



Feb.15, 2010

Happy “Family Day” everyone!!! I know this usually comes out in Jan, but there was so much going on that needed to be finalized that we had to wait till now. Things are already well underway for the 2010 season and some of our members have/are already working games. More on that later.

First, I would like to introduce everyone to this year’s executive and their respective roles.

President – Peter M.
V.P. – Don E.
Secretary/Membership – Rob H.
Recruiting – Greg A.
Evaluations/ Education – Andrew W. / Henry C.
Social – Dave S. / Byron G.
Treasurer – Ted G.
Assignor – Bob P.

The TIITL has kicked off its 5th season. The indoor league has games Sat nights @ “The Hanger”. The teams consist mainly of NFC & some OVFL players. There are 3 more weeks left in the season and has produced some enjoyable games. (The after party is quite enjoyable as well ☺) There are some variations to the regular game, so even if you are not officiating, come on down and check it out.

Our numbers continue to grow and so far new contacts have already been established and are anxious to get involved. Each member, including new members, has something positive they can bring to the association. If anyone has any ideas and/or would like to help out with ongoing initiatives (i.e., planning social events, education meetings, etc.) please don’t hesitate to contact the respective chair. I know they would love the help. One thing that has been missing the past few years is the off season rules study sessions. They have been invaluable in the past and with all the new members, should be very beneficial. If anyone would like to take part and/or help to organize, please contact Andrew andrewwakefield@gmail.com

I add this every year, but it continues to be so important in the strength of our association. Know anyone who’s interested in officiating? We will be initiating another aggressive campaign this year, but the best resource is still you. Referrals continue to provide the best results in getting new people. Just think, if every member recruited one person, that

would bring in over 70 new members to our organization. With all the games available out there, they are needed desperately.

To help us all in getting back into the officiating mode we will be holding our Spring Educational meeting on Mar. 27th & 28th. We have the good fortune of combining our clinic with the U of T Varsity Blues. Day one will consist of many topics to help us improve our game. Day II will provide the opportunity to work a scrimmage with U of T. Very similar to the Honigs Clinic. We will have crews subbing in & out of the game to get some work in, with our senior guys watching each position and providing feedback for everyone. This is a great opportunity for everyone, not only to work an OUA level scrimmage, but get immediate feedback on strengths and areas to improve. Book your calendars now as this is definitely worth while to ALL!!!!

Another added aspect of this weekend session is the creation of a Referee/Umpire focused class for those officials that the TFOA is considering to use at these positions this year. Those members who qualify will receive an invitation to attend.

The executive has already started preparing to bring you an informative, interactive and worthwhile meeting. Keep in mind, there is still 6 weeks before this meeting. You can/should dive into the rule book now. It will do nothing but benefit you. I guarantee it. (See supplementary flyer)

Speaking of the Honig's Clinic, this year it will be on April 10th & 11th @ McMaster University in Hamilton. Please contact Honig's for more info.

The TFOA is planning to hold Level 1 & 2 clinics again this year. A Level 3 clinic is being organized by the OFOA. The Level I will be held in conjunction with our Spring Clinic. The Level II will be held @ Flower City in Brampton on April 17th from 8:30 to approx. 4:30. Eligible members have been contacted. Please make sure you contact Andrew W. if you have any questions. One of the biggest misconceptions regarding advancing levels is the on field evaluations. Briefly, once you have taken your level clinic you need two formal evaluations (unless the first is stellar) conducted by a certified evaluator, before being fully certified. Once they have been successfully completed, you must officiate at that certified level for min. one year. In other words, it takes min two years from the time you take the class until you can advance to the next level. Exceptions – Level I can take Level II the next year, no evaluations required. To move from Level III to IV you must be recommended by the executive. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly.

This year we will try and make the process of getting an evaluation easier. Remember, it is up to **YOU** if you want an evaluation. If you require an on field evaluation please contact **ANY** member of the executive. They will work with the assignor to get someone out to your game. All requests must go through the executive, who will coordinate the process to ensure all evaluations are completed in full and submitted to the OFOA.

