

Working for a Clean Snap

Below is a list of items which will help in getting a clean snap:

- Experience-Go to Camps, seek out those that are smarter than you are, talk with others about Line of Scrimmage (LOS) plays etc. Like all plays we have a split second to make a decision as to whether the action is or is not a live ball foul, dead ball foul or something to pass on.
- Coaches are very busy in the 30 minutes before a game. But when walking the field after the coin flip always find out who is the Offensive Coordinator (might be the Head Coach) and bring up Wide Receivers (WR)'s always checking with you to see if on or off the LOS and the Tackles being up enough (breaking the waistline of the Center) so they are not in the backfield.
- Don't nitpick formations-whenver possible put the players where they should be. No coach creates a play in which the formation is illegal (IF). Work with the players and coaches so when a foul does occur no one will be surprised. We want to hear from a Coach "He's told you twice to get up on the line!"
- Formation, Illegal Shift (IS), Illegal Motion (IM), False Start (FS) Fouls are typically easy to pick up on film. We don't want a team to score on a play and then have a foul, easily seen on film, not called. Find the balance between not nitpicking and missing/passing on something that had a material effect on the play.
- Anytime there is an IF we should have flags from both LOS guys. Before the snap both LOS guys should have tapped their flags indicating they have IF. Once the play is over as always make sure the ball/forward progress spot is covered, then come to middle of field and insure the other LOS guy has an IF.
- Find your Tight End (TE) as soon as possible. Teams do run plays in which the TE is covered by WR's-either it's a running play or a passing play in which the TE stays in and blocks. But in most offensive schemes if the TE is on my side on the LOS the WR(s) on my side will be off the LOS.
- Pick up the other LOS official as soon as possible. Is he judging no eligible receiver on his/her side of the formation to be off the LOS? One player? Two players? If judging one player to be considered off the LOS, his/her arm should be pointed into backfield. If two players, his/her arm pointed into backfield and waving other arm showing two until you confirm back (touch brim of cap) that you know he has two.
- Live Ball vs. Dead Ball Fouls-whenver the Rule Book will allow us to classify a foul as a Dead Ball Foul-do so. If you say in your mind the player "blew the snap count" then kill the play and go with FS rather than shift or motion.