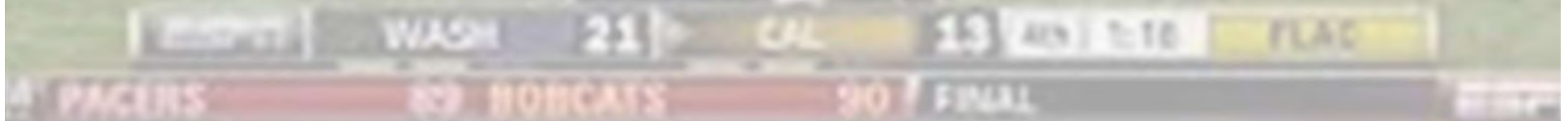


# Referee Announcements

Basic Principles of  
Using the Microphone  
August 2021



# Placement of Equipment



- **Toggle Switch:**

- ✓ Right or Left Side of Belt (Several Inches Away from Flag)
- ✓ Make Certain the Switch is Easy to Reach
- ✓ Check Every 3 Plays to Make Sure Switch is Off


- **Pack:**

- ✓ Back Side of Belt (Same Side as Toggle Switch)
- ✓ Check Batteries Before Game, ALWAYS Change at Half



- **Microphone:**

- ✓ Clip On or Near Zipper 3" to 5" From Top of Shirt
- ✓ Face Microphone Upward Toward the Chin
- ✓ Make Certain a Windscreen is Attached



# Words Can Make or Break an Announcement

- Use Consistent Order: Foul, Number, Team, Penalty, Down
- Know the Difference Between Fouls, Flags & Penalties
- Use Words/Phrases the Common Fan Understands 

**ALWAYS Use:**  
“Disqualified”  
“Added To”  
“Offside”



**NEVER Use:**  
“Ejected”   
“Tacked On”   
“Offsides” 

# Words Can Make or Break an Announcement - Continued

- **When There are Two Fouls, Use the Following:**
  - ✓ “There are Two Fouls on the Play, Both by the Offense”
  - ✓ “There are Fouls by Both Teams on the Play” 
- **Change of Possession/Kick Plays, Use the Following:**
  - ✓ Team Name OR
  - ✓ Return/Kicking Team OR
  - ✓ Intercepting/Recovering Team
- **Use The Following ONLY When:**
  - ✓ “Replay” – Down Was 1<sup>st</sup> & Chains Will NOT Move, Offset, or on Try
  - ✓ “Results In” – Yardage Gives Team A 1<sup>st</sup> Down After Enforcement
  - ✓ “Penalty Leaves Ball Past LTG” – Team A Commits Spot Foul on Big Gain
  - ✓ “Illegal” – Necessary in the Statement of the Foul 

# Words Can Make or Break an Announcement - Continued

- **Make Statements that Matter:**

- ✓ During the Kick/Return
- ✓ After the Interception 
- ✓ Entered the Neutral Zone Causing the Offense to React
- ✓ Lined Up in the Neutral Zone
- ✓ By Rule
- ✓ Only Add the Enforcement Spot When Necessary 


- **Complex Announcements:**

- ✓ Slow Down, Buy Time, Talk with Another Official
- ✓ State Announcement Out Loud to Umpire
- ✓ Make Sure Line Judge Stays Close to Help With Numbers

- **When in Doubt, Say Less**



# Body Language Sends a Strong Message

- **Entering the Announcement:**

- ✓ **When a Flag is Thrown, the Camera Finds You Quickly**
- ✓ **Make All Actions Appear Confident**
- ✓ **Communicate Efficiently with Umpire to Begin Enforcement**
- ✓ **Find an Open Space Efficiently (May Be Behind You)** 
- ✓ **Do NOT Walk Into Your Announcement**
- ✓ **Do NOT Turn On Microphone Until Announcement is Ready**
- ✓ **Look Toward the Camera, Head Up**
- ✓ **Be Aware of Facial Expressions & Gestures, the Camera Sees All**

# Body Language Sends a Strong Message - Continued

- **During the Announcement:**

- ✓ **Keep Signals In the Frame, But Away From the Face**
- ✓ **Give Strong Signals that Exude Confidence** 
- ✓ **Stay Calm, Demonstrate Control**
- ✓ **Time Signals with Words**
- ✓ **Multiple Fouls on Same Team, Only Point Once**
- ✓ **Do NOT Let Distractions Detract From Your Presentation** 

- **Exiting the Announcement:**

- ✓ **Do NOT Walk Out of Your Announcement**

# Other Helpful Hints

- **If You (the Referee) Have a Foul:**
  - ✓ Slow Down & Use a “Funny Whistle”
  - ✓ Give a Quick Preliminary to the Umpire
  - ✓ Give the Camera Time to Find You
- **Preliminary Signals are NOT Necessary Unless:**
  - ✓ Multiple Fouls Called & Discussion Will Take Place
  - ✓ Single Foul Called, But More Info is Needed from a Coach
- **Make Enforcement Decision, Then Look at Coach**
- **Foul on the Offense (Generally Speaking):**
  - ✓ Gain Yardage, Accept Foul (Unless Going to 4<sup>th</sup> Down)
  - ✓ Lose Yardage, Decline Foul (Down is More Important)
- **Change Indicators AFTER Announcement**