

# FIRST AND TEN

April 2016 Volume 10 Issue 4

This is not an April Fool's Joke



Spring leagues rady to go??????



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Working for the development of officiating and football in Canada in cooperation with



# First and Ten Mandate

The intention of First and Ten is to keep the CFOA membership informed of the activities of the CFOA and its member associations. It is hoped that the First and Ten will be published on a quarterly basis.

The CFOA is hoping to encourage communication between its member associations through this communication by presenting information in the following areas:

Recruitment and Retention

Training and Development

-Positioning and Mechanics

Rulebook

-Changes/requests for rule

changes

-Rule Study –You Make the Call

-Rule interpretations

Canadian Leagues

-Up dates and information on the: CFL, CIS, CJFL

L'objectif du "First and Ten" est garder les membres du ACAF (Association Canadienne des Arbitres de Football) et les associations d'arbitres, des différentes activités au sein de l'ACAF. Notre objectif est de publier le "First and Ten" à tous les trois mois.

L'ACAF, a pour objectif d'encourager les communications entre les membres des différentes associations d'arbitres en leurs présentant des mises à jour sur les sujets suivants.

Recrutement et Rétention d'arbitres de football

Développement et Formation

- Positionnement et Mécaniques

Règles

- Études des règles – "You Make the Call"

- Interprétation des règles

- Changements et demandes de changements

Ligues Canadiennes

-Mises à jour des informations de la LCF – CIS - LCFJ

Reconnaissance d'accomplissements par des arbitres de football

La version française du "First and Ten" va suivre chaque version anglaise. Ron Paluzzi, Vice président responsable de la traduction, sera responsable de s'assurer que chaque communiqué soit disponible en français dans les plus brefs délais. D'ici là, je demande à tous



# Editor's comments



Editor **Ron Hallock**

Co- editor **Rob Christian**

**April**

The month starts off with April fool's day featuring practical jokes.

Mother nature after providing a warm winter has decided we now need winter and it has been snowing in my province (MB) practically very second day.

There is no joking about the need for developing our officiating skills and recruiting more officials.

This issue continues to feature up and coming women officials in our study of developing female officials for elite level officiating. Our CFOA report on Women officiating in Canada will be released at the **CFOA conference in Saskatoon the May long weekend (20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>)**. This month reviews the career of Montreal official **Tracy Paluzzi**.

We express our deepest sympathies to the **Ken Picot** family upon the passing of Ken Picot long time CFL official and more a educator of amateur officials. Ken was a very dedicated individual to the development of grass roots officials. Ken served as Saskatchewan's CFOA master facilitator as well as game supervisor of CFL, CIS and PFC games in Regina. Ken's friendly nature and football officiating expertise will be missed but he will be remembered

**Coeditor Rob Christian's Corner** article looks at **the recruiting and maintaining youth officials**.

The First and Ten **Training and Development department** provides 3 excellent video links (will be placed in YouTube MrRef204) on requirements for improving officiating skills.

The video **Judgment in Officiating** features **Bill LeMonnier** discussing officiating judgment and what goes into developing sound judgment. Introduction by Tim Kiefer.

The last two videos **Bill LeMonnier** walks you through **Crew Dynamics, and Crew Leadership**.

The April **You Make the Call** features video study on interpreting Blocks in the Back using the Chase Method

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# Female Officials in Canada



## Tracy Paluzzi

My first game was at the age of 14. At the time I found it challenging since I was so young. Throughout, my high school years, I worked as a stick crew member for CIS. In 2010, I was going through a challenging time in my life. John Parker suggested to me that I start refereeing. He said to me "once you are on the field, the only thing you can think of is football." Since I practically grew up on the side lines and around referees it was only natural for me to try officiating. Once I started officiating, I feel in love with it. Six seasons later, I am more passionate than ever about football and officiating.

