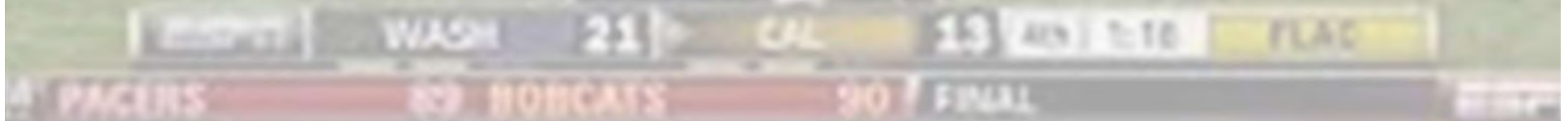


Referee Announcements

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 1st & Chains Will NOT Move, Offset, or on Try
 - ✓ “Results In” – Yardage Gives Team A 1st 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 4th Down)
 - ✓ Lose Yardage, Decline Foul (Down is More Important)
- **Change Indicators AFTER Announcement**