



NICE JOB

Week one of the MHSAA provided a lot of terrific games and some mid-season form officiating. We were really pleased with the number of safety fouls (*e.g.*, *targeting*, *IBB*, *BSB*) called by crews, but one area everyone should strive for improvement is calling BBW – paying attention especially to this year’s special emphasis on delayed low blocks by OL.

SAFETY FIRST

Speaking of safety, nearly every game observed had numerous players wearing knee pads improperly – if wearing any knee pads at all. It is important that players are being required to comply with equipment rules. For knees, this means that both the knee pad AND the uniform pants MUST cover the knee.

Look for this during warmups and notify the head coaches at the pregame meetings that this will be enforced. Provide them numbers of some of the players with improper knee pads as an example. If it’s just a matter of a player’s pants riding up, inform him that he needs to adjust them – even if that means he has to do so after every play. The next time, remove him from the game...and continue to do so until it is corrected. You will have the support of the MHSAA. Coaches will be reminded this week of equipment rules and to expect strict enforcement this season.

DOCTOR’S NOTES

This is a reminder regarding casts, braces and other medical devices and official’s role and requirements. The Referee will ask each head coach whether all players are legally and properly equipped, ask whether any player is wearing a cast and confirm that the school has a physician’s note on file for each. The confirmation may come

from the AD, the head coach or the athletic trainer. There is no need for officials to see, obtain or keep the actual note. The Umpire is still required to examine that the medical devices meet any padding requirements.

To see additional medical device requirements, [CLICK HERE](#).

POSTSEASON REQUIREMENTS

The deadline for the submission of postseason requirements is 9/22, so please make sure to review what is needed to ensure you and your crew are eligible for tournament assignments. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the Postseason Eligibility Checklist. Also remember that associations must submit MIGS by 9/15, so resolve any issues with your local group to make certain you’re on their list.

MHSAA FB MECHANICS MANUAL

Finally, MHSAA staff will be observing a lot of football games, both in person and online. Crews and individuals that are not following the protocols and mechanics in the [MHSAA Football Mechanics Manual](#) will be downgraded for postseason consideration. Please make sure that the members of your crew are following the positioning, mechanics and signals outlined in the manual.

RULES REVIEW:

4th and 10 at the K-10. The snap to the punter, K86, in the endzone is high and the attempted kick is partially blocked. As the ball is bounding on the 1-YL, K86 kicks the ball a second time directly from the ground. The ball is recovered by Team R at the K-35. What is the penalty, if enforced? [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your answer.