

## TOA Football Newsletter

### Week 7

**Time to Review KSHSAA Rules for weeks 7, 8, and 9:** This is a very crucial time of the season – teams that have underperformed thus far have an opportunity to still make the post-season. Teams that have done well so far – well, their past performance means nothing compared to how they play the next three weeks. Tensions is often higher and kids and coaches often are at the edge of wrong and right – sportsmanlike conduct and going over the edge – all in an effort to get the widest point differential possible.

I know that noone at the KSHSAA likes to hear this (they should be used to my editorial comments by now): There is no other rule that creates more ill will and unsportsmanlike conduct than the 13-point rule. However, it is what it is and we are mandated to use the rules we are given. If everyone on your crew is not familiar with all the “ins-and-outs” of the rule, appoint someone on the crew to be the resident “expert!”

**If there is any doubt whatsoever about the need to run an extra point!!**

**Hits on Defenseless Players:** Be aware that there is no defense for a player hitting an opponent who is not able to defend himself – especially when that hit is above the shoulders. I know – I know! I can hear it now - “are we playing football or tiddlywinks-winks? Just consider that the kid getting hit with this kind of punishing blow is your child.

**Behavior of Coaches:** I observed a game last week where a coaching staff was behaving in a very professional manner – for three quarters. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, a call went against their team 0 by the way, it was the correct call. Two of their coaches went ballistic – they did not swear but they did something worse, in my opinion. They gathered the players on the sideline and screamed at them to “kill” their opponents – they urged them to “hurt” their opponents. For my era (four decades ago), this was pretty common practice. Not so today! The coaches should have been instructed to cease and desist! There is no room for that kind of behavior!! Fortunately, there was an administrator on the scene and no further action had to be taken by the officials.

**We must Not Be Living Right:** It would be hard for me to remember the season when we last had an overtime – now are crew must be the resident experts on overtime – we have had two in the first six weeks of this season. As my dear mother used to tell me: “There is no rest for the wicked!”