**MEMO: TO ALL BCFOA HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIALS 2018**

**From: Frank Roberto**

**Please be aware of the following as it pertains to high school football games at all levels this year.**

**MERCY RULE 2018 (Remains the same)**

**a)  All BCHSFA  regular season games shall be governed by regular timing as set out in the NFHS Football rules**

**b)  In all such games, if at the end of the first half of play or at any time during the third quarter, one team has established a lead of more than 28 points, on the consent of BOTH Head Coaches, the game clock may be, from that point forward, kept on running time, subject to the lead continuing to be greater than 28 points**

**c)  If at the end of the third quarter of play, or at any time during the fourth quarter, one team establishes a lead of more than 28 points, the game clock shall, from that point forward, be kept on running time unless**

**(i)  the minimum 29 point lead becomes less than that amount, or**

**(ii) the Head Coach of the trailing team advises the Head Referee that he waives**

**the running time provision set out in this subsection (c)**

**d) Referees are asked to monitor the use of substitutes by the winning team as well as the discipline level of the teams involved and include it in their Arbiter Game Report.**

**BCFOA Overtime Procedures**

**Overtime procedures to be used in exhibition, league games and in play-offs across all divisions.**

**EXHIBITION – Only 1 round will be played to give teams the experience for**

**LEAGUE**

**Regular Kansas City Shootout policy as per the NFHS Rulebook will prevail with the exception that the Referee will select the end of the field that will be used taking into account the scoreboard side (if any), as well as the field conditions. The winner of the coin toss will select first offense or defense.**

**If the game is still tied after the first series of overtime, the team that did not have first choice will now choose offense or defense and a second series will be played.**

**If the game is still tied, then the team that had the first choice will select offense or defense and a third series will be played. HOWEVER, a team scoring a touchdown, MUST attempt a TWO POINT TRY.**

**If the score is still tied in a league game then the game is over and the game shall be declared a TIE.**

**PLAY-OFFS**

**In the playoffs the same process will be used but additional series with two point convert attempts will be utilized until there is a winner.**

**ARBITER GAME REPORT**

**Referees please use the Report feature on ARBITER to inform us about a number of other things: including the Bill Diett Award scores, the game score, field issues, officials not showing up or coming very late, players who although not disqualified deserve to be monitored for behavior problems or unsafe acts. Please also indicate when the score became greater than 29 and how this was handled. A brief summary of the game as a SCOUTING REPORT for future games …team tendencies, running game, passing game, strong punter, very aggressive…**

**BENCHES**

 **It is always preferred that teams be on the opposite sidelines. If the venue or a safety issue prevents this then we will make an exception.**

**BILL DIETT SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

**Bill Diett Sportsmanship Award Criteria**

**After the game Referees are asked to discuss the following criteria with their crews and to submit a final total for each team on their Arbiter game report.**

**10 – Excellent game played with no unsporting fouls.**

 **Great examples of sportsmanship: Players helping each other as well as opponents**

 **from the ground.**

 **Captains and/or Coaches thanking the officials for their contributions to the game.**

 **A game played with a positive attitude.**

**1 point deductions for:**

* **Sideline warning**
* **Sideline Interference**
* **Teammates bickering with each other**
* **Players always asking for penalty calls**
* **Leading with the helmet personal fouls**
* **Charging into or throwing a player to the ground who is obviously out of the play**
* **Profanity not penalized as a foul**
* **Poor crowd control, safety and security of officials and spectators**
* **Excessive celebration**

**3 points automatically deducted for:**

* **Throwing helmet, spiking football, or other equipment**
* **Unsporting fouls called for taunting, baiting, profanity, gestures**
* **Unfair acts – Section 9**
* **Voicing disagreements or displeasure with calls made**