In 2014, I was invited to become a member of the APAFQ pre elite program. In 2015, I did my first Cegep div 3 game. In spring 2015, I was invited to referee a Women's International Football Training Camp in Tampa Bay, Florida. Unfortunately, I had to decline the invitation since I would have been responsible for covering most of my travel expenses and wasn't able to get funding.

In 2010, I also started to referee high school touch and flag football (boys and girls). In 2013, I started to ref a men's senior indoor flag football league called Flag Football Plus. In spring 2014, I started to ref a National senior Men's Touch football league.

Since I started officiating 2010, I have noticed a difference in how female officials are perceived on the field. When I first started, many coaches and players were quite startled to see a female referee. I felt as if I had to perform better than my male colleagues in order to gain respect. Since the NFL brought Sara Thomas in, things changed this season. This season, I had many players, parents and even coaches approach me to tell me how happy they are to see a female official on the field. A few young females approached me to find out how they can get involved in officiating. Not once in my career on the field, have I felt out of place. It has never a gender thing for me. For me, officiating has been about love of the game, the comradery and mostly the challenge. Officiating challenges me season after season.

Going forward, I would love to see more young females becoming officials. This is no longer a male dominated sport. There are more and more female players on male teams so why not have more female refs. I think that young women need to know that they are welcomed to be an official. I would love to see more recruiting and promotion of female officials. It would also be great if Football Canada helped promote or send some female officials to international female tournaments.



Tracy Paluzzi (referee white hat) with Taylor Mickleboro and Rosie Melo and two unidentified crew members. All female officiating crew

# Long-time CFL and amateur football official Ken Picot died Sunday



[MURRAY MCCORMICK](#)

[HTTP://LEADERPOST.COM/AUTHOR/MURRAYMCCORMICKLEADERPOST](http://leaderpost.com/author/murraymccormickleaderpost)



## Regina's Ken Picot is being remembered as an official who was passionate about his family and football.

Picot, 67, died Sunday after a short battle with the cancer. He was a football official at the minor, high school, junior and university levels before being hired by the CFL in 1984.

"Most people thought of Ken as the football guy, the referee, the official and the supervisor," Regina's Brent Buchko, another long-time CFL official and a good friend of Picot's, said Monday. "Those who were close to him saw him much differently. We saw him as a husband, father and a companion, and Ken was very proud of his family. There was another side to Ken than what everybody else saw."

Picot was well-known through his 20 seasons as a CFL umpire. He worked eight Grey Cup games, 20-plus playoff assignments and 318 regular-season games. Glen Johnson, the CFL's senior vice-president, football, said the league plans to honour Picot during the 2016 season by having its officials wear patches featuring his familiar No. 80.

"It was never about him looking for glory or the spotlight," Johnson said. "He just wanted to do a great job, make friends and have fun. That was something we all learned from him. Sometimes you let things get the better of you. Ken was always very grounded."

Picot continued to oversee officials at the CFL level, at which he had been a supervisor of officials since retiring from his on-field duties in 2004. He continued to officiate at the amateur level following his on-field career with the CFL.

Quite often, Picot would officiate or supervise a CFL game and an amateur football contest on the same weekend. Many officials followed his lead.

"He was a guy who set the example of how you give back," Buchko said. "He never said that we had to do it. When you love the sport as much as we do, you want to make that contribution. You just do it for the love of the game and giving back."

Picot, who was the host of "The Rules of the Game" on Access Communications' In the Huddle program for many years, started officiating as an amateur in Regina in 1972.

On the field, he primarily served as an umpire, calling holding and illegal-procedure penalties while dodging large men. He was the CFL's umpire coach after retiring from his on-field position.

The dangers of the umpire position became evident on Sept. 8, 2002, when Picot suffered a broken left leg and a spiral fracture to his left ankle after running into a player during a game in Winnipeg. Picot returned for the 2003 and 2004 CFL seasons before retiring from his on-field position.

“I didn’t want to go out on an injury,” Picot told the Regina Leader-Post in 2005 about his comeback. “If I was going to go, I wanted to go on my terms and my time. I didn’t want to be forced out.”

