



Chief Bench Official Roles and Responsibilities

2021 GHSA Playoffs

Revised May 2021

Being CBO is NOT an easy job. It can be very, very awkward for officials who have not performed these duties before. It is imperative that crews do a complete pre-game to clearly review the CBO's role and responsibilities. CBO's should perform their duties as laid out by the Referee.

The Referee should also be sure to explain to both coaches what the CBO will and will not do.

In general the CBO should stay engaged and not become a spectator. A good CBO works HARD at doing a good job. He should be present for coaches' certification, coin toss and lineup, is responsible for certifying Table and should join the crew during dead ball conferences.

Main Job

In general, the main job of the CBO is to oversee the table personnel and action in the sub box. He should make sure the table knows what penalties are being assessed and are released properly. He must make sure the clock is operated correctly and keeps a record of the official score and all time outs.

The CBO is the eyes and ears of the crew on the sideline. He should listen to concerns the coaches have and relay them to the crew during dead ball situations. Don't be too thin skinned - you may hear things you would flag if you heard them on the field, but you probably should not as CBO. Your big job is to make the relationship between the coaches and benches and the on field officials better, not worse!

Penalties

It is unlikely that the CBO will have a flag, but they are empowered to call a specific set of penalties:

- offsides
- too many players
- illegal number of long crosses
- illegal or delayed substitutions
- unsportsmanlike and conduct fouls

The CBO should be aware of what his area of responsibility is. If it happens in the sub box, it is your call. If it happens on the field, the CBO must be more cautious; a CBO should never call a slash or push that occurs on the field.

If you do throw flag, you must be sure that you are 100% right. For example, if the teams are in transition and you suspect offsides, let the Trail coming up know he needs to count. If the offsides occurs behind the Trail and is egregious (i.e. not just a player stepping on the line on the far side of the field) and you are 100% certain (you have counted players multiple times), throw your flag. We want to get it right as a crew.

Time Outs

The CBO is entitled to grant time outs. In cases where it is absolutely clear that a team is both in possession of the ball and entitled to call a time out, the CBO may grant that request. If it is in any way unclear (e.g. ball is loose, a loose ball technical foul was called), the CBO *MUST* defer to the on-field officials!

Positioning

The CBO should position himself at the opposite end of the substitution area from the play. This will allow the CBO to hear the bench farther from the play, see all subs, and keep the play in front of him – he serves as sort of a super trail. He should make sure that all substitutions are legal. Remember, players coming off the field have

right of way. If there is an incident in the box, the CBO must know what happened. In addition the CBO should keep an eye on what is happening on the far end of the field, behind the Trail.

Fight Mechanics

The CBO should be actively engaged in what is happening on the field. If there is a fight the CBO MUST Freeze the benches!

NFHS Rule 2-7

1. A Chief Bench Official (CBO) shall supervise over and hold complete jurisdiction over timekeepers, scorers, coaches, substitutes and any other personnel within the bench areas, penalty box and scoring table area.

Prior to the game, the CBO should:

- a. Meet with the game clock operator and review proper GHSA and NFHS timing rules.
 - b. Review with the table personnel their responsibilities and explain your role.
 - c. Ensure that there is a mechanism to communicate with the booth clock operator.
 - d. Oversee operation of the table horn.
2. The CBO shall wear the same uniform, as the on field referees and equipped with a signal flag and whistle.
 3. The CBO Shall be empowered to:
 - a. Violations of the coaches-, bench- and table- area rules.
 - b. Any unsportsmanlike acts that occur within the coaches, bench and table areas.
 - c. Any illegal crosse exchange.
 - d. Any illegal or delayed substitutions.
 - e. A player who has substituted for not leaving the field of play at the table or bench area.
 - f. Offsides.
 - g. Too many players on the field.
 - h. Time outs.
 - i. Count crosses when requested.
 - j. Violations related to substitutions.
 4. Where the CBO becomes aware of any of the a violation, he shall, depending on the circumstances, either throw a signal flag or blow his whistle and apply the appropriate penalty.

Additionally, when the CBO becomes aware of a player committing an act of flagrant misconduct then if the act is away from the current area of play and is unlikely to have been seen by the on-field officials, the CBO shall either throw a signal flag or blow his whistle, as appropriate, and after play has stopped, inform the Referee of what has happened and the CBO shall make the appropriate call.

5. The CBO shall oversee penalty administration and:
 - a. Ensure that the table personnel accurately understand who the infraction is on, and the amount of time to be served.
 - b. Ensure that the correct player serves his time (note that a coach can substitute for the player serving time when the release is imminent – last five seconds or so).
 - c. Ensure that release occurs at the proper time and not before.
 - d. If a player releases early, the CBO will note the time, which team has possession and, at the next dead ball, double tap the horn and inform the closest official on the game.
 - e. Ensure that during a faceoff a player may not release until possession has been called.

- f. If the table uses a timing device separate from the game clock, monitor for accuracy.
- g. Notify the nearest official if any player has incurred 5 minutes of personal fouls.