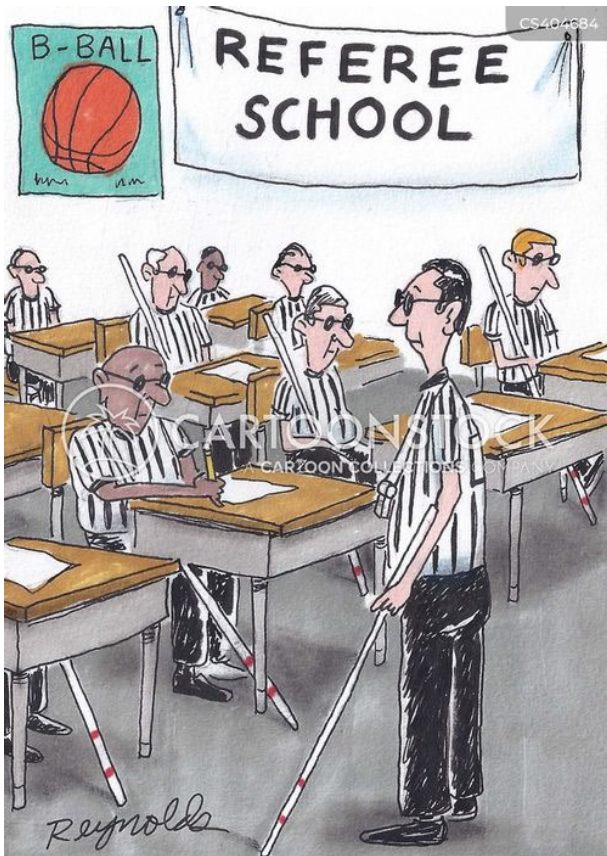


This Session Is Being Recorded

2026 Referee U Week A



Hosted by: Tri-City Area Officials Association

- 2025 NFHS Rules Book – Until 2026 rulebooks are available
- Please open and use the Chat window during the meeting for questions or comments
- **Please MUTE now**

Agenda

- Intro and Objectives
- Crew Moment – Building out a Crew
- Logistics – Working with the assignor
- Pregame – Contacting AD's
- Mechanics – The Opening Kickoff
- Philosophy – How to Prepare the crew for a Game
- Rules – Fouls on a Kickoff

Introduction and Objectives

Welcome to the First Referee U meeting

Objectives

- Help more officials **feel confident** stepping into the **Referee** position
- Provide **practical support** on crew building, game preparation, communication, mechanics, and rules
- Develop officials from the classroom to the field, **ready to work their first game as the Referee**

Structure

- Dedicated Sessions during the preseason TCAOA training
- Session(s) during the August Saturday training camp
- Sharing of tips, experiences, tools, and philosophy from experienced R's
- Youth game shadowing / training / officiating opportunities

Crew Moment – Building a crew – KEVIN –

1. Form crews where personalities naturally align:

- Mix confident leaders with steady, quiet stabilizers
- Avoid stacking dominant personalities in conflict positions (e.g., R + U both overly controlling)

2. Communication Style Alignment:

- Officials who can **get information across quickly under pressure**
- Crew members who use **standardized language** (pre-snap, penalties, explanations)

3. Game Management Philosophy Alignment

- **Best practice:** Have a **shared philosophy discussion before the season** —not just rules, but *standards*.

4. Emotional Intelligence & Composure:

- Don't react emotionally to coaches or players
- Can **de-escalate tense situations**
- Maintain **poise after a missed call**

5. Work Ethic & Preparation Consistency

- **Consider:** Film study habits, Rules knowledge depth, Pre-game preparation discipline

6. Complementary Skill Sets (Not Just Positions)

- Who excels at:
 - **Rule interpretation vs. game flow**
 - **Player interaction vs. coach communication**
 - **Deep coverage vs. box awareness**

7. Accountability Culture

- **Best crews:** Review plays post-game and self-critique

8. Leadership Structure Within the Crew beyond the R

- Who is the **voice in pregame?**
- Who keeps the crew focused at halftime?
- Who pulls others aside when something is off?

9. Ego Management

- Ideal mindset: "Do your job exceptionally well—and trust others to do theirs."

