



Managing the Game

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About Me:

- ▶ Gulf Coast Football Officials Association
- ▶ 19 years of experience
- ▶ Youth, Middle School, and High School Football
- ▶ Worked all positions at the Varsity level (except Umpire)

The "Pre" Pre-Game

- Game Assigned/Accepted
 - Prepare for the game
 - Know the rules
 - Know your position mechanics
 - Be in shape
- Professionalism
 - Arrive on time
 - Professionally dressed before/after
 - Uniform
- Communication
 - Coordinate with crewmates



"Pre" Pre-Game con't.

Knowledge of the rules and mechanics that surround the game are an imperative. Don't just look like you know, know you know, and everyone else will know.

Pre-Game

Use this time wisely to prepare for the task at hand. Have a system/plan to approach this process. This is the time to review you preparation not to prepare.

- ▶ 90-105 minutes before game time arrive at field. Find your locker room.
- ▶ Referees and Umpire meet with the coach early.
- ▶ 70-90 minutes before game time get dressed and be ready to take the field. Use this time to relax.
- ▶ 30-70 minutes before the game use you pre-game to finalize your preparation. Talk mechanics clarify rules, communicate before the game.
- ▶ 30 minutes before game time take the field.

On the Field: Pre-Game

30 minutes before game time we take control of the game. We are responsible from the point we take the field until the point we leave.

- ❖ Walk the field
- ❖ Check the balls
- ❖ Get with the band director
- ❖ Find game administration(if you haven't already)
- ❖ Chain Crew
- ❖ Ball Boys
- ❖ Monitor the teams if they are still on the field
- ❖ Ensure Sportsmanship
- ❖ Look for equipment violations, if any are seen handle with the coach/player
- ❖ Find the athletes
- ❖ Watch and get a feel for how the game might evolve

On the Field: During the Game

Go with the "flow". The game moves at our pace not the teams, but we should not hinder the teams either.

- ❖ Teams want to speed up or slow down the game, they can't play without us.
- ❖ We dictate the pace. Don't rush, play at a consistent pace that does not impede the flow of the game.
- ❖ Take your time to get it right. Communicate.
- ❖ Stay alert and keep your crew mates aware of your observations.

Big Game = Big Problems?

Don't get "sucked into" the atmosphere of the game.

Keep calm, it's just another game.

Hostile Environment

Don't let it effect your game.

It will, we're human.

Warning Signs Officials are Losing Control: Them

Players

- Talking Back
- "Chippieness"
- Actions after the whistle
- Under their breath comments
- Outward aggression and obvious disrespect of the rules.
- In game rivalries

Coaches

- ❖ Constant complaining
- ❖ Overly aggressive
- ❖ Questioning even the obvious calls
- ❖ Under their breath comments
- ❖ Comments to team/players about "two teams to beat out here".

Fans

- ❑ Comments directed at specific officials, players and coaches.
- ❑ Unable to focus on the calls, fixated in the past.
- ❑ Obvious chants directed at the officials.

Warning Signs Officials are Losing Control: Themselves

You

- Losing Confidence
- “Backing away” from the game
- Apprehension
- Sudden Nerves
- Feelings of, I don’t want this play to come to me.

Crew Mates

- ❖ Appear distant not coming in strong
- ❖ Uncertainty/Apprehension
- ❖ “Phantom Flags”
- ❖ “Make up Calls”
- ❖ Rushing, sense they want to be some where else.
- ❖ “Backing Away”

What Should I Do?

There is no one answer.

For You:

- Stay Calm
- Slow Down
- Remember you've been here before.
- You know the rules/follow mechanics.

For Them:

- Stay Calm
- Slow down
- Talk to them
- Reinforce what they know



Sometimes flags **ARE** necessary

We have a responsibility to enforce the rules and control the game. Don't let become a mockery. Nobody wants to be apart of an "ugly" game



Questions?





Be safe and have fun.

Thank you.