

Pacific Northwest Football Officials Association

THE PNFOA FLAG

2009—#4 (August/September)

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President's Corner by Mike Livingston

The calendar has changed to August and the hot summer continues. The Seahawks have started Training Camp with a new coaching staff hoping to make amends for last season. Just like the Seahawks are starting to train for the NFL season with two-a-day practices, now is the time for us to increase preparation for our upcoming season. If you haven't already done so, it's time to dust off the treadmill or return to the gym and get into shape. We will each be another year older but the players will not, so let's assure we are ready for the start of the season.



Hopefully, everyone has been attending the rules study meetings as part of their pre-season preparation. Here is a link to the new rule changes for this year:

http://www.nfhs.org/web/2009/04/2009_nfhs_football_rules_changes.aspx

The NFHS test and state clinic should be available on the WOA website (www.woa-officials.com) on August 17th.

Now is also a great time to log into Game Assign (www.gameassign.com) and enter

your availability for August and September (might as well do October while you're at it). The first meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, August 25th. The PNFOA closed book test will be given that day starting at 4p.m. followed by the business meeting. The meeting location has moved to Bellevue Community College (D-106). Additional information can be found in this issue and on the website.

Many of you probably have noticed, but in case you haven't, PNFOA has a new website. Go to www.pnfoa.com to peruse the new site. If you have any feedback on it, please forward it to a member of the board of directors.

It is also not too late to recruit new officials. If you have a friend or relative who has been thinking about officiating, get them on board. Apprentice training is in full swing, but we can always use more officials. Remember, if you recruit someone who stays the entire year, your WOA dues will be reimbursed at year's end.

I hope everyone has stayed cool and enjoyed the summer thus far. I look forward to seeing everyone on the 25th.

PNFOA President Mike Livingston

Membership Meetings moving to Bellevue Community College

This year, general membership meetings will be held at Bellevue Community College in the Library Events Center—Room D—106 (3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue 98007-6406). Parking can be found next to the building.

To be in compliance with the attendance policy members need to attend 6 of the 7 meetings.

Meetings start at 7 p.m. sharp!

August 25 (Test)

September 1

September 8

September 15

September 29

October 13

October 27

November 17 (Party)

PNFOA Welcomes Transferring Officials for 2009 by Bill Swedberg

An important element of the PNFOA membership is the addition of experienced officials who began their careers elsewhere and, by happy circumstance, make their way to our association. Their experiences and perspective add greatly to the ability of our team. Look for these new members and welcome them into the fold.

Kevin Backlund (Snohomish)

Previous football officiating experience: One year with the SCFOA. Last year was first year of football officiating, working L/LJ. Previous officiating experience includes 14 years men's basketball consisting of High School, WACO (Washington Association of Collegiate Official, D-2 to CC) Pac-10 Conference, the NBA summer league and CBA (Continental Basketball Association). I took a break from officiating between basketball and football after

getting involved with law enforcement and plan to focus on football only.

Other officiating experience:

High school and college basketball for many years

Positions Worked: L, LJ

Chris Cook (Snohomish)

Previous football officiating experience:

With SCFOA since 2002.

Other officiating experience:

High school and college basketball since 1996

Positions Worked: L, LJ, BJ



Paul Rohrbach
(Georgia)

Previous football officiating experience: Paul has officiated high school football in the state of Georgia for the past 8 years with the Georgia

Football Officials Association (GFOA). He has also officiated at the collegiate level for four years with the SIAC.

Positions Worked: L, LJ, BJ, R



Steve Wirth (Snohomish)

Previous football officiating experience:

14 years of experience with 12 years officiating in the SCFOA and 2 years officiating in PNFOA. Worked 2008 state playoff 2B Semi-Final in Pullman. Other officiating experience: 17 years officiating high school basketball with 4 years of college.

