

## Field Judge Tips

### **During Pregame:**

Monitor teams and their interaction near each other before game and at end of first half  
Attend to pregame duties on the field (ball boys, meeting coaches, etc.)  
Get Captains onto the field and ready for the coin toss on time  
Get the correct ball to the Umpire for the opening kickoff

### **Mannerisms and Mechanics:**

Hands never on hips, don't fold arms in front of chest, stand at ease during dead ball periods  
Keep down smiling and laughing while on the field  
Avoid the appearance of being too friendly to players, team and non-game personnel  
Do not turn back to players when returning to initial position for next play  
Always appear to be hustling  
Don't watch the flight of the punted ball. Watch your flyer  
Close to top of numbers when ball is dead on other side of the field  
Close to dead ball action to observe and prevent problems after play is over  
Don't be in a hurry to get a new ball, first finish observing and handling dead ball action  
Give timeout signal before giving touchback or safety signal and after 4<sup>th</sup> down play ends  
Verify down with LJ. Count players and verify count with BJ. Complete all signals before snap  
You must get to pylon on long runs and passes, keep a good cushion  
Come back to help with out of bounds action near line of scrimmage  
Give signal # 19 when there is fourth down  
Confirm with LJ that you are in or out of goal line mechanics  
Clock awareness near end of a half, be aware of hurry up offense/one ball mechanics  
If you can help, assist calling official in ruling if there is a catch or not

### **Administrative Issues:**

Check to make sure incoming new ball is correct  
Be aware of teams near each other before game and at end of first half – monitor their interaction  
Be aware of need of a possible measurement  
If measurement in side zone, have a new ball ready at the hash mark  
Keep coaches off of the field (at all times)  
Keep teams inside numbers and inside 25 yardline during timeouts  
Get off the field when the game ends

### **Penalty Related Matters:**

Slow down on penalty administration, especially when reporting a penalty  
Hat down when a pass receiver goes out of bounds – forced or not  
Watch scoring player for unsportsmanlike acts. Get ball away from him to keep him from fouling  
Communicate with the official calling PI when there is an issue of "Catchability"  
Report fouls to head coach. Get his option for kickoff fouls (kick out of bounds, team A offsides)  
Check with other official(s) calling DPI or OPI to insure you have the same or different calls  
Cover flags if not involved with calling a penalty  
Know the difference between unsportsmanlike and personal fouls, especially when reporting to Ref