

CALLING FOULS

Common Sense and Good Judgment

1. Be in the best position possible to make a call.
2. Never anticipate a foul. Let it happen
3. Confirm the foul mentally. Then make a decision
4. Always be sure of a foul. NEVER GUESS
5. If you think you have a foul, you don't
6. If you don't see the whole play, don't make the call
7. NEVER look to call fouls. (i.e. even up number of fouls)
8. Don't let coaches or crowd noise help you make a call
9. Don't be too picky or over-technical (Marginal fouls)
10. Any foul that has a material affect on the play or takes advantage of an opponent, should be called immediately.
11. If the foul involves safety of a player, call it.
12. Don't miss personal fouls.
13. Don't disqualify players unless absolutely necessary.
14. Fouls should be called the same way at the 5 yard line as they are called at the 45 yard line.
15. Be consistent !!! If you didn't think something was a foul early in the game, don't call it late in the game.
16. Don't stop officiating after you throw a flag. CONTINUE TO OFFICIATE.
17. Throw the flag in the air so everyone sees it. There should be no mystery flags. But don't LAUNCH your flag.
18. When calling a foul, you must know WHO committed the foul, WHEN it was committed, and WHERE it was committed.
19. If you call a foul, you better know the proper enforcement. You should be an expert on the fouls and enforcements pertaining to your position.
20. If you make a mistake, pick up the flag.
21. Fouls should be reported to the coach in a professional manner. Always give the players # and the foul that was committed.
22. Allow some latitude before throwing a flag on a coach.
23. USE COMMON SENSE making calls at the end of a game and in blowout situations.
24. Let the players determine the outcome.
25. Referees: Try never to let the captain make a poor choice on the penalty enforcement. If the choice is not an obvious one, try to give the captain the choice that is most advantageous to a team.
26. If the captain cannot make a decision and is looking to the coach for help, walk the captain over toward the sideline to get closer to the coach and let him know the options so he can make a decision. Try not to yell across the field to the coach.
27. Ask yourself, "What preventative officiating actions can I make in a game to prevent fouls".