Positions Worked: L, LJ, BJ, R



PNFOA Constitution and By-Laws Proposed Changes by Tim Stern

We have received three proposed changes to the PNFOA Constitution and one proposed change to the PNFOA By-Laws. The proposals were sent out in July via e-mail and are now available for review on the PNFOA website:
<http://tinyurl.com/n5y7c5>

We will have the opportunity to review and vote on these changes at the business meeting during our first General Meeting of the year (Tuesday, August



25). As stated in the PNFOA Constitution, approval of the Constitution amendments requires a 2/3-majority vote by the eligible members present; approval of a by-laws amendment requires a simple majority of the eligible members present.

Any questions should be directed to me: timstern@gmail.com

USA Football Clinic—Summer 2009

Several PNFOA members attended a one-day clinic put on by USA Football in June. **Max Meyers** was among the attendees and offered this synopsis for the FLAG:

"The best part was the high use of video clips to illustrate points and rules being discussed. The illustrations really helped me get a better understanding of the rules. The instructors were local guys who work at the collegiate level. They



provided great insight into the level of rules knowledge and mechanics needed at the next levels. Another great point was that the trend in officiating today is moving toward fielding more-athletic officials. If you want to work at the next level, you are going to have to 'look the part.' This makes you better on the field as coaches tend to believe you're less-credible if you're not looking the part. Overall, it was an excellent seminar and I will be purchasing the video that was offered.

PNFOA & WOA Work to Raise Prostate Cancer Awareness by Jason Capps



In 2008 the WOA—in conjunction with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the Highline High School football program and the Seattle Seahawks—sponsored a campaign to raise awareness for prostate cancer. Hundreds of high school football officials in Washington state used blue penalty flags on Friday, September 12th in honor of Terry Ennis (legendary high school coach) who unfortunately died of prostate cancer in August of 2007. Ennis was a coach in Washington for 36 years with stops at Stanwood, Bellarmine Prep, Renton, Cascade, and Archbishop Murphy.

It is highly unlikely that any of us haven't been touched personally by prostate cancer. According to the National Cancer Institute in 2009 there will be 192,280 new cases of prostate cancer and approximately 27,360 deaths. One man in six will



be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime, but only one man in 35 will die of it. Early detection is critical to saving lives—which means men need to get routine physicals and checked often (especially from age 40+).

Last season the Highline HS football team made the flags under the direction of their coach Juan Cotto. This summer I've worked with Coach Cotto and the WOA to try and get funding for professionally made blue flags that could be used for many years to come. The hope is to some day have all high schools and colleges in America have a 'blue penalty flag' Friday/Saturday night to help raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer. In 2009 the WOA will sponsor year two of this effort. Likewise, this year the Pac-10 conference will be wearing blue arm bands for their games on November 7th to aid in the awareness effort. The USC-Arizona State game will be nation-

ally televised and hopefully help raise the profile of this important gesture toward educating about prostate cancer and prevention strategies.

I have suggested to Coach Cotto that the PNFOA might be willing to assist in making flags (if funding can't be confirmed for 2009). Please be on the lookout for an email for a date/time to work with the Highline football team to construct blue flags that will be more 'user friendly' for officials throughout WA state.

For more information on prostate cancer please check out the National Cancer Institute (<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/prostate>) or the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research website (<http://fhcrc.org>).