10. Pressure Performance

Consider officials who can stay consistent in the most important moments

- Sound decisions under pressure
- Strong mechanics late in games

Logistics – Working with your Assignor – Jerry

- Formation of a crew
- Officials Available for a Crew
- Game Assignments
- Expectations

Pregame – Contacting the AD. Andy

Phone calls and email are both effective – as long as you get the receive the information needed and can collaborate on expectations

I wanted to drop you a note about the varsity football game this week

Varsity Game Date and Time: Friday, Oct 3, 2025: 7:00 PM

Home Team: Reese Visiting Team: Ubly

The following officials are assigned to the game

Andy Wolf	#560305
Ron Kazyak	#660075
Josh McNames	#721097
Pat Wilkins	#559866
Mike Bender	#713609

We should arrive at the school around 90 minutes before kickoff. I would like to please ask if there is a locker room available for us to change clothes and complete our pregame. We will be on the field at 6:15 so we can do introductions and pre-game meetings with the coaches well before kickoff.

The coin flip will be held at approximately 20 minutes before kickoff. The Back Judge would like to meet with the game clock and play clock operators (on the field), and the Head Linesman meet with the chain crew on the sidelines after the coin flip.

I would like to request if we could please get a HUDL copy of the game so we can review and improve. Our crew uses the video extensively, and I may use a few plays to support training of additional officials. Once the game is completed, I can send a request through HUDL to the coaching staff.

As a reminder, the points of emphasis from the NHFS and MHSAA this year are:

- Illegal and improperly worn player equipment
 - *First violation is a warning, second is a delay of game, **third and subsequent are unsportsmanlike penalties against the head coach***
- Sportsmanship
- Defenseless player / Targeting

We appreciate the opportunity to officiate this game. You can contact me on my cell phone 989-859-7459, or by email if you have any questions. If I am unavailable, please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. Is there a contact I should look for when we arrive to the school?

It is going to be a great night for football. Thank you

Kickoff Mechanics

- Start deep, protect the goal line, then clean up the play

Phase of Kick	Referee Position	Primary Responsibilities
Pre-Kick	ON Goal line, middle of field	Count Team K and verify Watch for 4-per-side formation Ready-for-play signal when crew is ready
Kick / Flight	Hold goal-line depth if threatened – be patient!	Rule on touchback or momentum exception
Early Return	Trailing behind returner	Start clock on legal touch Observe blocks ahead
Mid-Return (~R-30)	Inside trail position	Transition off runner Pick up trailing action
End of Play	Upfield behind play	Dead-ball officiating, late hits, ball readiness

Philosophy Moment – Prepare your crew for the Game

- Get Logistic details planned and communicated
- Do you have any subs working that game
- Have a pregame that fits your style and what works for your crew
 - Study and review of mechanics and rules
 - Review of issues or discussions from previous week
 - Cover a part of your philosophy
 - What do we know about the game or the teams
- Cover activities from time you leave the locker room to when you return

Rules – the Free Kick

K Team (Kicking Team) Violations

Encroachment: Any K player (except kicker/holder) beyond the restraining line before the kick. *Dead Ball 5 yards*

Free Kick Out of Bounds: Kick goes OB without being touched inbounds by R. *5 yards from previous spot. 5 yards from succeeding spot. 25 yards from the previous spot.*

Illegal formation: R's CALL - At least 4 players must be on either side of the kicker at the kick. *Dead ball 5 yards*

Pop Up Kick: kick drives the ball into the ground once and it goes into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee – *dead ball 5 yards*

Illegal Block: - No member of K shall block on a free kick until: the kick has traveled 10 yards, the kicking team is eligible to recover the kick OR the receiving team initiates a block in the NZ. *Live Ball 10 yards*

Kick-Catch Interference: While any free kick is in flight in or beyond the NZ, K shall not touch the ball or R OR obstruct R's path to the ball – *15 yards from the previous spot OR an awarded fair catch 15 yards from the spot of the foul*

Philosophy – The core philosophy of the entire staff and association must be consistent.

- **Safety first** – the safety of the players, coaches, us, and others on the sideline is job 1.
- **Call Quality Fouls** – See everything you call but do not call everything you see. Get the BIG ones (including all potentially dangerous contact) and pass on the inconsequential contact
- **Use Preventative Officiating** – Early and Often
- **Do your Part** - Know your job and do it – and trust everybody else to do the same
- **Be Professional** – Includes being mentally and physically prepared, being respectful, and hustling.
- **Good Communications** - with players, coaches, and with the rest of the crew. If something does not feel right get the crew together to discuss. If you have information – bring it!
- **Clock** - Know the clock every play, both the status and the time