

## **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (9/7/06)**

Gentlemen:

Week 2 is approaching and there are some topics that need attention. Some are administrative and some are on field issues.

Administrative:

1. You should by now have entered your mileage into the system. Please remember NOT TO ENTER MILEAGE FOR FLAT RATE SCHOOLS.
2. Constantly update your availability calendars I still have some unassigned games.
3. Thanks for your help in covering scrimmages and conducting mini-clinics for coaches - they praised your professionalism many times.
4. Social security numbers cannot be entered on your profile sheet at this time. When you do a game make sure that the school has your soc. sec. number.

Football:

1. First week comments from coaches were positive.
2. Mechanics - when a runner is tackled at or near the sideline and is still in bounds give a wind signal to indicate to clock operators that they should not stop the clock. If the play results in a first down wind the clock then stop the clock as we have done in the past.
3. Communicate with coaches through out the entire game.
4. Sideline control - I observed a game where the coaches were allowed beyond the numbers to protest officiating decisions. Not acceptable! Give them a sideline warning and keep them off the field.
5. Referees - when conferencing with fellow officials remove yourself from the sideline so that the coach is not part of the crew discussion - ALL OTHER CREW MEMBERS ASSIST WHEN THIS OCCURS.
6. Clock issues - clock operators should NOT stop the clock unless an official on the field signals to stop the clock - exception scores.
7. We missed several clock errors last week -- all crew members are responsible for the clock!!
8. Remember call fouls AT THE POINT OF ATTACK! Pass on non injury fouls that have no effect on the play.
9. Wing officials - you are not frozen to the sideline - if the play goes away from you or you have a close spot come onto the field and continue to officiate.
10. DEAD BALL OFFICIATE AT ALL TIMES!

Communicate, communicate, control your sidelines and hustle. Have a good week. Bill

## **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (9/23/06)**

Gentlemen:

Comments from coaches, observers, a.d.'s, and myself.

1. Coach sent in a tape with 6 crack back blocks that were missed. I agreed with him on 5 of the plays. Review crack back blocks at the line of scrimmage and downfield 10 yds.
2. Referees do not wait for teams to proceed onto the field before marking the ball ready for play on a change of possession. When your crew is ready wind the clock.
3. Umpires be aware of tipped passes and give signal - other officials off the ball may see the tip also. No dpi on tipped passes - other fouls still applicable.
4. Dead ball officiating continues to be a problem. Do not give up on a play if the play is not in your area. Observe at all times!

5. Watch what you say before the game, during the game and after the game. Innocent comments may be misinterpreted by coaches and players. Remember silence cannot be quoted.
6. Comment from A.D. The officials in a one-sided contest would not call safety fouls against the team who was behind. Seemed that they were trying to "hold the score down" to prevent an embarrassing situation for the visiting team. Discuss this comment. Always call safety fouls no matter what the score! Most coaches will not intentionally run up the score on an opponent. His additional comments - 3rd and 4th string players deserve a level playing field and fouls should be called as usual. Discuss.
7. Chop blocks down field should be called. Watched a player get seriously injured as a result of this type of play. Flags do not prevent injuries however it makes us look better if a flag is down on serious injury situations.
8. Good job protecting qb's - keep following them into side zones and out of bounds.

#### PLAY SITUATIONS:

1. Team A ball 4/5 at midfield. A's legal forward pass is incomplete at B 25. DPI B25 at the B30. Ruling and clock status. Same play pass is intercepted and run back for a TD. Same play and the pass is completed at the A48. Discuss clock situations.
2. Team A 4/5 from B45. A attempts a field goal that is run back by B to the B25. Team A had only 6 men on the LOS. Options and clock status. Discuss accepted and declined options.
3. Team A KO from Team A 35. A pooch kick lands at the A 42. Ball is at rest and before the official sounds his whistle A bats the ball forward where it is recovered by B and advanced to midfield. There were 8 seconds remaining in the game when A kicked off. No time remains on the clock at the end of the play. Discuss.  
We are off to a good start - keep up the good work. Hustle, communicate, be good dead ball officials and work together as a crew. Referees call me with game issues. 9785495325. Bill

### **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (9/29/06)**

9/29/06

Gentlemen:

Administrative issues:

1. If you cannot enter your mileage on line or have not been paid mileage for games already officiated - proceed as follows - do not call the colleges and demand your mileage for games that you have already worked. Send me the mileage and I will enter into the system for you. Future games that you are having difficulty entering on line should also be sent to me via e-mail. Send me the game and mileage to the schools that you are working and I will enter the mileage for you.
2. We need clock operators in most areas - if you have qualified high school clock operators in your area that you feel can work college games - have them get in touch with me asap.

