

Be The Referee

"Be The Referee" is a series of one-minute podcasts 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. These messages can be heard on This Week In High School Sports, which airs on over 100 radio stations and audio web outlets across Michigan.

Sept. 14, 2021 -- Catch... or no catch. It's a decision that must be made in a split-second and can be one of the most difficult decisions a football official has to make – especially one along the sidelines.

In high school – for a catch to be considered complete the receiver must:

Have possession and control of the ball AND

One foot or other body part must first come down in-bounds.

This means that if you are forced out-of-bounds while in the air and with possession of the ball, it is NOT a catch. A defender can legally knock an airborne receiver out-of-bounds to prevent a completion. The receiver has to get one foot – or other body part - down in bounds for it be ruled a complete catch.

