



(610) 828-7047 Fax
(610) 389-0351 Cell

James D. Maconaghy
Supervisor of Football Officials
Atlantic 10 Conference
Hillcrest Plaza – Suite C
102 West Germantown Pike
East Norriton, Pa. 19401
jimmaconaghy@comcast.net

(610) 832-0623

WEEKLY FLASH
9/15/04

All:

I am beginning to see some hotel room charges showing up on my credit card for non-cancelled room reservations. I have neither the time nor the patience to be contacting the hotels or credit card company to resolve these problems. Please be more diligent on your end in **eliminating** this problem. Additionally, the Referee (or his designee) is required to call the hotel no less than two weeks in advance to confirm rooms, video equipment (where required), and to put the rooms under his name and credit card. Please be very sure to complete this task early!

Pregame

Pregame conferences are to begin 3 hours prior to the game. If you want to investigate the field, polish your shoes, use the lavatory, etc. get there earlier!!!

Pause, Read and React

Watch your keys as assigned or zone coverage when required. Let the play or the foul complete itself then ***pause, read and react*** by throwing or not throwing your flag. If you go slowly you may decide not to throw the flag. Don't hurry!

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

The wing officials need to do an excellent job of maintaining an "open line of communication" with the coaching staffs, particularly the "Head Coach". Pass along player numbers, listen to and address complaints, give explanations, and try to keep things as calm as possible. Be a good listener and react calmly to the questions. Talk "lower and slower" to the coach without challenging him. The coaches appreciate good listeners and communicators.

There are cases during the game, however; when the Referee **must** also remember to communicate with the coach as well. He should always be involved during player ejections, final time outs, unusual rulings, lengthily injury time outs, and coach's request for a conference. Additionally, the Referee, after a visit to one sideline with a coach for the purpose of an explanation should immediately "jog" across the field to visit the other coach just to "keep him up to speed" with the latest developments. If one coach receives a special visit from the Referee you can be sure the other coach is going to be very

annoyed if the visit is not reciprocal. Even though our “esteemed” wing officials are more than capable of “passing along” the information, the “non visited” coach will be “snubbed” if the explanation is not delivered personally by the Referee. It’s worth the time to “maintain the peace”! The coaches view the Referee as the “crew captain” and expect equal attention from him when required.

It is a very good practice to close your pre-game meeting with the coaches by simply saying “ Coach, if you need to speak with me during the game just let your closest official know and I will be happy to oblige as soon as I can”. Remember, if you make this commitment you will be expected to keep it by the coaches.

There is no need to bring the coaches onto the field together for any general discussions. Talk to them separately on their sideline.

Television Time Outs

Good coordination among the entire crew is a necessity when dealing with the field T.V. liaison / coordinator (“Red Hat”) during the game. You should review the methods of communication you will use during your pregame conference with your crew and the T.V. crew including the “Red Hat”. Also be sure you know the T.V. scheduled “kick-off” time and to synchronize your watches with the T.V. person responsible for timing. This meeting should occur prior to visiting with either of the coaches and will require a second visit if anything differs from what the coaches have been told. Accurate starting times are critical for the coaches.

The “red hat” normally is positioned on the Press Box side of the field, hence he will be communicating with the Line Judge and Field Judge. This positioning can also be reversed for a number of situations so the entire crew should be prepared to deal with him. Everyone should be alert since some of our “Red Hats” are relatively inexperienced. When a T.V. time out commences the “Red Hat” should come onto the field near the numbers on his sideline in plain view of everyone. His mere presence should indicate the T.V. time out situation. The individuals with experience will have a count down signal to indicate the end of the time out is nearing, but the most simple method is to put the “ball in play” when he returns to the sideline. There is no need to over-complicate the procedure.

Many T.V. time outs occur following PAT’s and punts, which are basically, pre-planned “change of possessions” situations. Prior to these plays the Referee should try to make “eye contact” with the “Red Hat” while he is still on the sideline and have him “signal” you that the T.V. production crew will be requesting a time out after the play. When the play completes itself simply turn toward the Press Box give the “stop clock” signal while taking a peak to see if the “Red Hat” has come onto the field, as he should. Then immediately give the T.V. time out signal as well. Remember to check for penalty flags prior to granting any time outs. You can maintain your original position rather than running down the field and then signaling. When the play is OVER the crew should be prepared to search the sideline to locate the “Red Hats” whereabouts. Don’t be too surprised if he suddenly just ”shows up” unannounced on the field. **Be alert!**

Other T.V. time outs occur as a “charged time out” commences or as an “injury time out” is extended. In these cases check the sideline for the “Red Hats” presence since he usually will not have had a predetermined time out planned and may just walk out onto

the field as instructed through his headset by the production crew. Again, the entire crew should be alert. "Charged time outs" require only the normal clock-stopping signal, as does the "injury time out". If a T.V. time out extends either situation the Referee should give a second "clock stop" signal when he knows the T.V. time out is beginning followed by the T.V. time out signal.

You should also be aware of the T.V. situation prior to each quarter (especially each half). Try to avoid starting either half or either quarter without knowing the television status and the location of the "Red Hat". There is no need to rush in these situations since they are not preceded by a "momentum shifting" situations. Referees should remember that you could deny a T.V. time out if you feel momentum would be interrupted due to unplanned "change of possessions". (interceptions, fumbles,etc.)

Tips *Always be alert*

Know where the "Red Hat" is standing.

Protect the "Red Hat" from injury. He should only be on the field when required.

Don't resume play until he leaves.

Be sure the coaches know when a T.V. time out is occurring and when it stops.

Be sure the coaches know when a T.V. time out is NOT occurring.

Referees

Be clear and precise on penalty announcements on the field microphone. Use "line of scrimmage" (not "previous spot"), "end of the run" (not "succeeding spot"), "the penalty will be enforced from the line of scrimmage to half the distance from the goal" (not just "half the distance"). Include the origination of the foul and the final destination.

Umpire Reminders

Stay with the ball until the Referee releases you on all scrimmage kick plays, change of possession plays, and "hurry up" offense. Always be watching the offensive teams sideline area for substitutions between downs.

You control the game the Referee administers it.

Talk, talk, and talk to the players. Let them hear and feel your presence.

Be sure the Referee always checks with you on his fouls. Listen to him and correct him if necessary.

Key the guards

Move up to the L.O.S. on pass plays

Always know where the ball placement will be

Keep your whistle out of your mouth

See the ball, the play and the whole foul

Sideline Officiating Reminders

Stay wide ("in the white")for the best perspective on the play

See everything that happens near the final spot

Don't just ball watch - STAND TALL AND EXTEND

Use high, clear, concise signals (three)

Know the clock status and how each play affects the clock

Always let the referee know the “in bounds or out of bounds ball status” (finger wind signal or snap signal)
Concentrate between each plays by anticipating possible plays and how you will react
Be sure you have room to retreat or to gain a better perspective
Keep the sidelines clear for your own protection
Be a good communicator with coaches, players and officials
Remember the sidelines can be very emotional
Always know where you are relative to the sideline and yard lines.
Don’t anticipate the athletic ability of our players. They are always capable of the unexpected.
Don’t give signals or throw flags too quickly. Absorb the entire play first.
See the whole play or foul
Always, always see the ball.
When you “screw up” admit it!

Judges

Cushion, cushion, cushion
Clock, clock, clock
“if your gonna fish in your neighbors pond you need to be correct!”