Comments from coaches, observers and myself:

1. Watch crack back blocks down field. This should be called and is not being called when beyond the LOS.
2. Sideline control has improved greatly - keep up the good work keeping teams back and giving sideline warnings when necessary.
3. Familiarize yourselves with both the 6 and 7 man manuals - observed a game last week and the officials were not following the prescribed mechanics. Last time commenting on this subject.
4. Remember that ECAC clock operators that are assigned to games are officials and the clock therefore is official. Unless you are 101% sure that a timing error has occurred

do not change the time on the clock - this especially matters at the end of the half and end of the game.

5. Do not give a wave over your head for uncatchable passes unless you would have called DPI.

6. Review goal line mechanics when ball snapped inside 5 yd. line. We are "bunching up" at the goal line. HL and LJ should stop at the 2 yd. line or just inside the 2 yd. line and let deep man take the spot if he is able too. Communicate on this play as it is usually a critical spot.

7. HL leave the LOS on scrimmage kicks AT THE SNAP. Again a mechanics issue that should be reviewed.

8. Uniform conformity - if a team does not comply - notify the HEAD COACH OF YOUR ISSUES - if they still do not comply call me and I will address the issue directly with the schools.

Play situations:

1. A's ball 4/5 at A35. A lines up in an illegal formation. B is offside at the snap. B blocks the scrimmage kick and the ball goes backwards into A's endzone where B bats the ball out of the end zone. Team A is flagged for a dead ball personal foul. Ruling and clock status.

2. Team B has 12 players on the field during a scrimmage kick. Team B blocks A's scrimmage kick. Team A picks up the blocked kick and advances for a first down. Discuss the enforcement and mechanics.

3. With no time on the clock Team scores a TD to make the score 32-30 in favor of Team B. Do we attempt a try?

Good week with little or no negative comments from coaches. Keep up the good work.

### **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (10/7/06)**

Weekly notes 10/7

Gentlemen:

Please discuss the pertinent comments contained in this memo during your pre-game conference.

Comments from coaches, observers and myself:

1. Inadvertent whistles are unacceptable at this level. However, they do occur on occasion. See the ball before you blow your whistle. If you have an inadvertent whistle continue to blow your whistle until the play stops. Referees should always inform both coaches of the situation when this occurs. Try to keep the whistle out of your mouth when officiating. Most inadvertent whistles are caused by a lack of concentration.

2. Know the number of the offending player when calling a foul. If you do not know the number then do not make one up. Comment from a coach when informed that we don't have a number "you don't have a number because there was no foul." Discuss this comment.

3. Don't go "fishing in someone else's pond." We all know what this means. Make sure that you are 100% correct when taking someone off a call that is not in your area. Can be crew saving calls however they cause issues when they do not show up on film. Discuss

4. Some crews have sent the following comment to my desk – the coach questioned my integrity and that of my crew. I do not condone this comment from coaches however understand one thing – it is in the "heat of the moment" when these comments are made – usually after a cooling down period the coaches will realize that the comments were inappropriate. Try not to take it personal. Call me if you have a problem with a coach.

5. After a game do not stay on the field talking to coaches – I have mentioned this

before. It continues to occur. Let me make this clear – you will not win an argument with a coach after a game when he is angry. Get off the field immediately let both parties calm down and then a possible discussion. DO NOT PERMIT COACHES INTO YOUR LOCKER ROOM AFTER THE GAME! MEET WITH HIM IN A NEUTRAL PLACE WHEN NECESSARY. DO NOT CONFER WITH COACHES ALONE. NEVER, NEVER MAKE ANY PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH A COACH AT ANY TIME DURING OR AFTER A GAME.

