



"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.

Seven-Person Mechanics

Today we are going to talk about a significant change for the MHSAA Semifinal and Final Football Playoff games this year, and that's the size of the officiating crew.

Traditionally, five officials have been used for most high school games, comprised of a Referee, Umpire, Head Linesman, Line Judge and Back Judge. The change this year is moving from five officials to seven officials for all Semifinal and Final games, the two new positions being a Field Judge and a Side Judge.

These officials, stationed on each sideline 20 yards downfield from the line of scrimmage, will give us much better coverage when it comes to officiating spread offenses and the passing game which has been a huge area of growth in high school football over the last decade.

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