



"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.

## Trick Plays

In some of the biggest football games of the year, often times a trick play can be the difference between winning and losing.

Many types of these trick plays are perfectly legal – the halfback pass, the hook and ladder, or the double pass with the first pass being backwards behind the line of scrimmage and the second pass going forward.

There are several types of trick plays, however, that are prohibited by rule. One is the old fumblerooski play, where a team intentionally fumbles near the center and a lineman picks up the ball and advances. A second type that is illegal is whenever you're using substitutions or pretended substitutions to free up a receiver or player standing out along the sidelines.

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