

Communication

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Overview

- Pre-game
 - During the week
 - Game Site
- During the game
 - Communication between the crew
 - Chain crew
 - Ball boys
 - Communication with the players
 - Communication with the coaches
- Post-game
 - Coaches
 - Supervisor
 - Fellow officials

Pre-game Communication

- Referee
 - Notify crew (include clock operators) of schedule for the week
 - Travel plans
 - Arrival time
 - Pre-game meeting assignments
 - Contact school – FB Ops / Assistant / etc. (email or phone)
 - Check on parking, special situations (pre-game/halftime/etc)
 - Contact coaches – email is generally best
 - Let coaches know what time R/U will meet them
 - Give them the names of the crew
- Everybody
 - Review any bulletins/plays from CFO / Supervisor
 - If you have questions/issues then discuss with a crewmate, director, etc.
 - Utilize the internet – check the teams stats
 - Do they run or pass
 - Who are the “stars” – this is who they will go to at the end of the game

Pre-game Conference

- Should not be a recitation –
 - Mix things up, especially late in the season
- Needs to be interactive – if you are not participating then you have probably NOT properly prepared
 - Everyone needs to be involved
- Review any bulletins/plays from CFO / Supervisor
 - Everyone needs to be on the same page
 - Remember the coaches see these bulletins so everyone needs to be prepared to answer any questions
- Should generally be a discussion of mechanics and how you will work on the field – if you are reviewing rules it is **TOO LATE**

Communication During the Game

- Communication starts with appearance!
 - Professionalism has NO Limits – Look the part, act the part!
- POISE – Never meet emotion with emotion
- PROPER – Make sure the proper people get the proper information at the proper time

Crew Communication (1)



- Verbal

- Penalty enforcement – discuss in pre-game how you are going to relay to the Referee

- If you use predetermined sequence it will become a habit

- Everyone needs to know what the penalty is

- Wings (H/L/F/S) need to let the coaches know (give all the news, all the time – good news and bad news)
 - U/H/L need to make sure of the enforcement

Crew Communication (2)

- Signals

- Utilize approved signals

- Players off/on the line
 - Preliminary signals on penalties
 - Everyone needs to know them
 - If you don't know it, don't give the wrong one
 - Punches on passes
 - Touching signal on tipped passes
 - Wind/Snap –always signal/tell the referee, even if he does not respond...it is the one time nobody tells the R that he needs it!!!
 - Iron Cross – H/L/S/F give it to the R, R makes the decision and signals the U



Communication with Coaches



- Always be respectful – never meet emotion with emotion
- H/L/S/F – PROPER information at the PROPER time
 - Penalties – for and against
 - The coach makes the decision on accepting or declining
 - 10 second run-off – you need to understand this rule to help the coach with potential options
 - Time and Down/Distance
 - Who is leading
 - Time-outs remaining
- R if coach wants to talk to you
 - Do not talk in middle of field – get to the sideline, the coach will follow you
 - Never talk to coach alone (H/L/S/F should be with you)
 - If you need the calling official – get him there also

Communication with Players

- Always be respectful
- R – Know the QB's name
- U – Control the game in the middle
- All – Know the captains names – write them down so you can call them by name



Referee Microphone



- Practice your signals, enunciation, and delivery, in front of a mirror.
- Coordinate your signals with the oral explanation.
- Pause appropriately to allow the stadium PA system to maintain clarity.
- Refine and develop your microphone skills, even in stadiums where there is no microphone available. Deliver the information orally in conjunction with your signal(s), as if you were using a microphone.
- Practice the pace of your signals. Pause between signals so they do not run into each other.
- Look out at playing field level; do not look up to the press box.
- Give preliminary signal (if someone else has not) as soon as possible. Step to an open area. Everyone is watching and waiting for your communication.

Postgame Communication

- Coaches – Get foul reports to coaches
 - At game site
 - Via QwikRef
- Observers/Technical Advisors – they are there to make us all better
 - Be respectful
 - Be honest – tell them what you saw and why you did what you did
 - Do not argue
 - Take notes so the crew can review the following week
- Supervisor – Referee is focus
 - Referee call him immediately when you have an ejection or other major issue – supervisors do not want to be surprised by a phone call from the coach
 - If the Supervisor needs to talk to other members of the crew he will contact them
- Fellow Officials – Be honest with yourself and your fellow officials
 - Nobody has a perfect game
 - What could we have handled better this game?
 - Most mistakes happen from lack of Communication