

I am an OHSAA official for baseball, volleyball, football and basketball in the Dayton, Ohio region. On the evening of August 31, 2019 I was working with my crew as the Umpire at the Roger Bacon vs. Dunbar varsity football game at Welcome Stadium in Dayton, Ohio. In the 2nd quarter of the game a player from Dunbar was called for a personal foul after pushing a Roger Bacon player after the whistle to stop play. Myself and the back judge both threw flags for the penalty. The player did not think the call was fair and was very incensed and cursing. At this point I (as shown in the video released) motioned the player off the field and told him he needed to go off for a play to calm down. The player was not being ejected from the game, just being sent to the sideline for a play to call down. At this time the player says "F you" and then headbutts me. A couple of his teammates get between us as I am walking away and they start walking towards the sideline. The same player takes off his helmet and then starts towards the referee (white hat). More players and coaches come on the field to get him away from the official and get him to the sideline. After this, we as the crew made the decision to cancel the rest of the game for our safety.

The police were called and a report was filed. The player is 17. The officers said that night he would be picked up and placed in juvenile detention, but would be out probably Tuesday because of the holiday Monday. I met with detectives on Thursday, September 5th and they are waiting to get my medical records from the ER and family doctor before filing charges. As of now I believe they are going to try for assault with a deadly weapon.

We ended up going to the ER the next day, Sunday, September 1st, to be checked over and they ordered CT scans and I was diagnosed with a concussion. The headaches the first couple of days were worse than I have ever had. Two weeks later I still have occasional headaches. I am a very active person, and to not be able to do much at all for a week after was extremely hard for me. Bright lights, too much tv and sound would make my head pound. My wife had to do a lot for me all while working and taking care of our household.

I was not able to officiate at all for over a week and at first just went back to volleyball, going back to football after almost 2 weeks. At the time I was driving for Uber/Lyft since losing my job back in March and did not go back because I wanted to be 100% confident in having passengers in my vehicle first. Thankfully, I am able to start a new job Monday, September 16th and am able to take ibuprofen for when I do get headaches. We have already used savings while I have been out of work and then I was not able to make any money through driving or officiating. Not being able to work and provide for my family was very hard.

Through all of this I have missed out on roughly \$2,500 income through driving and officiating. Now we are also faced with potentially thousands of medical bills from the ER and testing. Along with medications and subsequent doctor visits. I have to go back to the doctor this week for hopefully my last follow up.

Most likely this young man is going to get away with basically a slap on the wrist after causing me much physical/emotional pain and financial hardship. He could have caused so much more damage, even death from this headbutt. I was lucky to get a concussion, but the next person may not be. I firmly believe I, and other officials like me should be given the same protections as teachers. If there are not serious consequences people will think actions like this football player are okay. They can get away with retaliating for a bad call like it is no big deal. I believe overall sports will suffer if this is not passed.

Sincerely,  
Scott Bistrek