6. Measurements – the BJ in a 7 man game is responsible for holding the ball in place for a measurement. Do so with much care. Do not move the ball before a measurement. If the ball has been moved to the hash inadvertently then NO MEASUREMENT SHOULD OCCUR UNLESS THE BALL CAN BE EFFECTIVELY RELAYED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL SPOT. THIS IS A NO WIN SITUATION – BE CAREFUL.

7. Referees – call me after games if you think that a coach might have an issue. Always call for ejections. When in doubt call.

Play situations:

1. While a scrimmage kick is air borne Team B32 makes a valid or invalid fair catch signal. B44 catches the scrimmage kick and advances 5 yd. Discuss Team B restrictions. Penalty?

2. Team A center is positioned with his hands on the football and Team QB is in a shotgun formation 5 yds behind his center. 9 Team A players line up away from the snapper and do not stop or get into a 2, 3, or 4 pt. stance. They then move back toward the snapper to assume their positions on the line of scrimmage. Is this simulating the start of a play? There was no reaction by Team B. Discuss.

3. This came from a NCAA conference call: Team qb is attempting to throw a screen pass to Team A32. He is between the tackles and under pressure when he throws the ball forward where the ball lands beyond the LOS with no Team A player in the vicinity. Should we call grounding? This play has been forwarded to John Adams for a ruling. Discuss.

4. Team A 4/5 at midfield. Team A sends their kicking team onto the field slowly. Team A87 who was a participant in the previous play does not leave the field as Team A has sent in 10 men for the kick. Team A87 who is the 11th player turns his back to the field of play and is communicating with his coach at the sideline inside the 9 yd. marker. Team A fakes the scrimmage kick and throws a TD pass to A87. This is NOT A LEGAL PLAY. DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN IN ONE OF OUR GAMES THIS WEEKEND.

Correction from last weeks comments: When the ball is snapped outside the 5 yd. line then both deep officials have goal line responsibility. Coordinate with HL and LJ when runner nears the goal line.

Continue to hustle, communicate and be good dead ball officials. It is getting near “crunch time” for many leagues and the games that you work have added significance. Your continued solid officiating is a credit to you and the ECAC. Keep up the good work.

Bill Ward

### **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (10/12/06)**

10/12/06

1. PLAY: 4th and 1, on B's 39. Immediately following the snap, snapper A56 and adjacent guard A62 block nose guard B96 in the neutral zone on B's 39. A56's block is at the waist. A62's block is a delayed block at the thigh. QB A18 advances to B's 36 where he is downed. RULING: A's ball, 4th and 16, on A's 46. Chop block. A56 and

A62 are adjacent linemen. Since the block is in the neutral zone, an obvious delay before the second low block is required to be a chop block. [2-3-3-a]

2. PLAY: 4th and 1, on B's 39. Immediately following the snap, snapper A56 and adjacent guard A62 block nose guard B96 in the neutral zone on B's 39. A56's block is at the thigh. A62's block is a delayed block at the waist. QB A18 advances to B's 36 where he is downed. RULING: A's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 36. Legal block. The second block was not at the thigh or below. Since the block is in the neutral zone, an obvious delay before the second low block is required to be a chop block. [2-3-3-a]

3. PLAY: 4th and 1, on B's 39. Immediately following the snap, snapper A56 and adjacent guard A62 block nose guard B96 in the neutral zone on B's 39. A56's block is at the knee. A62's block is a simultaneous block at the knee. QB A18 advances to B's 36 where he is downed. B96 is carried off the field with damage to both knees. RULING: A's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 36. Legal block. A56 and A62 are adjacent linemen. Since the block is in the neutral zone, an obvious delay before the second low block is required to be a chop block. This would be a chop block if A56 and A62 were nonadjacent linemen. [A.R. 2-3-3-a-III]

