



Redesign

With this issue of the *First & Ten*, we are unveiling a new look.

After close to 130 issues, it's time to give this fantastic publication a fresh appearance and hopefully make it easier to navigate.

One of the most obvious changes, as you'll probably notice, is the length of each article. This format is easier to consume especially for those who lead busy lives outside of football. Of course, it is also less intimidating for someone who wants to contribute an article or two.

As we look ahead, I also want to take a moment to reflect on the evolution of this publication. It is nothing short of a miracle for Ron Hallock to singlehandedly create and sustain this publication for such a long period of time. It takes dedication, work ethic and eternal optimism.

To fill those big shoes, we need your support by providing us updates on your association, notable achievements by your members on and off the field, and any other relevant articles.

In the next few issues, we'll continue to try different things which may or may not be obvious to you readers. We hope you'll provide us your feedback so we can continue to make this an interesting and useful publication for you.

Thank you.

Regards,

Henry Chiu
President



We welcome your input. Please submit your suggestions or articles to: Canadianfoa@gmail.com



Nouvelle conception

Dans ce numéro de First & Ten, nous dévoilons la nouvelle présentation de notre publication.

Après 130 numéros, ou presque, le moment est venu de donner à cette publication fantastique une nouvelle apparence qui devrait en faciliter la consultation.

L'un des changements les plus manifestes que nous ayons apportés, comme vous le constaterez probablement, est la longueur des articles. Ce nouveau format est plus facile à consulter, notamment pour ceux qui ont des vies chargées à l'extérieur du football. De même, c'est moins intimidant pour ceux qui désirent publier un article ou deux.

Au moment où nous nous tournons vers demain, je veux également prendre un instant pour faire une rétrospective de cette publication. Il est absolument remarquable que Ron Hallock ait créé par lui-même et appuyé cette publication pendant aussi longtemps. Il faut de la persévérance, une éthique professionnelle indéniable et un optimisme éternel.

Pour poursuivre dans la même direction, nous avons besoin de votre appui. Nous aimerions que vous nous fournissiez des mises à jour sur votre association et les réalisations remarquables de vos membres, tant sur le terrain qu'ailleurs, et tout autre article pertinent.

Dans les prochains numéros, nous continuerons d'essayer d'autres nouveautés qui seront peut-être évidentes pour nos lecteurs. Nous espérons que vous nous ferez part de vos réactions pour nous assurer que First & Ten reste une revue intéressante et utile pour vous.

Merci et mes salutations distinguées.

Le président
Henry Chiu





Cross-country Collaboration

Building consistency requires a shared vision and a commitment to work through the process.

For decades when officials worked CIS and CJFL postseason games in mixed crews, inevitably there would be differences in mechanics and standards from one region to the next that needed to be ironed out.

"Because we cover such a large geographic area, across 4 provinces, it presents a real challenge to keep one on the same page consistently." Brian Small, RIC of Canada West, explained.



Over the past two years, however, significant progress has been made at the highest level of amateur football in terms of consistency.

"A lot of credit has to go to Dave Hutton of the CFL for kick-starting the process. With their logistical support, supervisors from all four CIS conferences have been getting together on a regular basis to ensure we are working on the same mechanics and interpretations," said Dino Marzinotto, Referee in Chief of RSEQ.

With input from all four conferences, a 7-men mechanics manual was developed based on the CFL version. Of course, the version for amateur football reflects differences in the rules and style of play. "A tremendous amount of time and effort has been put into building consensus, starting with the four RIC." Explained Darryl Baron, a CFL supervisor and the editor of both mechanics manuals. "I have to say that the level of consensus and consistency is as great as I have seen at any time in the 30-odd years that I've been involved at the national level, and it's very exciting to be part of this right now."

As the on-field product strives for consistency, off-field communications among conferences are also enhanced as a result according to John Brenton, RIC of the AUS. "Now that we operate on the same basis, it's much easier to send a video clip to my counterpart in another conference and get a second opinion."

Regular communication does not stop when the season ends. During the offseason, the RIC and supervisors will continue their regular conference calls for evaluation and make changes if necessary.

"Building and maintaining consistency is an ongoing process. The collaborative effort will not only improve our standard in the current year, our game will also benefit in the long run." Said Ken Green, RIC of the OUA.



