

PIAA Football officials

Lancaster-Lebanon Chapter

BACK JUDGE RESPONSIBILITIES

Arrive to the facility minimum of 90 minutes before the game.

Before the Game:

During your crews pregame be prepared to discuss your responsibilities on run, pass and kick coverages along with what signals are used to communicate with the rest of the crew. Also discuss with the LJ & HL, coverage for pass plays on the sideline and back of the end zone for who has feet and who has hands. The crew should discuss the mechanics when a runner or play goes out of bounds- who will follow the ball carrier out of bounds? As a BJ you should helping the wing officials with the spot and sideline clean up on a play out of bounds.

Depending on the length of time to walk to the field, the crew should leave to go out to conduct field inspection and team inspection at 6:00. This is the opportunity to catch any illegal equipment: like tinted shields, wrist bands, players missing pads ect..

An important function of the BJ is the responsibility of the play clock. If the stadium has a on field play clock learn how to use the remote pregame and test it out. If the stadium doesn't have a on field play clock then you should use a ready ref to keep the play clock. If you have to keep it with a ready ref remember the signals and when they are given.

During the coin toss remain on your sideline and make sure the team stays in the team box. After the toss proceed to the center of the field to meet briefly with the crew before breaking to your kickoff positions.

Kickoff:

On kickoffs, the BJ is on the 40 yard line with the chains and responsible for counting team "K" players. Before giving the ball to the kicker may sure all players are in front of the 35 yard line and that there are 11 players on the field for the kicking team and let the kicker know to wait for the Referee's whistle before kicking. Once you give the kicker the ball run over to the chains side of the field and let the Referee know when the kicking team is ready to kick.

Be prepared to rule on first touching by "K", who recovered an onside kick or an illegal pop up kick.

If the kick is being returned on the opposite side of the field. Stay focused and watch the blocks and clean up behind the play. Don't watch the ball carrier.

Punt:

On a punt the BJ is responsible for making sure the kick returner gets a clean opportunity to catch the ball. Watch for the returner to give a fair catch and don't blow the whistle until the returner obtains possession of the ball. Once the ball is caught bean bag the spot where the returner gained possession of the ball in case that is needed for a spot for foul enforcement.

Basic Position and duties:

The BJ is positioned 15-20 yards behind the defense and responsible for running the play clock/ monitoring the play clock. Every play the BJ should count the defense and confer by signaling with the LJ that there are 11 on defense. At the end of each play help with ball rotation especially if the ball is outside the hashes.

Running Plays:

To determine if a running play or pass play watch the initial action of the guard and tackle on your side of the field. If you determine it is a running play watch the blocking in front of the runner and pick up the runner once they reach the line of scrimmage. If the runner is going outside the tackles it is important to make sure they get the edge cleanly.

Passing Plays:

To determine if a running play or pass play watch the initial action of the guard and tackle on your side of the field. Once you determine it is a pass play, focus on your receiver key which is usually the interior receiver on the strong side of the field. Watch the initial action on your receiver key but also go into zone watching action of the receivers in your zone while keeping an eye on the status of the ball. Be prepared to rule if a receiver was held but once the ball is in the air it is pass interference. If the ball is thrown into your zone watch the action and follow the action once the catch is made. If ball thrown to opposite zone than watch action behind the play.

Reverse Mechanics:

In regards to reverse mechanics the BJ becomes the trailing official and on the play and is watching all the action behind the play.

First down Measurements:

On measurements the BJ is responsible to secure the ball so it is steady for when the lead stick is pulled.

Penalty Administration:

If you are the official who throws the flag, continue to officiate to the play is dead. After the play is dead than report the foul to the referee. If you are not help cover the flag/ keep plays away from the officials discussing the penalty.

Field Goals/Trys:

During field goals and try's the BJ is positioned under the post with the Umpire.

Timeouts:

During timeouts, the BJ is responsible for timing the time out and letting the Referee know when 45 seconds are up so that the teams can be called back to the field.