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## Officials' Bulletin 2015.12

**To:** Head Football Coaches, Big 12, Mountain West, and Southland Officiating Staff  
**From:** Walt Anderson, Greg Burks, and Byron Boston – Officiating Coordinators  
**Date:** November 18, 2015

### **Pool Reporter**

All Referees and Observers need to review the specific Pool Reporter Policies of each conference. What is consistent among these policies is that only one Pool Reporter is allowed and the question he has must be addressed by the Referee and not by the Observer. The Observer may facilitate notification of the request for a Pool Reporter and communicating the question to the Referee, but he (Referee) should be the only spokesperson on behalf of the conferences during a Pool Reporter session. The only exceptions to this, which do not occur as often, are when specific conference representatives, such as the Commissioner, are present at a game and they elect to field questions relative to various topics. However, those are generally not done within the framework of the Pool Reporter policies.

### **Buffer Zones during Warmups**

Emotions at this time of the year will run high, and we want to be sure we are properly administering the buffer zones during pregame warmups. When both full teams arrive on the field, there should be a 10-yard buffer zone between each 45-yard line. There should always be some official(s) stationed in this area during this time, the numbers of which will be determined by the sense of what the Referee and crew feel are needed to prevent the emotions of the pre-game from escalating.

### **Communication to Referee at end of Half or Game**

Whether it is the Observer in the Replay Booth who has communication to the Referee, or the Communicator, we want to be sure to give the Referee confirmation at the end of the first half, game or overtime that the previous play is “clear” and we are not planning on stopping the game for review. We had a play in overtime that had a Ruling on the Field of Touchdown and thus would have ended the game but the field crew was left not knowing if the game would be stopped for review. We always want to let the Referee know unless it is a situation that is obvious, such as a kneel-down, or a run that is clearly designed just to end the half or game. Referees and Officials should know that the Replay Officials are instructed that while viewing what appears to be, or could be, the final play of a contested game, they need to be prepared to page the officials immediately if the outcome of the play is not almost immediately confirmed. This allows the field crew to blow whistles and get the attention of coaches and player to hold up as the final play is under review. However, this does not mean in the absence of an immediate page there is no possibility of a delayed page, which is why we want to have some communication to the Referee and if he feels it necessary, he can make an announcement of the final Ruling on the Field and that the game is over.



### **Situation Awareness**

We continue to see plays that mechanically during the play or prior to or after the play are not administered as precisely as needed. All officials, and especially the Referee, need to work to be more aware of the different situations that occur in a game in certain circumstances. We will not try to cover all of these in a bulletin other than to state they are numerous and most situations at one time or another have been covered in meetings, clinics, videos, or training sessions. Spend time in each pre-game reviewing these and practicing how we will handle various situations. We will put a few into this week's video session to give some examples. With the heightened emotions during this time of the season, it is important we as officials are doing everything we can to properly administer the game, communicate effectively (especially to coaches and players), and to be aware of situations in which further clarification will assist in a thorough understanding of what is going on during or after play. We will close our final bulletin by stating what we have often emphasized relative to expectations on game day from coaches. Based on many years of experience and this has held true now for 40+ years, the common theme we hear from coaches is there are two specific things they are looking for, and that is why we refer to these at the "Big C's": CONSISTENCY and COMMUNICATION.

Commit to these final three weeks of the regular season and into the bowl and playoff season to meet these two qualities. Focus and apply your specific key mechanics on every play. Call what is obviously a foul and when in question, let it go. Good luck in these final three weeks and during the post-season for those awarded those opportunities.