

Barrington Youth Football

Flag Football Field Commissioner Duties and Responsibilities

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. During his assigned game, the Field Commissioner will wear a vest provided by the league, in order to be easily identified by all parties. 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) and Flag Football Board representatives (Grant Grable and Tom Kolder) 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 Field Commissioner should ensure that each team has assigned parents to work the scoreboard/ time clock and man the chain gang. 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 Commissioner 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.

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 come only 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.

Once again, your Field Commissioner assignment is critical to the success of our Program. Please take it seriously. Remember, we do not want to take the game out of the hands of the referees. We want to give them and the coaches an adult resource to handle dispute resolution and maintain control. Your Division Commissioner will be assigning Field Commissioner duties. If you cannot make your assigned time, you are responsible for finding a substitute. Your attendance will be a key part of your coaching evaluation by the Board of Directors at year end.

Thank you again for your volunteering to be a flag football coach. Your hard work and dedication to the kids is appreciated by all.