

Do's and Don'ts for Microphone Excellence

Do's

- * Practice! (Mirror, Camera, Peers, etc.)
- * Look straight ahead, about 10-15 rows up.
- * Be firm on your physical signals.
- * Decide exactly what you are going to say, STOP, Breath, turn mic on, say it, turn mic off.
- * Let your personality come through. Be original, but Do not get 'Cute'. Short and sweet is usually best.
- * Say the words 'down' and penalty on every announcement. Do not abbreviate.
- * Coordinate your statements with signals.
- * Use the word 'correction' to calmly change anything in your announcement.
- * Give signals from the shoulders, not from the hips on Declined penalties and missed FG/PAT attempts.
- * For TV games announce "TV timeout"
- * Communicate with head coach by going to the bench. Do not yell from the center of the field.
- * Stay with the holder and kicker longer on FG/PAT Attempts. Have B/F hold signal until you go up to mirror.
- * Communicate with TV liaison prior to field goals, PATs, And punts regarding a potential TV timeout at Completion of the down.
- * Use the following to identify the fouling team:
 - : Offense/Defense
 - : Intercepting/Passing Team
 - : Recovering/Fumbling Team
 - : Receiving/Kicking Team
- * Signal holding smoothly, don't 'pump' holding or 'flap' UNS.
- * Say "prior to the snap" on Dead Ball Fouls only if the ball was snapped!!
- * KOB- "kickoff out of bounds, the receiving team has elected to take the ball at the 35-yard line. First down."
- * Personal foul is announced and signaled before: Roughing Passer, kicker, Holder, targeting, Facemask, Clipping, Chop Block, Horse Collar, Block Below Waist, Illegal Blind Side Block.
- * PSK- "During the kick, holding, number 25 of the Receiving Team, 10-yard penalty from the end of the Kick, 1st down".
- * Announce ruling on all unusual plays, fumble, momentum, etc.
- * ILF- "Illegal formation, more than 4 in the backfield".
- * Use "By Rule" and "Declined by Rule" when necessary.
- * "There is no Foul" if a flag is picked up.

Don'ts

- * Give a Preliminary unless necessary.
- * Walk into your signals. Come to a complete stop.
- * Walk too far. Camera will find you!
- * Have your crew tell you the enforcement after a foul. You tell them and get their concurrence.
- * Shout into the microphone. Just talk. Don't try to Shout over a crowd.
- * Don't signal 1st down until your announcement is finished.
- * Appear too stiff and mechanical. Be relaxed, poised and confident.
- * Appear annoyed or display indifference to any situation, team, coach, or fans.
- * Move your arms up and down on UNS, Holding, Face mask fouls. Don't pat your head on ineligible Receivers down field.
- * Have your hands open on a FST signal, (Close Fists)
- * Look towards the TV/Press box when winding the clock. Always face the Line of Scrimmage.
- * Be too quick at end of the quarter. Make sure there are no penalties. Get an OK from crew, then announce.
- * Signal TD, the covering Officials will do this.
- * Go too fast on double or multiple fouls. Get the facts straight before you announce.
- * Walk to your position after signaling ready for play. Get there before you signal.
- * Signal "Time Out" before a TV time out after a score.
- * Announce "Helmet to Helmet" contact.
 - : Instead, "Personal Foul, Targeting with the crown of the helmet". Or "Personal Foul, targeting a Defenseless player"
- * Signal the Ready for play like you're pulling a handle of a slot machine!! Proper signal is hand head and Use a chopping motion.