Picot was the first Regina-based official to serve as an umpire in a Grey Cup game in his hometown. He did that when the 1995 Grey Cup game was held in Regina. Johnson was the head official for the contest.

Picot and Buchko both worked the 2003 Grey Cup game, which was held in Regina. Picot was the umpire and Buchko was the head linesman. Grey Cup assignments are awarded based on an official’s performance during the season.

“When I first came into the league in 1998, Ken had already been there since the 1980s,” said Buchko, who was recruited by Picot to become a CFL official. “We didn’t talk about it, but it was always an unspoken goal that it would be great if we got to work a Grey Cup together. Making it even more special was that it was on our home turf and our families were there. I will always cherish that one.”

Picot worked as a milk delivery man and was recently employed as a messenger by Coutts Courier when not involved with football. He was inducted into the Regina Sports Hall of Fame as a builder in 2008.

He was named the Kiwanis Dad of the Year in 1996. In 2000, he received the Regina High Schools Athletic Association award of merit and was also honoured by the Roughriders for helping to develop amateur football in the province.

Picot is survived by his wife Mary Ann, sons Kory and Trent, sisters Charlotte and Janet, and brother Randy..

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## Rob Christian's Corner

Some wording in this article has been changed to relate more to the Canadian game. Coaches, senior officials, and even parents must take into account the experience level of youth football officials. Constant complaining will lead to that official walking away from football. The small amount of funds received will not make up the humiliation and the total lack of confidence.

### **Rob Christian**

Following my first 4 games of youth football on a Saturday made me want to pack it in and I was an adult.

### **Youth Football Referees**

*Talking to Youth Football Referees - (Written by Youth Football Online Referee Steve Wells)*



### **Communication**

Communication is critical to the success of any endeavour. When talking to youth football referees there is no difference. In our day jobs, we wouldn't dream of telling someone in a position to make our lives miserable how much they sucked. Somehow, when we get on field we seem to forget this.

I have been guilty of this myself, which is a real no-no for Referees. Sometimes, when you know something is just completely wrong, it is hard to help yourself. I know this may come as a shock, but youth football Referees make mistakes. Lots of them – so do youth coaches). The ones you notice are about 1/10 of the ones their supervisors and evaluate notice.

Examples of mistakes Referees make but you'll only notice if they really blow it are:

- Spotting the ball
- Positioning
- Signalling incorrectly

- Improper Signals

What makes this worse is that Division I College and Pro Football are completely different games than football at the lower levels. In D1 and pro they worry more about the color and length of players socks than a violation of helping the runner or illegal helmet contact (although this is finally beginning to change).

This makes it a challenge on Saturday afternoon when a player can be ejected for taunting for doing what his hero does on Sunday afternoon. What makes it even worse for officials is that some youth leagues might require two taunting penalties before ejection when the High School rule interpreter will want that player ejected for the initial incident, as in NC.

Frankly, this stuff is confusing.

Trying to keep two or 3 different sets of rules together makes you a little nuts. Especially, when you might be a seasoned High School official, who is starting to get Varsity assignments as a Back Judge, but you're the Referee in a youth game with 3 officials who have never worked a High School JV game and 2 coaches in their first year above flag. Does anyone see trouble brewing?

Which brings me back to communication. I used to love working the Durham Eagles games. Their on-site guy met with the officials (especially if he had never seen you before) and told you how things worked at his field. He also went over issues from the previous week or if either team had a history with each other. He also spoke to the coaches. This helped prevent issues that might come up due to misunderstanding the rules for that level.

So my advice to coaches and referees is very simple:

- Talk to each other
- Have a good pregame meeting, even if it takes a few minutes, with both coaches there.
- Know who the site admin is.
- When mistakes are made acknowledge them and move on.

Finally, remember, you are the adults. You set the tone. If the players see that mutual respect – even when you disagree – they will model that on the football field and, most importantly, off.