**Highest points possible out of 10 if the following occurs:**

**1 – Coach or player ejected from the game**

**0 – Game is Defaulted**

**CONVERT ATTEMPTS (TRY FOR POINTS)**

**3 yard line, it has been decided that on fields where the goal posts are not in the correct spot (on the end line) we will no longer move the ball to the 8 or 13 for the Try for Point. We will now play the field as it lies in all cases. The Try for Point will be run from the 3 yard line ….regardless.**

**Also, if a touchdown is scored on the last play of the game, and the points are not required for the outcome of that particular game, we will NOT have a convert attempt.**

**EJECTIONS**

**Referees – If a player is ejected from your game you must send me an email by the following day explaining what transpired. I will forward the information on to the high school discipline committee chair. Also, if you have a player that seems to be creating problems make a note of their number and I will also let them know so the player can be warned.**

**FIELD SAFETY**

**There is a new level of concern for field safety and during meetings with High School Football, it was determined that we as an association will collect data over this upcoming season with respect to safety issues. There are different levels of concern.**

**1.  Immediately fixable issues such as padding on posts, proper sideline and end zone restrictions of fans, Benches located at least 5-7 yards away from the sideline, etc. can and should be dealt with by the Referee right away. This also would include a lack of security for fans, players, and officials due to no restraints on location of fans, etc. (In Stands or at least behind a barrier)**

**2.  Fixable issues that might take some time such as large potholes in the field, questionable sprinklers, chains and down box in poor condition, etc. should be noted and concern expressed to the head coach. In these cases, he should also be warned that we may have to consider a game forfeiture in future if these issues are not addressed. (DON’T THREATEN, JUST ADVISE THAT BOTH EXECUTIVES WILL BE MONITORING THESE THINGS AND WILL TAKE ACTION AT SOME POINT)**

**3.  Issue that are not immediately fixable. There are 5-6 (maybe more) fields in BC that are downright dangerous and must be given notice that we won't use them anymore. These are cases where large immovable objects, (retaining walls, fences, trees, cages, posts etc.) are within 5 yards of any boundary. These issues are to be reported to us so we can provide as much notice as possible (the entire off season is minimum) that these fields will not be manned by BCFOA next season at all.**

**As you work games this year and see these issues, you are asked to simply make a note of your concern and send an email to either Frank Roberto (BCFOA Vice-President - High School) or to BCFOA President Nigel Bushe. We forward all these concerns to the High School Coaches and their Administration as well as the BCHS Football Executive for follow up and subsequent action. There may be times that we will not work a game due to field conditions, but that decision will come from your executive only, except in extreme cases.**

**GAME BALLS 2018**

**Baden balls only. Mandatory for all games at all level. No exceptions.
BCFOA High School Football Concussion Policy 2018**

**CONCUSSSION PROTOCOL**

**Here is the basic summary regarding concussion management and how we need our officials to proceed. Remember that players, coaches, medical personnel, and officials must all work together for the well being of the player.**

