

## TOA Football Newsletter

### Week 8

**Evaluations:** How often during your high school officiating career has one of your varsity assignments been evaluated by a third-party source. I can think of maybe once during my 35+ years. And, who would you want to do the evaluating? What would the standards be?

Changing sports, most of you know that I have evaluated NCAA Women's basketball games at the University of Kansas for more than 20 years. During that time there have been different evaluation instruments, mostly provided by the individual conferences. This season has something new – an evaluation form created by the NCAA – seven pages of “Performance Standards” to be used by those of us who evaluate the officials.

Of course the issue for Federation play would be, “who would do the evaluating?” So, I asked Mary Struckhoff of the Federation – she commented that the National Federation would **NOT** be creating such an instrument for basketball since the individual States want that responsibility – hmmm. And, one would assume that football officials need not waste any time looking for such an instrument. At the Basketball Rules Meeting, Fran tried to explain how playoff officials were chosen – what she said was telling: Since the KSHSAA is an association of schools, the schools would create the criteria. And, the votes of these schools would determine who officiated the playoffs. “The schools get who they want,” was the way it was stated.

Enough of talking about what we cannot control – our only goal must be to do the very best we can. So, I am transferring some of the basketball ideas to football. Let me know what you think:

Section A: **Appearance and Manner:** 1: Appearance – Fitness – Conditioning: One of the statements is: The official projects strength and athletic appearance; 2: Hustle – Effort & Mobility: The official possesses the physical ability to move into proper position; 3: Professionalism – Temperament – Demeanor: The official appears approachable by coaches and players; 4: Poise, Reaction, Voice, Whistle: The official remains poised while under pressure.

Here are the other areas in less detail – you get the idea, I'm sure:

Section B: **Mechanics/Signals:** Use Approved Mechanics and Signals – Positioning and Field Coverage; On-Ball and Off-Ball Coverage.

Section C: **Judgment/Accuracy/Application:** Accurate and Consistent calls and no-calls; Accurate and Consistent Application of POE's (Points of Emphasis).

Section D: **Rules Enforcement:** Performs Duties and responsibilities; Rules Knowledge and Enforcement; Proper Penalty Administration.

Section E: **Game/Situation Management:** Effective Communication with Coaches and Players; Communication with Partners (critical!); Game awareness; Ability to control the game; effectively Manage Situations.

I have condensed into a few paragraphs what it takes the NCAA seven pages to describe. The above

issues are exactly what we should discuss **every** week. If your crew doesn't, **why not??**