Upcoming

REGISTRATION

Beginning 2017, there will be a change in officials' registration process. Instead of submitting a registration form by each local association, every official will do it on his / her own through Football Canada's portal. Manitoba has gone through the process this season. We will report their feedback and respond to whatever questions you may have.

GREY CUP OFFICIALS' RECEPTION

In preparation for the 104th Grey Cup, the Toronto Football Officials' Association ("TFOA"), in conjunction with the Fox40, OFOA and the CFL, is proud to announce that the Grey Cup Officials' Reception will be held on November 25, 2016. In keeping with tradition, the Officials' Reception is the formal introduction of the game crew for the championship game, as well as an opportunity to fraternize with fellow officials across the country and discuss all things football related.

The Reception itself will kick-off at 7:00PM at the prestigious Cambridge Club (100 Richmond Street West, located in the Sheraton Hotel across the Toronto City Hall). The cost of admission will be \$20.00, which includes two complimentary beverage and light canapés/hors d'oeuvres. Additional beverage may be purchased at the venue. Occupancy is limited to 125 people, so be sure to be there early to secure a spot.

There will also be an opportunity to get a photograph with the Grey Cup trophy! Please feel free to contact Tobin Horton (tobinhorton@gmail.com) or Andrew Wakefield (andrewjwakefield@gmail.com) if you have any additional questions.





Dead Ball Officiating

By Ross Saunders, Eastern Ontario Football Officials Association

History of this Presentation

I was first exposed to dead ball officiating when I was officiating in the US.

Officials seem to spend a lot of time and energy talking about it in pre game and in the dressing room.

As a former player and now an official, I have never witnessed any illegal act once the play is blown dead or goes out of bounds!

In case you can't tell, I'm making this statement with my tongue firmly planted in my cheek. Dead ball officiating is as critical as any part of officiating!

There are three things that can ruin a football game.

- Injuries – create animosity between teams and result in retaliation;
- Emotions – playoffs, score, time remaining, game intensity, past history, today's history, and officials are all factors;
- Overly officious – too many flags can ruin the flow of the game and, in some cases, makes it hard to maintain a consistent standard from star to finish.



Prevention Tools

Build rapport with players and coaches....

Before the game do's and don'ts

Do.... be yourself, be approachable, be professional. Leave the football part until the pre-game meeting with coaches and players.

Don't.... Discuss other officials or crews, previous games or rulings, alleged tactic of opponents. Be ready to make decisions based upon conditions at the present time.

During the game there are four tools you can use

Hustle: A crew or an official that moves well and hustles on the field in every situation from ball relay to covering the play will make the game flow smoother. If a game is run in a good pace and the officials are on top of the game, then coaches have no time or reason to complain.

Presence: An official who is constantly involved in the play or makes his presence known will reduce fouls by players. Coaches may not know our mechanics but they can see if officials are in the right position when a situation arises. While they may disagree with your judgment at the time, your mere presence can help defuse any unnecessary situation – that's one less thing the coaches can complain about.

Voice: An official who uses his voice during a play to advise or warn players will reduce the need to call fouls. It also sends the message that you are on top of the situation. Likewise, speaking to players discretely after a play builds rapport and, again, may help reduce the chance for the player to commit similar acts later in the game.



Whistle: When the forward progress has been reached, blow the whistle with authority. If there is a change of possession signal timeout, moved to the spot and then point the right way.

If the game involves two combative teams, set the ball down and blow time in. Nothing gets a player into the game faster than starting play clock.

End Product... Every game you build history with coaches and players. These four tools, along with your pregame demeanour, experience and presence, all build your credibility and rapport with coaches. Your dead ball time on the field also builds your confidence and your respect with the coaches.



Active Prevention Tips to Breaking Up Players

- Always stay Calm and Collected
- Set your Standards starting first play of the game
- Use your communication skill to build rapport
- Hustle
- Get the ball into play ASAP
- Be Consistent all game

Good Dead Ball Officials

Keep their eyes on the players – they do not look down at their spot (feet).

Keep their heads up – continuing to observe the action around the ball carrier.

Work as a unit – dead ball officiating is a team effort. They box-in players. They don't let players get behind them (accordion effect). They communicate and cooperate with each other.

Do not ball hawk – stay behind and observe your area of responsibility. If you see a possible situation brewing, exercise **Hustle, Presence, Voice**. Good Dead Ball Officials are never in a hurry to get to the ball.

Pinch in when necessary but don't lose the field of vision. Hustle but don't rush.