

Field Commissioner Responsibilities (excerpt from rules document)

Coaches will have a responsibility to be a field commissioner for another game. If a head coach cannot make their field commissioner responsibility, they can have their assistant coach or another coach fill in for them. It is the responsibility of the assigned coach to be sure they are covered.

E. Referees and Field Commissioners. A minimum of one referee and one field commissioner will be present at each non-play-off game. The field commissioner's primary objective is to promote and enforce safety rules and to act as a sounding board for student referees. The Field Commissioner does not have the authority to reverse official calls within the game but is available to discuss the rulings as an unbiased witness and authority of the BYF Flag Rules. Field Commissioners do serve as the responsible party in overseeing that BYF Rules and Regulations are observed and retains the right to uphold BYF rules when it comes to section VIII, Unsportsmanlike Conduct by Coaches and Players. Referees and coaches must also follow the field commissioner's rulings on all safety issues. The role of the Field Commissioner is critical to the success of our program on game day. The Field Commissioner is the neutral party responsible for organizing the start of play, monitoring play during the game, handling dispute resolution, maintaining order on and around the field, and carrying out disciplinary action, when necessary. Consequently, **he must be an engaged observer at all times** and clearly distinguishable from coaches, referees and other observers in order to be easily identified by all parties and be positioned on offensive side of the ball, approximately 15 yards from line of scrimmage.

Coaches who fail to complete their field commissioner duties for a playoff game will be subject to a suspension. They will not be allowed to coach on the field the first half of their teams next game.

Specific duties and responsibilities of the Field Commissioner include:

Game Prep

- The Field Commissioner should arrive for duty 15 minutes before his assigned game. He should have a copy of the rules, as well as mobile phone numbers for his Division Commissioner (TUFFS, White, Red or Black) with him in the event they are needed.
- Introductions should be made to the respective coaching staffs and a coin flip conducted to determine kicking and receiving teams, prior to taking the field, in order to keep the pace of play moving throughout the day.
- The visiting team calls the coin flip:
 - The winner decides if they want to kick (start on Defense) or receive (start on Offense) in the 1st half (the opposite will then apply in the 2nd half).
 - The loser decides which goal to defend.
 - The teams switch sides of the field to start the 2nd half.

- Field Commissioner should review copies of both team's lineups prior to kickoff, to ensure an even distribution of playing time in accordance with Rule II.A.
- Field Commissioner should take a picture of each game roster and send to the appropriate division commissioner to be tracked for enforcement of Rule II B.
- The Field Commissioner should ensure that each team has assigned parents to work the scoreboard/time clock and man the chain gang. Home team runs the clock, visiting team runs the chains. Introductions should be made to all parents volunteering for these duties.
- Explanation should be given to both coaching staffs regarding the No Tolerance Policy.
- Upon completion of the prior game, the Field Commissioner and head coaches should introduce themselves to the assigned referees for their game. Any questions/discussion regarding specific rules and the enforcement of those rules should occur at this time. Remember, referees are the authority on the field and should be the primary voice in these conversations. However, the Field Commission should be available for clarification, should the referees need assistance.
- Before kickoff, there should always be one final review of the No Tolerance Policy with both referees and head coaches present.

Commented [1]: Is the home team responsible for one of these, and the visiting team responsible for the other?

Monitoring Play/Dispute Resolution

- The Field Commissioner **MUST** be visible and closely watching play at all times.
- He should make note of **RECURRING** rules infractions and inform referees during any break in play. Referees will miss a call now and then – they don't need to be reminded of it each time – Commissioner input of this type should usually come in the case of repeated misses requiring clarification of a specific rule.
- In the case of a rule violation affecting the safety of a player, the Field Commissioner should **IMMEDIATELY** point out the infraction to the head referee. At that point, the head referee has the option of calling a penalty or issuing a warning. At no point does a Field Commissioner take on the role of referee and assess penalties.
- During the course of play, each head coach will have one opportunity to call a team time out, if available, per half to address the Field Commissioner, in order to point out rules violations they feel are not being seen/enforced. Upon reviewing the complaint, the Field Commissioner will caucus with the referees and determine a course of action, if any.
- The Field Commissioner will then report back to the head coaches, thereby eliminating any interaction between the coaches and referees during the game. If the Field Commissioner determines that the issue was a valid issue, no time out will be assessed to the requesting team and the time out will be considered an official time out. If the Field Commissioner determines that the call was a non-issue and non-urgent, then the requesting team will be assessed a time out. A team may only request a time out for Field Commissioner review if they are in possession of a team time out at the time. Also, inside of 2 minutes in either half of the game, neither team may call for a time out for Field Commissioner review.
- At halftime, the Field Commissioner is expected to meet separately with each coaching staff, noting issues or complaints, and pass along relevant concerns to the referees.

Maintaining Order/Instituting Disciplinary Measures

- In extreme situations, it may become necessary for the Field Commissioner to use his authority in order to shield players and/or referees from inappropriate behavior on the part of coaches and/or fans. In accordance with the No Tolerance Policy, there is to be NO game related interaction between referees and coaches or parents on the sideline. Should a coach or parent on the sideline address a referee in disputing or questioning a call, the Field Commissioner must move to stop that action. At his discretion, he may issue a reminder/warning or in the case of a more serious offense, an ejection from the game.
- In the case of a coach or adult on the sideline using profanity towards a child or referee, the Field Commissioner will immediately interrupt the game and remove the offending party from the area.

Following a game in which a Field Commissioner is forced to offer a warning or ejection to any adult (coach or observer); he must contact his Division Commissioner and file a formal report.