



BACK TO THE FIELD

Eastern Ontario Tackle
Football Association

Ottawa, ON

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EOTFOA NEWSLETTER

Presidents Podium

Hello All,

While it may seem that the pace of officiating games has decreased, the remainder of July and early August still hold a lot of football games and EOTFOA related activity. On the field the OVFL is just starting their playoff season and both Ottawa Clubs have teams that could go deep into the playoffs. We also have two members (Marty and newcomer Jamie Patterson) working CFL games this year. The off field activities have included coordinating the upcoming seasons and schedules with the various High School Boards, Junior Football Leagues, and most importantly NCAFA as we attempt to get ready for another busy season that will start in less than a month.

The Ontario Football Conference (Jr Football) and the Quebec Junior Football League and NCAFA will be playing full slates of games as early as 22 Aug. The first CIS games will be played during the Labour Day Weekend and this will be followed quickly by the start of High School Football. In short, it looks like another challenging season of football.

It should also be noted that as an Association, we just completed our second Level One Clinic and all indications are that we have some very promising new officials. Thanks to all those who have been involved and a special thanks to the Training Officer.

For those who don't know, this month Nathan Willard represented EOTFOA as one of three officials from the OFOA to work at the Football Canada Cup in Saskatoon. Of special note is that Nathan was selected to work as Referee in the Bronze Medal Game. Congrats Nathan!

In another who's doing what, John Pinches has taken over the Assignor position and responsibilities. As most of you know Barclay has been doing the assigning for the past eight or so years and he has decided to open up some more free time to his life outside of football. On behalf of everyone in the Association, I want to take the opportunity to thank him for his commitment and dedication to the EOTFOA and the arduous task of assigning football games.

Hopefully your summer has been a good one so far. If you haven't considered it yet, start thinking about your fitness program and getting back into the rule book to be able to hit the field running in a few weeks time.

Kevin

Secretary's Book

I am pleased to announce that our first EOTFOA meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17 @ St. Peter and Paul Church (address to follow in agenda email). The meeting will start at 19:00 (7 pm) and we will serve refreshments after the meeting has concluded.

I will email an agenda shortly but in the interim some topics we are considering for discussion include; proposed meeting format, the evaluation process and progress to date, the upcoming NCAFA season, your availability calendars and the AssignByNet system, training aspects, signing new contracts and many other general subjects of interest.

We realize this is holiday season but we encourage every member to attend and participate in our inaugural meeting as the first full weekend of NCAFA games start on 22/23 Aug!

With respect to your availability calendars, I would like to thank those who have taken the time to complete their updates and for those who have yet to do so, please take a few minutes and complete this easy task.

As mentioned earlier, I have taken over the Assignor position and have been working closely with Barclay to learn the complete ins and outs of assigning. That being said, I do have the feeling that in the past some members haven't been filling out their availability as they feel that "Barclay knows when I'm available". As the new Assignor, that certainly won't be the case anymore. More so than ever before, the only way that you will be assigned games is to complete your availability in the AssignbyNet system accurately and completely.

John P

Treasures from the Treasurer

We need to finalize our billing for the Cornwall Spring League. If you drove to Cornwall or Russell during the month of June for assigned Spring League games, please send an email to John Pinches detailing the date you drove and who was with you. If there was an agreement amongst the assigned crew to drive multiple cars, please let John know as well as the rest of the crew, who drove and how the travel is to be split amongst the cars.

We are billing leagues we have worked so far this year with the intent of having accounts finalized by end of August. We will be in a position to advance payment to individuals who have worked games in Ottawa H.S. Jr., Spring League, OVFL Pee-Wee on-field and OVFL off-field at the end of August. The advance on your end of season cheque will be available if you have earned at least \$200 after your deductions (e.g. - 8% association, \$30 registration). If you have earned over this amount and would like an advance, please contact our Treasurer, Malcolm Bruce.

Malcolm

Training Officer Tidbits

Evaluations

As discussed during our Annual General Meeting, the Executive has been developing an evaluation program for the EOTFOA. We have used the OVFL over the past few months to do some initial evaluations based on a draft policy developed earlier this year. Upon re-evaluating the summer evaluations, the evaluation policy and procedures will be fine-tuned. Evaluations will be twofold: the first type of evaluation is to provide feedback to officials highlighting strengths and weaknesses with aim of improving performance while the second type will be the more formal evaluation leading the level certification. More details on the evaluation process will be forthcoming in future newsletters as well as at our weekly meetings.

Training

Training time at meetings this year will be focused discussion groups on topic of interest. Initial planning will be to make up two groups; one group of more experienced officials and the other group of the newer officials. The intent is to have discussion/debate for that group on a given topic and then a quick out brief to the other members and capturing the essence of the discussions/decisions to share with members who may not be able to attend a given meeting.

In order to make the proposed discussions focus on what members see as their needs, Association members are requested to forward topics to Nathan Willard, EOTFOA Training Officer. Some suggested topics could be positioning, line of scrimmage issues, punt/kick/field goal coverage, passing/pass interference/illegal contact issues and so on. A consolidated list of potential topics will be forwarded to all members prior to the first meeting with the intent of identifying topics and potential topic leaders for each of the planned Association meetings.

Nathan

Three Minute Warning

1. NCAFA Tyke Jamboree 7 Aug at Canterbury and Kanata
2. NCAFA Mosquito Madness 8 Aug in Cumberland.
3. NCAFA Preseason weekend 15/16 Aug
4. First EOTFOA Meeting, 17 Aug
5. NCAFA Season Start 22/23 Aug
6. Quebec Jr League Start 22 Aug
7. Ontario Football Conference Start 22 Aug

Editors Comment

The EOTFOA Newsletter is intended to assist all of us in many ways. There has been some additional detail provided on the administrative practises and policies that we need to follow in order to support the various leagues we service. More importantly, some of our members have taken the time to share some officiating tips they have practised that, if put into practise by others, may make all of us better officials. The CFOA First and Ten Newsletter has reprinted some of the articles to provide some national exposure. Well done to those individuals who have provided inputs for previous Newsletters and have had them republished nationally.

Do you have any suggestions that you could offer to our Association on how we could collectively improve our officiating experience? If so, please contact me and I will work with you to put together an article for future newsletters or try and find someone with the experience or insights that may assist in that area. We are wide open to suggestions and no matter how focused an area of concern (please re-read the suggested procedure on dealing a team taking a knee article in Volume 5 as an example). Any area that we can collectively provide some guidelines will only improve our level of consistency in officiating

The schedule of newsletters throughout the season is currently targeted at every second week. In order for this happen and be relevant for Association members, your collective support on what should be addressed or included in the newsletter is needed now.

John K

From The Cheap Seats

The intent of this section is to give the EOTFOA Membership an opportunity to raise any points of general interest, raise a different perspective or offer up views that may be of benefit to all Association members either to better our collective performance or to start dialogue amongst the membership on a given topic/issue.

If you have some comment (including a new name for this section), please forward your comments/issue/concern to John Kachuik via email for inclusion in future newsletters.