*"The reason most people never reach their goals is that they don't define them, or ever seriously consider them as believable or achievable. Winners can tell you where they are going, what they plan to do along the way, and who will be sharing the adventure with them." - **Denis Watley***

Last season we had a total of four requests for evaluation. The TFOA will be working toward getting senior members to evaluate on-field performances with the intent on helping our members grow in abilities. This is especially important for those members moving into unfamiliar positions. These evaluations are for TFOA to support our members. They will not be considered official, in terms of certification advancement. Evaluations for certification advancement need to be completed by a course conductor, who is certified at the appropriate level. TFOA has a total of 7 certified members at various levels. If you have aspirations to work OVFL games, a minimum Level II is required; NFC or OUA, minimum Level III is required. These leagues are always looking for more officials. TFOA will do everything possible to get you evaluated. Talk to any member of the executive on your goals and ambitions for advancement in officiating.

Another initiative brought to us at the AGM is the creation of a coach's clinic. We will be inviting coaches for the leagues we officiate to offer an open dialogue on topics that will help, not only the coaches understanding of the rules, but more so the relationship we continue to build with the leagues. This will take place @ Flower City in Brampton on April, 17th.

The TFOA executive is very pleased to announce that the 2010 membership dues will remain the same as last year. This is a rule book year however, we will be able to keep 2010 dues at \$125.00. Instituted in 2008 was a special rate for new members working timers and sticks only. This fee is \$50.00. If at anytime these members wish to work on the field, the remaining \$75.00 is required.

These have been consistent for the past few years. The expectation for next year is that this will need to be increased. Having said that, we are also informing the leagues that the expectation is that games fees be increased for the 2011 season. They too will remain the same for the 2010 season.

Attached is the 2010 registration form. You must be fully registered before you can be assigned games. You can send the completed form and fee to Ted G. at the address on the form. Get it done and out of the way before the season starts and then let the games begin. For those of you working the indoor league, your membership is due now. As per TFOA constitution: Article 4, Section 2 – "All membership fess are due and payable before the first game they officiate or by the first September Meeting of the Association each year, whichever occurs first." Please get you completed forms and cheques to Ted a.s.a.p.

Another requirement is that successful completion of a yearly rules/mechanics exam. We are hoping to have time during our spring clinic to accomplish this however, it is dependant on the release of the new rule books and the CFOA exam. In the past, we as an association have not been diligent in ensuring this is completed. The executive is working on ideas to drastically improve the overall results. Please remember, this exam is not meant to be a chore or a burden. It is to get everyone into the book and have open discussions on the questions. Many of the questions on the exam are actual situations which occurred in games in previous years.

Any officials who have excess gear from over the years are asked to donate it to the TFOA in order for us to give it to our new members to help cut down the financial burden when first starting up. We will be collecting it at weekly meetings so please look around the house for any jerseys, knickers, shoes, stirrups, hats, flags etc. you may be able to pass over to us to help with our recruiting efforts.

TFOA apparel is still available for purchase.

Hats \$20.00/ea

Golf Shirts \$40.00/ea

Jacket - \$65.00 includes embroidery of TFOA logo and your #

Pants - \$40.00 includes embroidery of your #

Please contact Justin B. jbaker@mapcanadald.com for more details.

2010 also brings the Bi-annual CFOA Officiating Clinic. This year it will be held in Winnipeg on May 21st – 24th. Please visit www.2010cfoa-acof.ca for more details.

The website will continue to be utilized as a source of TFOA info and links. Look for more exciting updates and pages to be added for your use and convenience. Use the Discussion Board. It is great tool get answers to rulings, interpretations, pretty much anything about officiating.

The dates for our fall clinics have been set, so get you calendars and mark off the following dates:

- Sept 13,20
- Oct 4,18,25

AGM

- TBA

Other important dates:

- Golf Tournament: Tues July 13th @ Glenway Golf Club
- Year End Dinner/Dance: Fri Dec. 3rd @ Le Park

Well I guess that is enough for now. As you can see 2010 is already shaping up to be a busy and exciting year. As always if you have any questions, comments, queries, etc. feel free to contact any of the executive members.

I wish everyone a great upcoming season and look forward to working with many of you on the field.

Rob Hand
Membership Chair/
Executive Secretary