



# REGION ONE FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

## CREW USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES – GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

The use of Wireless Communication Devices is approved for use in Region One Football Officials Association to benefit communication between members of an officiating crew, however officials must be prepared to deal with the responsibility for using such device.

### DEFINITIONS

- Wireless Communication Device is defined as a two-way radio with an attached earpiece and push to talk microphone.
- Other types of communication devices (e.g. cell phones) are prohibited and may not be carried by an official during competition.

### GENERAL USE

- Communication devices may be used during all games if used in accordance with these guidelines.
- Officials should be mindful that a majority of radio systems are NOT secure from the public.
- Careful attention must be paid to what is said when speaking through the headsets and the safest axiom is "if you don't want it on the public address system, don't say it on the radio".
- The use of communication devices is voluntary and not mandatory.
- The Referee has the sole decision on whether to use communication devices for the game.
- The Referee must facilitate clear communications and expectations with regard to the use of the devices.
- All communication devices must use a "push to talk" setting/mechanism. They may not be left in an "always on" mode.

### PREGAME COMMUNICATION:

- Crews must ensure that the channel or frequency of the communication devices DOES NOT interfere with any communication devices of the coaching staffs and/or game administration.
- Crews have responsibility to avoid channel or frequency conflicts with any other party.
- Crews shall test communication devices to ensure proper operation and connectivity to all devices.

### DURING THE GAME

- Use of communication devices SHALL NOT replace any TSSAA approved mechanics, crew communication signals, or other signals designated by NFHS.
- Communication devices are not a substitute for the desired verbal communication that is necessary at times during the game between head coaches and the Referee.
- Communication devices are intended solely to ensure timely communication between officials and coaches, as well as between the officials.
- All communication on devices must be directly related to the contest using only appropriate and professional language.
- Communication may not be advisory in nature (i.e. "watch #66 or that's twice #32 has done that"), but must solely relate to the application of the playing rules.
- Do not use inappropriate language, derogatory statements or comments in reference to any player, coach, fan, etc.
- When used appropriately and professionally, communication devices increase attention to detail and consistency.
- Use communication devices during dead ball periods only. Refrain from using devices when snap or free kick is imminent.
- Refrain from using communication devices when Referee is communicating or signaling to the press box, with a head coach, or game administration.
- Crew members must keep communication short and to the point. Keep chatter and unnecessary comments off the devices. Total Conversation = Less Is More.

### Examples of Appropriate Times/Situations to Use Communication Devices

- preparation and securing of both teams and/or captains for the coin toss
- ball placement

- clock/time management/timeouts
- goal line reminders
- live ball reminder on field goal attempts
- positioning on Try
- line-to-gain confirmations
- relay player foul reporting to crew
- sideline control and communication issues
- confirmation of rulings
- penalty enforcement options
- kickoffs or scrimmage kicks that go out of bounds
- unusual play situations
- specific information needing to be communicated to either team (or both team) sideline
- 2-minute warning (additional option to start clock on snap for accepted penalties)

#### **List of Radios to Consider**

- Midland - LXT600VP3