### **Talking to Youth Football Referees**

You call the perfect play. It is brought back for a block in the back that you know – know without a doubt – that it was from in front and then the player turned to attempt a tackle. Flag down. The odds of the flag being picked up in this case are about 1 in 100.

So you feel stuck. You can complain and jump up and down. If the official thinks he blew it, he may let you do that for a play or two or you may get 10 more yard for Unsportsmanlike. You can say nothing, but that does not show your players you are supporting them. So you have to say something.

You want the official to be more observant. He may have even made a mistake. It could be a teaching opportunity.

## **KEEP YOUR COOL WHEN TALKING TO YOUTH FOOTBALL REFEREES!!!!**

Notice how all-caps got your blood pressure up. Unless, you are coaching an amazingly talented Pro team, this is a must. Even if the Referees awarded a catch on a ball that bounced off your head to the opposing team, you have to stay calm.

I have officiated many games where the coach that kept his cool when he could and probably should have gone ballistic, because he knew his team would get distracted. Once a team takes its focus off the field bad things happen.

If Referees are letting the game get out of hand, you have to speak up. But... remember that the reason teams play “chippy” is that they can get you off your game. So complain, but keep your players focused. If you have to have a serious discussion, have your Assistants keep the players away.

Finally, if a coach talks to your opposition’s coach – even if it is to ask about the length of halftime or something mundane – find out what he said from your sideline official. A good Referee will always talk to both benches. You are well within your rights to hear exactly what was told the other coach.

### **Quick Tips for Talking to Referees**

- Respect is critical – Address the youth football referees on your sideline with respect. Expect the same. If the sideline official does not listen to your reasonable complaint, you may want to speak to the Referee at a convenient time.
- Ask questions. The good coaches ask questions for two reasons – to understand why the call was made and to figure out if the covering referee made a bad call.
- Listen – youth football referees may not understand the rule. For example, Horse Collar is a tough one that I blew in a scrimmage. We got together with each other and the coaches and went over the definition in detail. There was nothing on the line, but 4 games later, that discussion helped me make the right call.

Youth football referees will make mistakes. By communicating efficiently and effectively, you can ensure that you and your team can stay focused on winning the game even if you lose the argument.

### **Formations**

The most frustrating penalty for coaches seems to be Illegal Formation. A little secret: Most Referees hate calling them too. So let's talk about why they are called:

- Too many men in the backfield.
- Ineligible Receiver.
- A guy in No Man's Land.

The definition is pretty simple. There are some other things that come up, like numbering infractions, but they usually don't apply in Youth Football. However, to be safe, give your backfield players numbers between 1 and 49 and 80 and 99. Yes, your QB can be 99 if wants to be.

### **Too Many men in the backfield**

This is the one most youth football referees really try to avoid at lower levels. Most will do everything we can to get your end to be on the line of scrimmage, if we count 6 in the backfield. We may not even call it on a running play to the opposite side or a punt. The rule is in place to ensure that teams don't gain an unfair advantage by hiding receivers.

We will call it if we've do not feel the players or coaches are listening and we have to get their attention. Personally, I try to call it at the least critical time, so it doesn't affect the game. Usually, I will talk to my partner first and see if we can get the ends to listen. Did, I mention that I hate calling this below Varsity.

### **Ineligible Receiver**

The other problem we have is a covered Tight End. Usually the kid lines up on the wrong side, so you have a tackle at the end of the line and two ends on the other side. This is a train wreck on a passing play, but a no call on a run. You can have 11 guys on the line if you want. And yes, if the Center has an eligible number, he can be on the end and go out for a pass.

One key thing to remember, there are no rules requiring people to stay on the line on punts in Youth Football (unless your association does that). Your guys are released at the snap. However, if you plan to run a fake punt pass, then having the lineman suddenly not release is going to have the Coach yelling "Fake" pretty quickly.

