

Topeka Officials Association

Football Newsletter - Week 5

Important Time of the Year: Besides studying manuals, officiating games, etc., one important responsibility officials must take seriously is attending KSHSAA Area Supervisor meetings. Our crew - four of us from Lawrence and one from De Soto, attended the Area I meeting at Turner High School - for our second meeting, we are planning on going to Dwight Nichols' meeting this coming Tuesday at West Junior High in Lawrence, Our thought is that seeing two different Supervisors means that we will be subjected to different ways of considering what we do as officials and why we do what we do. Even if you are not applying for post-season assignments, attending will make you a better official the second half of this season.

Important Time of the Year II: It is also important that members of your crew apply for post-season officiating. Some ask why they should go to the trouble - they never get assignments anyway! You never know when your turn may come - it would be a shame if that were to happen and you would not be eligible.

Change of Possession Ball Mechanics and Handling the Ball After Plays: This another area where there is very little uniformity in terms of mechanics. Here is a universal rule - B is almost always involved. After a situation where there is a change of possession, it is always best if the "dirty" ball gets placed at the next spot - there then can be no dispute as to where it should be. If the ball is on a hash, U should hold that spot - replace the "dirty" ball with the new ball and then stand over it until the Ready for Play." What is B's role? Depending on where the wide side of the field is, B should get near that side to either help with getting the dirty ball off - or, getting the "clean" ball to the new spot. Also, when a play ends out of bounds. B should help relay the ball from the wing official to U. In any instance, **keep the ball off the ground!** If tossing the ball accurately is not your forte', make shorter throws!!!

Oh, one more thing: As an umpire, wing officials should learn to keep their throws to U **out of the lights!!**

You Cannot Always Believe What You See: It is always interesting in my job with the Big XII to see how officials make calls - study their mechanics - and, see how they work together as a crew. There are many difference between NCAA and Federation mechanics (you can spot those officials who are Federation officials who want to use NCAA mechanics - it usually turns out to be a wrong call made for the wrong reasons. For example NCAA football: L and H usually make "QB was beyond the LOS when a pass is thrown" calls. In HS, that is the primary responsibility of U. In your pre-game, talk about these situations!!

Area Meetings - II: Even if you are not on a varsity crew - even if you are not applying for post-season assignments - even if you just started, **Get to an Area Meeting (Monday or Tuesday).** If you quit learning, you quit being good - you quit getting better! If you don't start, you will never have a chance!!