

I would like to thank all members for their valued cooperation and assistance in again making memories for high school football players and coaches in 2016. A special note of gratitude to those that subscribe to the "I'll go anywhere at any time" to officiate philosophy, and to those that accept their assignments in a timely manner.

It was a pleasure working cooperatively for the betterment of high school football with the high school schedulers - George Oswald, Glen Donaldson, and Lance Hurtubise. This high degree of cooperation resulted in only 1 miscommunication during the entire season involving a grade 8 game in the early playoffs. I met with George in June and made numerous requests for changes to the schedule almost all of which were met. VP Eskildsen and I met with the coaches at their fall meeting as well. Field availability and their allocation continues to be an obstacle for us to have total satisfaction in our allocating needs. Numerous changes were made to game times and locations late in the season due to the weather conditions. We welcomed back Bill Yerdon and Gary Kingston but our ranks were also depleted with the unavailability of Ben Eskildsen, Mark Newlove, Dave "Ottawa" Sullivan, Greg Barnes, Farrell Taphorn, Bill Howieson, and Tim Lederman.

Games were allocated Sunday evening at least one week in advance.

The SPRING season saw us officiate Senior Bowl as well as the North Shore grade 8 league. This was followed by 14 spring scrimmage games. The education committee used this time to allow veteran officials to work different positions especially that of the white hat. Many officials due to officiating other spring sports again elected to BLOCK the month of June when spring scrimmages normally occur.

The FALL season saw us officiate 305 games (2015 = 323) which translated to 1,465 slots (1,546) being filled. We also timed and held the sticks for 4 GNAC games involving SFU Clan football. There were 4 games officiated due to an official no show. One Varsity game was assigned with only 4 crew members (Chilliwack).. We also had Sheldon MacPherson, Rod Fehr, and Jadel Menard work games in Metro while Jamie Graham, Lee Brien, Matt Kutny, Ted Baranyai, Mark Newlove, and Ben Eskildsen travelled to the Kelowna area. During the play-offs Grant Renton, Ross Thompson, and Al Milton worked games at BC Place.

The high degree of cooperation by the membership this year was again highly evident by the number of Declines. In 2014 there were 261 declines, in 2015 it was 79 declines, and this year we dropped to 47 declines. In 2013 we also had 40 turn backs, in 2015 we had 12, and this year we had 5. Thank you for keeping your Blocks current this season. It was truly appreciated.

A special thank you to our other regional allocators - Mike Gatto, Al Milton, Gord Hoffman, and Davin Overland for their hard work this season.

Play-off games at the grade 8 and junior varsity levels were scrutinized and varsity assignments were dictated by the play-off committee comprised of Ben Eskildsen, Mark Newlove, and Dave Sullivan.

Recommendation:

We need to urgently retain more than 2-3 new officials each year as we are not keeping up with the retirement rate. This season Gord Masi, Mike Craig, Milan Boljunic and Patrick Mehain were welcome additions able to step up to the varsity level quickly. Let's all recruit one new member for 2017.

Training needs to be done before spring football begins so our newcomers get a feel for the position and are able to start the season immediately in the fall.

In conclusion. I would like to wish everyone and their families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a safe and healthy 2017.

Yours in FOOTBALL.

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