**Note:** Tell your Center to make sure his head is not completely over the ball. He can be right up to the tip, but not onto the Defensive side. Also, if it is not a playoff game, do not ask me to call it. I am not. These are kids, not pros. If it is a playoff game, your center should know better.

## **HOW TO AVOID FORMATION FOULS**

1. Train your ends to tell the official “I am a back” or “I am an end” – The official should say “I am the Line” as the receiver walks up. If he knows your receiver is supposed to be an end and a snap is imminent, you will likely get the benefit of the doubt within a few feet.
2. Train your ends to look at the official. If the official is behind him, he is offside. This should not happen, but it will at least 5 times a game.
3. Make sure your slot back is in the backfield. Tell him to look at the Tackle. He should have his head, when he leans forward be behind the tackles backside.

At the Varsity level, Wide Receivers will communicate with the Wing official on very down. If you are running two wide outs, have your back coach watching the officials. If the arm is pointing toward the backfield – he thinks your end is a back: Pointing Forward – he thinks he’s an end.

You might notice a theme here: Communication with the official by the coach and the receiver can help prevent being flagged for lining up incorrectly. Most of us don’t want to call this type of foul, but we will if we cannot get your players to line up correctly any other way.

I hope this was helpful. Many football coaches do not know how to talk to youth football referees. Read more about [youth football referees.](#)

*(Written by Youth Football Online Referee Steve Wells)*

# Training and Development

## Judgment in Officiating

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REASooKaZg8>

Bill LeMonnier discusses officiating judgment and what goes into developing sound judgment. Introduction by Tim Kiefer.

## Crew Dynamics

Bill LeMonnier walks you through Crew Dynamics, Crew Leadership.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkGeoJ92hiY>    **Developing leadership within a crew**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wzYBjjMS5E>    **How does the Referee handle situations**

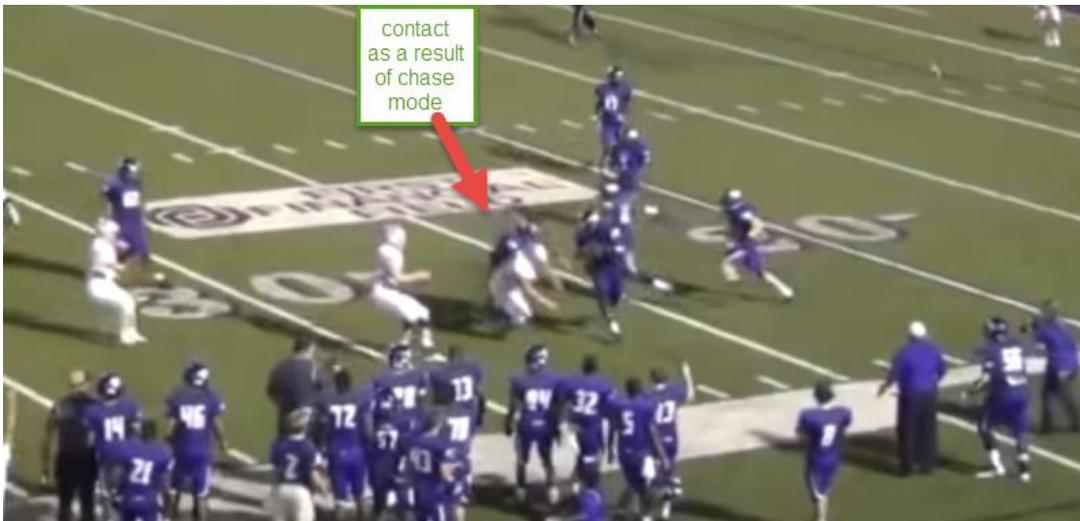
# You Make the Call

Video study

## Interpreting Blocks in the Back using Chase Mode

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LzTIQR-BitE>

Todd Allen installment in our weekly training series for high school football officials preented by the Arkansas FOA . This week, a special treat, intentional grounding with NFL Referee and AAHSO President Walt Coleman.





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