Membership News and Notes by Jason Capps

- **Mentorship Program Renewed for 2009.** As we did last year, we will be seeking volunteers (V2s and V1s) to be mentors for A1's and A2's. The goals of the program are listed on the website under 'downloads.' Please e-mail Jason Capps if you are interested in being a mentor. Remember, it is most effective if you work sub-varsity games if you want to be a mentor so you can work with your mentees on the field.
- **Varsity Training Crew Organized** by Jason Gardiner, Phil Christensen and Rob Spero.
- **Referee and Back Judge Training** will be held Mondays and Wednesdays. For sub-varsity games during the week, the PNFOA will be paying to add a 5th official so V2s/V3s/A2s can work Referee and Back Judge to get practice. At least one V1 will be assigned to these games to help train. If you are interested in being a part of this program, please contact Mike Livingston.
- **Excuses for General Membership Meetings** should be provided to Jason Capps (cappsj@seattleu.edu) via email or a phone call (206-406-0174).
- **Sportsmanship Award for 2009:** Please be on the lookout for positive examples of sportsmanship during the year. Make notes, fill out the form on the website, and give to Jason Capps. Also, please fill out donation form and give to any board member.
- **PSA, WOA Clinic, NFHS Test, PNFOA Test.** The deadline for completing these four important tasks is Tuesday, September 15th. Please contact me if you have any problems. If you do not have these four things done by the due date, you will not be assigned any games beyond the 15th.



Big Fella's Corner by John Lindsey

Reminders for 2009 Season

1. 2009 PSA Agreement
2. 2009 NFHS Rules Test (100 question T/F Test)
3. 2009 WOA Online Clinic
4. 2009 PNFOA Play Situation Test (8/25/09)
5. Availability for Sept.—November
6. Prepare Your Spouse/Partner for Friday Nights Alone in the Fall! ©



Honig's will be at the General Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1st with gear. You can order online in advance and pick it up, or purchase on the 1st at BCC (they always bring a small truck load of gear). Their phone is 1-800-468-3284, fax is 877-869-4784, email is sales@honigs.com

www.honigs.com

John Lindsey
jwlassigner@comcast.net
 (206) 367-8255

PACIFIC NORTHWEST FOOTBALL
OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

PHONE: 1-866-GO-PNFOA
WEBSITE: WWW.PNFOA.ORG



KUDOS TO THE FOLLOWING PNFOA MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED THE WOA'S SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMP IN ELLENSBURG:



DAVID MCCANN, TERRY GRANILLO, TIM NELSON, MARK RECHKOFF, RON ROBILLARD AND JACK SLINGWINE

*PNFOA
PO Box 1011
Renton, WA 98057-1011*

Aspire to Work in the NFL? NFL Referee Ed Hochuli's 11 Steps to Moving Up (Part II) by Max Meyers

NFL Referee Ed Hochuli shared his first 5 steps to aspiring NFL officials in the June/July 2009 FLAG. Mr. Hochuli's steps 6-11 focus on getting to know the right people. **Step 6:** "Find out who the college supervisors are in your area; send them your high school schedule and tell them about yourself and your desires. Send them a picture of yourself. Ask if you can attend a pre-game conference, hold the chains, or stand on the sidelines to learn. Should you get the chance, keep your mouth shut and just listen and learn."



Step 7: In the spring and fall, ask the supervisors if there are any scrimmages you can work. "You need to be seen by the supervisor, so your goal has to be to get yourself to a scrimmage he will be attend-

ing. Offer to fly anywhere, anytime, to work a scrimmage he'll be attending" says Ed.

Step 8: Try and get references from other officials who work in the supervisor's conference. According to Ed, "that means you work scrimmages the supervisor isn't at and you ask the lead guys at that scrimmage if they would write a letter to the boss. Give them all the contact information about yourself, but don't bug them afterwards. If they don't write, they don't write."

Step 9: Don't become a pain in the butt, that will kill you. Ed says, "Always ask for feedback from other officials with whom you work or who see you work. Learn from them."

Step 10: The key is to be seen. "No one is going to hire you if he doesn't see you work (or someone who he really trusts sees you

work); and then, of course, you have to be good when they see you work, so be sure you learn everything you can along the way."

Step 11: Be persistent. "Those who try and fail only to give up, will never get ahead. Only through hard work and focus can you hope to reach the next level." Ed also emphasized that just because you aren't working college games doesn't mean you're a weaker official. Many great officials never even try to work college because they don't have time or don't want to be away from their kids that much.



Many thanks to Mr. Hochuli for providing us this key information.