

Public Address Announcing at CFA Games

It is necessary that we again visit public address announcing at CFA games. Game management etiquette and game management has been discussed numerous times at CFA meetings. It is apparent that we must officially adopt a clear statement that addresses game management, appropriate etiquette, and the roles of home and visiting teams.

FOR NOW...the following will apply to public address announcing...

1. **Treat both teams equally in terms of your inflection and enthusiasm.** Do the same thing when your team and the opposing team score a touchdown in terms of your call of the play. Don't be biased – call it just as you would if you have never heard of the teams.
2. **Be consistent on your play calls.** Give the name of the ball carrier, who made the tackle, the yards gained or lost on the play, what the upcoming down and distance is and where the ball is. No editorializing. For example: "Bill Jones on the carry for the Hawks...tackled by Jon Smith and Andy Redding...gain of 8...third down and 2 at the Hawks' 32 yard line."
3. **Treat penalty calls and the officials with respect.** Simply state the call and penalty, business-like, no commentary.
4. **And before the ball is snapped, shut off your microphone until the play is whistled dead.** A good rule of thumb to follow is the same rule that applies to bands where they cannot play from the time the offensive team breaks huddle until the play is whistled dead. And talking during a play – "It's a pass!" – or "There's a fumble!" is unacceptable.

Other things the public address announcer should do....

Follow a script...

Have a timed schedule...

Have a good spotter...