4. PLAY: 4th and 1, on B's 39. Immediately following the snap, snapper A56 and nonadjacent tackle A78 block nose guard B96 in the neutral zone on B's 39. A56's block is at the knee. A78's block is a simultaneous block at the knee. QB A18 advances to B's 36 where he is downed. RULING: A's ball, 4th and 16, on A's 46. Chop block. In the neutral zone, an obviously delayed block is not required and either block may be at the thigh or below when the blockers are nonadjacent linemen. [2-3-3-b]

5. PLAY: 2nd and 6, on A's 46. A78 and A24, while protecting the passer, block defensive end B94 on A's 42. A78's block is at the waist. A24's block is a simultaneous block at the thigh. A17's legal forward pass is complete to A84 who advances to B's 47 where he is downed. RULING: A's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 47. Legal block. Behind the neutral zone, an obviously delayed block at the thigh or below is required for a chop block. [2-3-3-a]

6. PLAY: 2nd and 6, on A's 46. A78 and A24, while protecting the passer, block defensive end B94 on A's 42. A78's block is at the waist. A24's block is a delayed block at the thigh. A17's legal forward pass is complete to A84 who advances to B's 47 where he is downed. RULING: A's ball, 2nd and 21, on A's 31. Chop block. Behind the neutral zone, an obviously delayed block at the thigh or below is required for a chop block. [A.R. 2-3-3-I] [2001]

7. PLAY: 2nd and 6, on A's 46. A78 and A24, while protecting the passer, block defensive end B94 on A's 42. A78's block is at the thigh. A24's block is a delayed block at the waist. A17's legal forward pass is complete to A84 who advances to B's 47 where he is downed. RULING: A's ball, 1st and 10, on B's 47. Legal block. The second block was not at the thigh or below. Behind the neutral zone, an obviously delayed block at the thigh or below is required for a chop block. [2-3-3-a]

### **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (10/13/06)**

Gentlemen:

Due to some technical difficulties I was unable to post my notes on the assign by web site. They were forwarded to your board secretaries to be passed on to you. Hopefully you received them. Referees if you do not have them send me an e-mail and I will forward them to you. Also, chop block plays were duplicated.

One additional comment for your pre-game discussions.

Teams that run the option offense are complaining that their qb is getting roughed up after he makes the pitch. He is not "fair game" after he pitches the ball. Referees stay with the pitch man and make sure that he is not unnecessarily contacted after the ball is

pitched. This includes helmet to helmet contact or any intent by the tackler to "punish" the qb after the play. I watched a play sent in by a coach where the qb was hit helmet to helmet much after he had pitched the ball away and we had no flag. Also, a comment from one of our officials to the player who was down and injured on the field was reported by a coach - "if you didn't carry out your fake so good you wouldn't have been hit." Hopefully we did not say this to an injured player. Please discuss. Bill

Gentlemen:

Administrative issues that need your attention:

1. Some changes have been made for this weeks games and the remainder of the seasons games. Please go on line to check your schedules. Referees make sure that your crews are notified of the changes.
2. Prior to the game please fill out any forms that you are given accurately. This includes providing your soc. sec. number. Some schools will not pay if your soc sec. number is not accurate.
3. Continue to update your mileage for remaining games or games that you have been switched into. Remember not to add mileage fbr FLAT FEE SCHOOLSComments from coaches, observers and myself:

1. Wing men should not stay on the sideline after the ball is snapped when the play goes away from them. The referee and umpire depend on the HL and LJ to watch behind them when they are following a play into the side zone. I have mentioned this numerous times and have continued to see wing men stay on their sidelines. Looks awful from the press box. Observers have commented that it appears that our wing men are "taking a play ofl."

2. Revierv chop blocks in your pre-games. A coach sent me 5 plays that involved chop blocks downfield and in the ofTensive backfield. He was correct on 4 of them. These are critical to call as they sometimes result in in1ury.

3. Review wideouts leading a running play and then curling back toward the ball and hitting a defbnsive back at the ankles less than 10 yds from the LOS. Deep men this is your call.

4. Illegal equipment - if detected during a game - charge the offending team with a time out and the player must comply with the rules. He does not have to sit out a play if he can remedy the problem during a time out. Do not extend the time out to allow fbr a player to comply.

