

## TOA Football Newsletter

### Early Season

**There is Still Time** to get pre-season studying accomplished! There are some interesting new rules this season. Is everyone comfortable with all the nuances of the "Horse Collar" rule? The numbering rules on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> downs? 4<sup>th</sup> down? I know the two schools in Lawrence have field marking issues – Rural, according to Rick Bowden, has a new \$30,000 field adornment at mid-field – how will they make that legal? If you happen upon these issues, use good, common sense!

How about the new rule keeping everyone – coaches, substitutes, photographers, statisticians, EVERYONE out of the two-yard belt during live ball situations? Does your crew know the enforcement of this rule??

In your pre-game, talk about some of the issues that you may not have seen in your pre-season scrimmages: Pre-Game Mechanics: When you go onto the field. What needs to be done – and who should be the officials accomplishing these chores: Who are the Head coaches? Who are the captains? Which captains will be speaking? Who is the "get back" coach? Who should officials confer with on penalties? Is the field marked correctly? Did your crew talk with the Chain Crew? Do the people dealing with the balls understand their duties – emphasize that they are part of the officiating crew and that they need to pay attention to the game – for their safety and for the safety of the officials?

Is the new two-yard zone marked properly – if not, what lines will be used? Do the coaches understand the new two-yard zone ramifications – coaches – players – statisticians – medical personnel? Enforce these new areas correctly – if you let a coaching staff get away with abusing this rule, you are simply making it much tougher for the crews that follow! And, the coach who follows the new rules probably will be calling the KSHSAA wondering why your crew did not enforce the new rule.

Our goal should always is to be the Best Team on the field!

**Just My Opinion:** I was not very comfortable not physically being at a Rules Meeting. I know it is a pain for many officials to get to these meetings – I took mine on-line this season. It certainly is not as much fun as attending in person.

Last night I attended the Area meeting at Turner High School in Kansas City and was impressed, as usual by the program put forth by Kurt Long. I think we are very blessed to have excellent leaders like Kurt and Dwight Nichols. There is a lot on our plates – kick formations in response to the A 11 controversy – the two-yard personnel rule – the Horse Collar rule. None of these new rules can be effectively enforced unless we are all on the same page! All on our crews need to know the rules and be willing to to enforce them – we all need to use our very best judgment – we all need to be on the "same page!" It was good to see 15 – 20 White Hats getting together after the Turner meeting to discuss how we can present a united front when it comes to the "2 Yard Rule!".

At times during this pre-season, officials have called me after Rules Meetings and told me that the officials were being "blamed" for the poor behavior of the coaches. The new "2-yard" rule was instituted because of poor officiating some said – poor behavior deserves to be punished, whether the behavior was that of a coach or an official.