

GTOA MONTHLY MARVEL – February 2009

GTOA,

I hope this e-mail finds you in good spirits and having started 2009 in fine fashion. Football season will be here sooner than you know. Take a few minutes for a review of 2008 and a tune up for 2009.



Review of 2008

Evaluate last season over the next few days. Think of the following, and write down the answers:

- Were there any rules on which you or your crew stumbled?
- Were you always in the best position to make a call?
- What mechanics did you forget at times?
- Did you ever make a judgment call without having all helpful information?
- Did you ever fail to give helpful information to a crew member?
- Were you a better official at the end of the season than you were on opening day?
- What are you doing to prepare for 2009?

Rules Changes

The 2009 Rules Changes are listed on the website. In short, they are:

- No horse collar tackles
- No grasping of the chinstrap
- Restrictions on location of coaches on the sidelines
- Three minute warm-up starts automatically
- The numbering exception rule was changed to deal with A-11
- Stripes on the ball must be perpendicular to the seams
- Markings on the field must be visible
- A safety on the last timed down of a period will not extend the period
- Revisions that allow an offended team a choice to take some penalties on the ensuing kickoff
- Illegal batting by K if it bats a non-grounded scrimmage kick other than toward its own goal line

Getting Better

Finally, the following is from ex-NFL Referee Jim Tunney's book *Impartial Judgment*: "Each week, before the next game, every official-by himself as well as with his crew-studies the game film of their previous week's game looking for ways to improve. Each crew member must be honest to admit a blown call, a missed play, and that he was in the right position to make the call (called mechanics). Only when officials learn from their mistakes will improvement take place."

Does your crew ask for video or DVD of the games you work?

Do you review the film for mechanics, correct calls, correct enforcement, etc?

Have you ever had someone from another crew provide constructive criticism on one of your game films?

Yours for getting better,

Chad Craig