5. Review the definition of simulating the start of a play. Rhythmr shifts are not false starts. Watch for team b's reaction befbre calling this foul.

6. We called several penalties away from the point of attack that did not have an effect on the play as reported by observers. Ifyou have illegal contact on a player who is not involved in a play consider calling a personal foul or passing on the call.

7. Continue to break up "chicken fights" with your presence. We have done a very good job of not calling offseffing fouls when this occurs. Keep up the good work in this area.

8. Coaches have commended you on your communication and professionalism during the garnes. This is an issue that we have worked on all season and it appears that coaches are responding positively.

9. Goal line coverage - Ball snapped at the B 20 yd. line - deep men should be at the plyon and let the play come to them. Coach sent a tape where our deep man was positioned near the end line after the snap and had to come forward to get to the goal line in time to rule on a score. He did not get there and missed the call.

Many crucial games this week and next. Continue to have your usual good pre-game

conferences and work as a team on the field. Concentrate, hustle, and have slow whistles. Keep up the good work.

Bill Ward

### **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (10/21/06)**

Weekly notes 10/21

Gentlemen:

Administrative issues – Keep accurate records concerning mileage. We are having difficulty with the on line system. OPS payments are our biggest problem at the moment and we will have to correct the amounts of your checks at a latter date. Forward games via e-mail that you have difficulty including mileage on line and I will enter your mileage.

Comments from coaches, observers, and myself:

1. We are still missing crack back and chop blocks down field. Please review the rule and mechanics.
2. Referees – give your signals to the press box side of the field only. Communicate the penalty to the opposite side via your wingmen.
3. Review illegal shift plays. We missed several last week. These are usually easy calls. 2 td's scored when obvious shifts were missed.
4. Protect the qb on the option play after he pitches the ball or is carrying out his fake. One coach was so upset that he asked me to watch the film with him at his school. Not only did we miss a "cheap shot" on his qb we also made an inappropriate comment to his player after the helmet to helmet hit that injured the qb. Once again WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO PLAYERS AND COACHES. REMEMBER SILENCE CANNOT BE QUOTED.
5. Keep up the good work communicating with coaches on the sideline. They have commented positively in this area.
6. Dead ball officiating must improve. 2 tapes were sent in this week and on both tapes we missed hits on defenseless players. Do not take the play off if it goes away from you or is not in your area. Do not officiate "air" there is always something that you can observe even if it is not in your area.
7. Review OPS and DPI. Particularly contact by either A or B when the player is not playing the ball.
8. We had 2 ejections for fighting in a game last weekend. Both coaches were "okay" with the ejections. One player was pushed the other responded with a punch and we ejected both players for fighting. Discuss. Once again, if you can avoid the ejection by telling the coaches to remove the players involved then do so. If you feel that the infraction was a blatant violation of the rules then ejection is warranted.
9. Bean bags – we are becoming lax in not throwing bean bags on fumbles. Too many observers have indicated that they are not sure if a player is down by contact or the ball is fumbled. A bean lets everyone know that you have a fumble. Concentrate!!
10. Hopefully for the last time!! When the game is over get off the field immediately! Do not talk to coaches on the field or going off the field about controversial plays that occurred during the game. Comment from coach – I wanted to talk to the referee and he ran off the field after the game ignoring my "pleas" for a discussion. Good job! After a cooling down period a respectful conversation may occur if you feel that it is appropriate.
11. Comment from referee – coach was yelling that my call was a bull s--- call. I ignored him and continued to officiate. I felt as though I should have thrown a flag but did not. Good job referee. He called me and I called the coach and informed him that

his actions were unsportsmanlike and he agreed. If needed I would have called his AD. Please handle these matters in this fashion.

The season is rapidly nearing a completion and many teams are in contention for playoffs and league championships. Keep your concentration level high and continue to call fouls that affect the play and are at the point of attack. Dead ball officiate, have slow whistles and hustle the entire game. Keep up the good work.

Bill Ward

### **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (10/28/06)**

Weekly notes 10.28

Gentlemen:

Please keep accurate records concerning the games that you work and the mileage that you are owed. Nothing will be taken care of until the season is over if you are owed mileage.

