

"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 insights from MHSAA experts on officiating.

Trickery & Communication

One of the long-time strategies in the game of football is deception. It has lots of other names, and most often goes these days by the name of trickery.

Catching an opponent off-guard can break a game wide open. But catching the officiating crew off-guard is something you don't want to have happen or else your big play may be blown dead inadvertently.

That's why during the pre-game meeting the officiating crew has with each head coach, one of the questions that will be asked is – "Coach, do you have any trick plays we should be watching for?"

And coaches, who are usually tight lipped about a lot of their strategies, will be very open and describe in detail anything fancy that's in the playbook for that game.

This type of communication gets coaches and officials on the same page and ensures that when trickery comes visiting, only the opponents are surprised.

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