

## TOA Football "Newsletter"

### Week 3

**Take Time to Study:** This may seem like a "no-brainer," but how often do we take the time to read sections of the Rules Book - the Mechanics Book," or any of the other materials provided us. I know from personal experience that not refreshing our minds can lead to embarrassing experience: Week 1: In a 75 - 0 game (discussing sportsmanship issues re. a 75 - 0 score brings forth an entirely different discussion), our "U" (cleverly disguised as yours truly) managed to miss not one, but two penalty administrations. Offensive pass interference is a 15-yard penalty (I got that right) plus a loss of down (oops, I missed that - I managed to apply the NCAA rule that includes no loss of down). Secondly, on a kick-off out of bounds I put the ball at the 40 instead of the 35.

On our crew, we make sure that the calling official, the U and the R are all involved in penalty administration. I can also assure you that by the time we administered these penalties we were tired - both physically and emotionally. Not only was the winning team not substituting, but their players were showing much more of an "edgy" attitude than necessary. I must admit that my attitude was deteriorating, too - not a professional thing to have happen.

I really looked forward to Week 2 - I spent a lot of time brushing up on my rules and mechanics (and, attitude). It was not meant to be as the tornado issues in Johnson and Douglas counties forced a postponement of our game until Saturday - a Big XII assignment kept me from the make-up assignment - an MIAA assignment kept another member of the crew out of action and a third member had work obligations.

***From Last Year: Mechanics - the Kick Off:** As an Umpire, I like being placed at the 20 yard line because that position puts us close to where the initial blocking formation takes place. One problem: Last Friday I got to looking at a suspicious block and before I knew what had happened, the ball carrier burst through the initial line of blockers and he was on his way.*

*Of course as some of you may have suspected, I have not gotten faster as I have approached 60 years of age. Our L, as I looked up the field, looked as though he was fully aware of the situation (and my situation). He continued to move towards the goal line but kept his attention on the play - I caught his eye and he knew that I was going to cover the spot (about the 32 on the other side of midfield). He also knew that it was going to take me a little time to get there and he was sporting a huge grin as he watched me trundle down the field - but, we got the spot right and if the runner had broken away, he would have been on the goal line waiting for him!*

**Responsibility:** Recounting my Week 1 follies simply reminds me that we all have a responsibility to the game of football - to the kids that need to learn from co-curricular activities (so, do we) - and to the educational system. If we take care of these responsibilities, we will have a great deal more satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment. Let's work hard for the kids and the game!