Comments from observers, coaches and myself

1. We had several measurement issues last week. If a kick or int. results in a touchback and the ball is placed at the 20 yd. line DO NOT MEASURE FOR A FIRST DOWN IF THE BALL IS PLACED NEAR THE 30 YD. LINE – MAKE THE DECISION WITHOUT THE MEASUREMENT. Wing men marking the spot make sure the ball is either short of the 30 or beyond the 30. Looked bad from press box when we measured.
2. 4th down and a coach requests a measurement – grant him the measurement even if you are 99% sure that a measurement is not required. Exception when there is a touch back. This a “political” measurement.
3. We missed an enforcement on a simple penalty. OPI is NOT A LOSS OF DOWN PENALTY! How could 6 men miss this call. The entire crew is responsible for the correct enforcement of penalties. If you call a penalty stay with the referee until you are sure that he knows what you have and is going to enforce it properly. This should not happen at this level.
4. Coach complained that a back in a pro set was going down field circling back toward the ball and blocking a linebacker below the waist. Discuss this in your pre- games. As long as the back is within 7 yds. of the center of the line he is legal. Crack back blocks continue to be of major concern to coaches.
5. Protect the option QB after he pitches the ball or hands the ball off. This is a tough call and requires that you get a good look at the entire play. Many coaches are sending their defensive players after the QB when he is in a defenseless position. Wing men help out on this play.
6. When throwing bean bags make sure that you are as accurate as possible. We had a fumble at the goal line and the LJ threw a bean bag that landed in the end zone where the ball was recovered by the defense. Coach wanted a TD. Comment how can it be a fumble if my player lost control of the ball after he crossed the goal line. Pick up the bean bag and place it at the ½ yd line.
7. Remember that we are using ECAC mechanics in all of our games. I observed a game last week and the entire crew was using last years mechanics. Review changes in your pre-game.

Play situations:

1. 4th down and goal A's ball at the B 5yd. line. A33 sweeps toward the goal line and fumbles the ball at the 1. Team A34 recovers the ball in the end zone. During the loose ball Team B slugs defenseless QB at the A 6 yd. line. Should we call this a live ball foul? Discuss. Clock status?
2. Team A player is discovered with a foreign substance on his uniform. Team B calls a

time out to notify the crew of this situation. The crew rules that team A player has a foreign substance on his jersey and he must leave the game. Do we charge B with a time out? Can A player come back into the game after changing his jersey?

3. Team B89 signals for a fair catch at the B 10 yd. line and is in position to catch a scrimmage kick when Team B45 legally blocks A88 into B89. The ball is touched by B89 with Team A recovering the ball in the end zone. Discuss the ruling and your mechanics.

This week has been rather hectic with many coaches calling with issues. Not all of their issues involve your officiating in a negative way. Some have called to praise your work and compliment you on your professionalism. Those types of calls are a credit to your hard work and solid preparation. This is officially "crunch time" with many games being critical for league championships and playoffs. Keep up the good work!! Some changes have been made for this week and next. Don't take the changes as an indication of poor performance. Some are made to make the supervisors position more tenable if a problem occurs. Again, hustle, have slow whistles, know the rules and communicate with the coaches. Bill

### **Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (11/4/06)**

Weekly notes 11.4

Gentlemen:

Several changes have been made to this weeks assignments. Referees please call your crew members to inform them of any time changes or venue changes. Last weekend was one of our better weeks of the season with little or no complaints from coaches. Keep up the concentration level and continue to officiate at your high level of competence.