**1. The NHSF policy will serve our IN-GAME needs.**

**Currently the policy reads:**

**“…any player who shows signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion must be**

**removed from the game and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care**

**professional”**

**This policy will be modified for BCSSFA purposes so that the last line reads *appropriate health-care***

***personnel***

**- Prior to the game when the officials speak to the head coaches, the referee will ask the**

**following question, "Do you have qualified medical personnel on your sidelines as per**

**BCSSFA regulations?" If the answer is yes, ask for that person to be identified to you. You**

**then move on to the rest of the information you need and proceed. Referees will not be asked**

**to check credentials. \*\*\* If the answer is "no" then the game will be forfeited and the officials**

**must leave the field at the scheduled start time.**

**- The referee will report the forfeiture information to Frank Roberto by email**

**THIS WILL BE THE IMMEDIATE CASE FOR ALL GAMES AT ALL LEVELS.**

**Officials will still be able to have players with suspected concussion signs and symptoms, evaluated**

**as per NFHS rules.**

** If you have observed contact to the head ( ie. helmet to helmet, helmet to knee, helmet**

**to ground) and the player is down mention this to the attending team personnel.**

** If at any time in the game you notice a player showing signs and/or symptoms of a**

**Possible concussion, stop the game and report this to the Referee. The Referee and**

**Umpire will speak with the head coach and inform them of your suspicions, and ask for**

**the player to be evaluated by qualified medical personnel.**

** If the coach refuses, remove the player from the game until he has been evaluated.**

**BCSSFA has informed programs that all of them will need to have qualified medical personnel on the sidelines for all games at all levels. If an official sends a player off because of suspected concussion symptoms, this person will be able to send the player back in WITHOUT a doctor’s note. If a player again exhibits signs and symptoms of concussion notify the head coach and ask for the player to be reevaluated.**

**2. The Football BC policy will be applied for players who do not return to play in the same game.**

**At this point, the officials will not have any involvement in this regard except if possible**

**to write this player’s number down and submit it in the game report.**

**Notes:**

**1. The teams can’t share. Its laid out in the policy each team should have their own.**

**2. If you don't have appropriate health care personnel the game is forfeited. All coaches have been notified of this repeatedly. Athletic therapists are available in every one of the cities that have high school programs. If a team cannot get someone to come with them, all they need to do is call ahead to the AT program and pay a nominal fee and they will have someone in place.**

**3. There is no disagreement, the referee sends a player off, the health care person checks them and can send them back on after a play. If the coach is expelled from the game, he must leave the bench area, but he can still act as the health care provider (off the bench) and an assistant can take over the game.**

**Signs and Symptoms of Concussion**

**Concussion symptoms can occur immediately following a head injury or can develop hours or even**

**days later. Signs (Bystander can observe) that may indicate concussion in a player who has suffered**

**head trauma include the following:**

** Awkward (uncoordinated) movements – Balance Problems**

** Behavior or personality changes (e.g., irritability)**

** Dazed or stunned appearance**

** Inability to respond (unresponsiveness) or answer simple questions (e.g., Do you know where**

**you are?)**

** Loss of consciousness**

** Paleness (pallor)**

** Post-traumatic amnesia (short-term memory loss; inability to remember events prior to or**

**immediately following the injury)**

** Slurred speech**

** Vomiting**

**Symptoms (Player has to tell you) of concussion following head trauma include the following:**

** Blurred vision**

** Difficulty concentrating**

** Dizziness**

** Drowsiness**

** Feeling faint, sluggish, lethargic, or confused**

** Headache**

** Nausea**

** Ringing in the ears**

**UNIFORMS**

**Let’s make certain that all long jerseys are tucked in at the beginning of each game.**

1. **Eye shields must be 100% clear. They cannot be tinted and a doctor’s note does NOT waive this requirement.**
2. **Knees must be covered by the knee pads.**
3. **Sweatbands may only be worn up to 3 inches from the thumb towards the elbow.**
4. **Bicep bands, neck bands, and leg bands are not allowed.**
5. **Shoulder pads, rib and back protectors must be covered at all times.**
6. **Play cards must be worn at the wrist only.**
7. **Eye shade must be one solid line only. No letters included. No face painting.**
8. **A towel worn by the player must be the same color as everyone else on his team. Do not allow the skinny wispy type of towel.**

**HELMET COMING OFF**

**When a helmet comes completely off a player who is in possession of the ball the ball becomes dead and the down is ended.**

**A player shall be replaced for at least one down, unless halftime or an overtime intermission occurs when the helmet comes completely off during a down without being directly attributable to a foul by an opponent.**

**Remember the new rule prohibiting contact with a helmet-less player.**

**LET’S BE CONSISTENT IN ALL AREAS OF THE PROVINCE AND AT ALL LEVELS.**

**HAVE A GREAT 2018 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SEASON!!!!**

**HAVE FUN AND ENJOY YOURSELVES**

**Thank you,**

**Frank Roberto**

**BCFOA Vice President**