerseys with “Tradition” in large letters on the back – report to Beau; B. Pants not covering the Knees C. Back Pad exposed on players during the game on multiple plays – is this a Pretending rather than a Contending Crew. Please apply the OHSAA Player Equipment Experimental Rule.

5. Defensive Pass Interference (DPI): Twice during the game a Crew enforced DPI from the DBS where the receiver caught the ball & was tackled beyond the LOS. NO! DPI is part of All But One. It is enforced from the Previous Spot, if accepted.

6. Illegal Low Block: Called correctly but the official threw his flag to the spot which hit a player. Remember, it just needs to be thrown on the corresponding YL.
7. Game Clock (GC) Late in Game: When score is tight it is imperative to have a heightened GC awareness. Check the GC every play. Communicate with each other, especially the back side Wing & whoever is facing the GC – R or BJ. During a game the Crew had to reset the GC correctly three times in the last minute – well done!

8. Inside 2 Minutes (2Q & 4Q): Please review Rule 3-4-7. If the GC is stopped for an incomplete pass, runner going OOB, or COP, for example, and there is a foul, the offended team cannot ask the GC to be wound on the ready.

9. UNS & Personal Foul: Report from a game where A-1 shoved B-1. The R announced UNS. NO! This not a UNS Foul. It is a personal foul due to contact by A-1.

10. BJ & Punt: We do Not throw a bean bag (BB) on a muff by the receiving team on a punt. It is thrown when K is the first to touch a punt beyond the expanded neutral zone (“first touching”). When the BJ throws a BB when the RT muffs the punt, it only confuses the Crew which happened last week. Please, do not.

11. Wings: Ask yourself after each down do I know the down & distance for the next down. When space permits maintain a 5 YD “cushion” from the pile. 2 situations when the Wings must hustle into the pile: A. Close plays at the GL & B. Close to a 1st down.

12. Wings: Some reports from Coaches indicated that while watching tape of upcoming opponents they saw 6 players on the LOS. Nothing has changed regarding the Rule or interpretation. Ask yourself, did I signal my Crewmate (HL or LJ) before the snap on every play regarding 7 on the LOS. After the down communicate when needed.

13. Wings: If you see the A linemen before the snap lined up “looking like an airplane wing” check for Illegal Formation. Watched a video clip where the TE was clearly behind the Center. This must be called – check GB, P. 41, Rules Philosophy, – LOS # 1.

14. Wing & OOB Spot: When the runner touches the SL do not concentrate solely on the OOB & look down at that spot. Watched a game where we missed an obvious late hit OOB. Keep your head up & swivel it. Be a Great Dead Ball Official!!

15. U: When runner lands near the U he needs to sound his whistle. While attending a local meeting I heard U’s bragging they did not need to carry a whistle since they did not use it. We do a disservice to our Crew & increase chances for an inadvertent whistle. Remember we need a whistle every play, regardless of the lateness. Coaches expect it.

16. R & Happy Feet: The R needs to “stay home” rather than start moving at the snap. Make sure the QB moves in one direction a significant amount before following him. R’s that start to move forward at the snap narrow their field of vision too much.

17. Prelim Signal by Calling Official: Slow Down. Slow Down. A wing signaled False Start when actually the right side of the offensive line was clearly in the NZ (ENC Foul).

18. Victory Formation (VF): Review GB, P. 25. A Crew misapplied it at the end of the 1st half. Told B to take it easy & not cross the NZ. QB muffs the snap & B made no attempt to recover the loose ball. B’s HC was upset. Obviously, we cannot apply VF at the end
of the 1st half. If the A HC says we are going to take a knee, the R tell both teams to “defend themselves & play FB”, unless the criteria are met in Section 36A.

19. PUM & BJ: We Must maintain the “cushion” with the Punt Receiver(s) to observe first touching, holding, KCI, & blocks in the back. Do not be in a hurry to hustle to the DB spot. We missed a late hit because the BJ was too concerned with the DBS.

20. Dead Ball LOS Fouls: We throw the flag high into the air, sound our whistle, stop the GC & give a preliminary signal to the R. (We do NOT drop the flag as seen on tape.)

21. GC: MS FB Game where the GC had to be corrected multiple times the 1st half. The Crew correctly kept the GC on the field the 2nd half. GB, P.35, # 9.

We hope everyone will have a wonderful Labor Day Weekend & the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your enthusiasm, energy, & dedication on behalf of the approximately 78,000 Student Athletes who play OHSAA FB in Ohio. We are truly blessed to be part of such a Great Sport!!