Comments:

1. Weather was a major factor last weekend and I appreciate your efforts in conditions that were less than perfect. Coaches and AD's commented favorably on your game management in such foul weather.
2. I observed a game where a crew managed to prevent a "brawl" near the end of the game by using excellent dead ball mechanics. Scuffle near the visiting team bench area – off officials prevented the home team from crossing the field to participate in what could have been a very ugly situation. Each crew member did their job exactly the way they have been instructed in these weekly notes. Great job guys.
3. Discuss holding vs. dpi or opi that occurs when a receiver is held up at the los. If the ball is in the air when the contact occurs then call dpi or opi do not make the bail out call of defensive holding.
4. Bean bag mechanics need to improve. We had another situation where a fumble was ruled near the goal line and no bean bag was down. Tough to sell to coaches when it is a close play.
5. Prior to the games be very aware of who you are talking too and for how long. I had an AD call me and accuse a crew of being to friendly towards the head coach prior to a game. Remember perception is sometimes viewed as reality.

Play situation:

Team A ball 4/5 at midfield. A's scrimmage kick lands at the B 20 and is first touched by Team A. Team B 87 illegally kicks the ball and the ball is recovered by Team A at their own 35 yd. line. Ruling: Ignore Team A illegal touch penalize B from the previous spot 15 yds. Team A ball 1st down at Team B 35 yd. line. Agree? Discuss.

Please discuss the NCAA October bulletin plays that I forwarded to your board secretaries. Keep up the good work you are greatly appreciated for all that you do.

Bill

## Re: Bill Ward's Weekly Notes (11/11/06)

Weekly notes II.II

Gentlemen:

This will be the last weekly notes memo - concerning football situations - for the season – future memos will concern administrative issues that need your attention.

1. Reminder: During an injury time out coaches **MAY BRING THEIR TEAMS TO THE SIDELINE FOR CONFERENCES**. The teams must be ready for play when the injured player is removed from the game. Wing men stay with teams to insure that they return to the field in a timely manner.

2. Crack back blocks with up back in the backfield – a Team A player who is lined up in the backfield and has at least a foot within the frame of his tackle may legally block back towards the ball after the snap. Remember that it is the normal tackle position that determines the backs legality. If the team splits the tackle to a position where the tight end would normally be then he **CANNOT BLOCK BELOW THE WAIST TOWARDS THE BALL AT THE LINE AND 10 YDS. DOWNFIELD**. Wing men do not “look for trouble.” If possible warn the offense that the back is close to being in an area that could be penalized if he cracks back. Coaches who run this offense are usually precise when splitting their line men and also precise with the lining up of the backs. Talk about this in your pre-game conferences – this is an important situation for all.

3. I attended a coaches meeting this past week and the coaches were very curious as to when and why we “huddle” after a play. Remember to only huddle when there is a controversial play or situation that needs interpretation. Only those officials who are involved in the play should be in conference – the rest of you should be dead ball officiating. **IF YOU CONFER WITH ONE COACH AFTER YOU HAVE HUDDLED THEN MAKE SURE THAT YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE OPPOSING COACH ALSO**. Referees if you need a “huddle” do it in the middle of the field away from both benches.

4. Sideline control – we had a serious situation where an official was knocked down by fans who were too close to sideline and interfered with a play. Look for security and have people moved back from the field of play. We have greatly improved on team sideline control – keep up the good work.

5. This is the last week of the season and some players are playing their last collegiate game – keep control of the situation at all times. Have a coach remove a player if possible to avoid ejections. Coaches have appreciated your efforts in these types of situations.

6. Bean bags – we need spots on fumbles and momentum situations – get them down at the correct spot.

7. Remember to review overtime procedures – we had some confusion last week in one of our games that went into overtime. Coaches need a brief explanation of overtime rules prior to the toss. We allowed the winner of the toss to defer his option – concentrate – someone in the crew should have been aware that this is not allowed!!

8. Review the definition of a legal scrimmage kick formation – a player must be 7yds or more behind his center ready to receive a snap for the blocking below the waist rules to come into effect. Less than 7 yds. blocking below the waist rules do not apply at the snap.

We have had an excellent season. I have had many conversations with Coaches, AD's and observers who have praised your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to the game. They have been justifiably upset when we missed calls or enforced penalties incorrectly however they understand that this is part of the game. Finish off the regular

season with solid efforts this weekend. We will have 6 ECAC bowl games and a good number of D3 and D2 playoff games to assign. Keep your information up to date. Congratulations to the crew working the NEFC game this weekend your hard work has been recognized.  
Bill Ward