



"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute messages designed to help educate people on the rules of different sports, to help them better understand the art of officiating, and to recruit officials. "Be The Referee" features MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl's insights on officiating.

You Make The CALL – Personal Fouls

Late in a key game that's tied, it's third down and goal from the 12-yard line after a sack has pushed the offense back. On the third down play, the quarterback has scrambled and is pulled down again for an apparent sack, but he is pulled to the ground by his facemask.

The officials throw the flag and correctly rule it's a personal foul facemask. What's the next down?

Under high school rules, personal fouls are NOT an automatic first down. On this play, the officials would walk off the yardage penalty of half-the-distance and we would replay third down.

The only fouls that give the offense an automatic first down are the roughing fouls...roughing the kicker, passer, holder and long snapper.

(11/2/15)