FROM MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
MEDIA ADVISORY
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Be The Referee – Pass Interference

A new feature of the MHSAA Website is called Be The Referee, a weekly message 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. Uyl oversees the Association's officiating efforts, and is an accomplished collegiate official in two sports who umpired the NCAA College World Series in 2014.

Media outlets are welcome to use this content, either in print or audio format. The weekly audio message is 60-seconds in length and formatted for broadcast. Be The Referee will run weekly through the end of the 2014-15 school year. The text of this week's edition appears below. To listen to (left click) or download (right click) the audio message for this week – Click Here.

Pass Interference

Today we're going to talk about one of the most difficult calls for any football official – pass interference. It's important to know that whenever a forward pass is thrown beyond the line of scrimmage that both players – the offensive receiver as well as the defender – each have an equal right to make a play on the football.

Now, not all contact will automatically result in a pass interference foul. The official must judge if that early contact before the ball arrives has placed one of the two players at a distinct disadvantage. When that contact does create the disadvantage, you have a foul for pass interference. When the contact is minimal and is simply incidental, no foul has occurred.

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