

REPORTING FOULS TO THE REFEREE

I got this from a HL in the NFL and I hope we all take all this into each one of our games. Have a great season....

As we approach the regular season, foul reporting becomes extremely important in how your crew looks. There are basically 4 parts of officiating a play:

- 1) Getting in position to make the call.
- 2) Making the call with a confident posture and crisp signal(s).
- 3) Reporting the foul to the Referee.
- 4) Returning to your position following the enforcement.

With time, 1 and 2 will get better. But, let's look at how you can improve on 3 and 4:

When reporting a foul, be brief and to the point. The Referee doesn't need a long, verbal description. (we'll get to that later.) He needs WHO-WHAT-WHERE-WHEN-WHO committed the foul! Use "OFFENSE", "DEFENSE", "KICKERS", or "RETURNERS". Don't use colors as their designation may change during the course of a play.

WHAT was the foul? Again, be clear and concise. He doesn't need a "FOUL REPORT" here.

WHERE did the foul occur? Point out flag, "at the line of scrimmage", "in the endzone", etc.

WHEN did it occur? "At the snap", "during the kick", "during the return", etc.

ALWAYS TELL THE REFEREE THE RESULT OF THE PLAY.

Remember, he is upfield with the QB and oftentimes has no clue as to what happened. (Ex. In the NYJ/NYG game the other night, my Referee threw out players from each team after a play.. He had no idea that the offense made a 1st down with a pass completion. We told him what the ROP was so he offset the UNRs and threw out both guys and was able to FINISH the play with a strong " FIRST DOWN" signal.)

An inaccurately reported foul causes the Referee to step away from his

signal/announcement to verify. This makes it look like we are unsure of what we have and leaves doubt in the minds of those observing.

And, finally, the fourth part of the equation: Returning to your position. Pick up your flag and move to your next spot with confidence. It may be that you are the HL/LJ/U and have to enforce the foul. Double-check one another.

GET IT RIGHT.

The HL and LJ may have to give the coach an explanation. Assume this as you return to your sideline. **DON'T GUESS ON WHAT ANOTHER OFFICIAL CALLED!** Tell the coach you will check with the other official and get back to him. But make sure you get back to him. Don't go into a clinic on the play, but put it in plain English. I would not quote some obscure rule. Let him speak first, so you know what his concern is. Try to stand alongside him.(Unlike me and Coughlin).

Helpful terms used with coaches for common fouls:

Offensive Holding

"Grabbed and restricted"

"Hooked and restricted"

"Takedown/Tackled"

Defensive Pass Interference

"Not playing the ball"

"Playing thru the back"

"Grabbed receiver's arm"

"Arm bar" (held extended arms down so player can't reach for the ball)

"Hooked and Turned"

Offensive Pass Interference

"Blocking downfield early"

"Initiating contact AND creating separation"

"Driving thru a defender who has position on the field"

NOT Defensive Pass Interference or Offensive Pass Interference

"Incidental contact"

"Inadvertant feet tangling of the feet"

"Laying a hand on a receiver"

"Defender gained good position"