TO: Athletic Administrators and Head Football Coaches  
FROM: Beau Rugg, Senior Director of Officiating and Sport Management  
        Angie Lawler, Director of Officiating and Sport Management  
RE: 2019 Football Weekly Word-Number 5  

40/25 Clock/Game Clock  
Athletic Directors, please remind your game clock operators that after a first down inbounds, the Referee will give a "silent wind" to start the game clock. There will be no whistle!  

Rating Officials  
Coaches, game-by-game rating is back! The technology is in place (finally!) for game-by-game rating. You will receive instructions in a separate memo within the next week.  

The Center Judge Position  
Officiating football is a great challenge at all levels. The number of officials needed to adequately cover good football games, like we have in the state of Ohio, is an example of this challenge. We know with the high caliber of football in Ohio that five-person mechanics leaves many holes in coverage. The goal is to add officials to cover the important areas of our game.  

When we studied the high school game, we realized that one huge area in which we need better coverage is the line of scrimmage and everything that happens in that three-yard band beyond the line of scrimmage. The center judge is a position that was added at both the collegiate and professional levels which gives great coverage to the line of scrimmage since the referee must focus on the quarterback soon after the snap (this is true at our level, also). We found the center judge position very successful in 2017 and 2018. There are other advantages to the center judge position. These mechanics give the umpire more freedom to focus on the point of attack because we have coverage on the line of scrimmage from the center judge. Also, these mechanics give us better coverage on both scrimmage kicks and free kicks.  

We are very encouraged with the evolution of the center judge position and we will look to expand more each year. To do this, we need several things to happen:  
1. We need to increase the number of class 1 officials to supplement regular season crews.  
2. Concurrently, we need schools to assist in scheduling six-person crews to regular season contests.  

My hope is that we can work together to improve coverage in our football contests that our game demands.  

NFHS Rule Changes for 2019  
Thank you to those coaches that have already made suggestions! Please email any NFHS Rule change suggestions to Beau Rugg at brugg@ohsaa.org  

Video  
Thanks to all that send me video clips. We all (coaches, officials and administrators) learn from great video examples.  

Rule/Policy Clarifications  
I encourage you to contact me for rule or policy clarifications. Many of you do and I appreciate that! I am always happy to talk football philosophy also. 😊
2019 Football Tournament Site Questionnaire
The tournament site questionnaire for those schools interested in hosting a second through fourth round football playoff game was recently emailed to all athletic administrators. **Playoff games will be played on Friday and Saturday.** If you have questions about hosting playoffs, please contact Beau Rugg at brugg@ohsaa.org.

PLEASE EMAIL BEAU AT BRUGG@OHSSAA.ORG WITH QUESTIONS.