



## Chief Bench Official Roles and Responsibilities

### High School Playoffs

Revised April 2024

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. He should be present for coaches' certification, coin toss and lineup, is responsible for certifying Table Personnel and should join the crew during dead ball conferences.

You can find the responsibilities for the CBO in Rule 2:7 (added at the end of this document)

#### **Main Job**

In general, the main job of the CBO is to oversee the table personnel and action in the substitution 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 (note player number) 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!**

#### **Flags**

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

ART. 1 . . . When assigned by an assigning authority, an official acting as the chief bench official shall have supervision over the timer's table and complete jurisdiction over the timer, scorer, coaches area and both benches. The chief bench official (CBO) shall wear the same uniform as the other officials and shall have a whistle, flag and horn. The horn shall be provided by the home team.

ART. 2 . . . The CBO shall supervise and have complete jurisdiction over the timekeeper, penalty timekeepers, scorers, coaches, substitutes and any other persons within the bench areas, the substitution area and the penalty box. The assigned chief bench official also shall be empowered to call the following:

- 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. A player who has been substituted for not leaving the field of play at the table area or bench area.
- e. Offside.
- f. Too many players on the field.
- g. Delayed substitutions.
- h. Time-outs.
- i. Too many long crosses on the field.
- j. Violations related to substitution.

If the CBO becomes aware of any of the above infringements, the CBO shall, depending on the circumstances, either throw a signal flag or blow the 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 the whistle, as appropriate. When a whistle has stopped the play, the CBO shall inform the referee of what has happened and the CBO shall make the appropriate call.