

# 2014 Football Bulletin X

## November 5, 2014

To: Commissioners, Board Interpreters, Curriculum reps, CIAC and league reps, and media.

From: Bill Riccio, Jr. State Interpreter

Re: Immediate concerns

### I. Unsportsmanlike Acts

A. Pre-game conduct: After getting a concerned call regarding some pre-game actions by visiting teams, and getting feedback from commissioners, at least one league's ADs and league commissioner, and several interpreters, the following should take place at all games officiated by the state's six boards.

1. Visiting teams with flags, hammers, spears or any other type of instrument should not enter the field and show disrespect to the home team, or its logo (by stomping on it). Such acts are considered unsportsmanlike and will be penalized by the crew on the opening kickoff.
2. Visiting teams, if they have these flags or instruments, can run onto the field with them and plant them at their team bench. *We're not trying to stop tradition, just avoid conflict.*
3. Home teams can do as they've always done. They are not showing disrespect to their guests. **However, if the action includes any show of ill will toward the opponent, it should be penalized.**
4. Officials should alert coaches of the policy as the penalty will be against the head coach (second ULC can mean disqualification). A little preventative officiating can go a long way.
  - a. Mechanics
    1. Officials should get in the practice (if they don't already) of getting the team captains and/or teams for the opening toss and second half. The L will get the home team, the B the visitor.

## II. Controversial Plays

A. **Talking to media** -- Controversial plays happen and officiating crews have to make determinations. Officials should refrain from making any comments to media except as their individual boards dictate. Whatever it is, do what your board indicates. During meetings, the board's policy should be discussed.

1. Before leaving the field every member of the crew should be of one mind as to what happened and what was ruled.
2. Assigners or Better Officiating chairmen should be alerted as to the play and what transpired.
3. If a statement has to be made, it should be made as the assigning board's rules dictate.
4. Flip or off-hand comments don't help anybody.

Please discuss these topics at your next regular meeting.

That's it for now,

Bill R.