

Vice President Report to the 2015 BCFOA AGM December 19, 2015

Work began in earnest shortly after the last playoff game of 2014 was completed.

I attended the 2015 Coaches AGM in early January and made a number of recommendations based on our experience during the previous year:

1. All schedules should be resolved prior to the last day of school.
2. In the interests of safety BCSSFA should consider reverting to the former mercy rule.
3. All coaches need to communicate game changes first to the allocator.
4. If playoff games need to be scheduled in an outdoor venue then consideration be given to ensure adequate lighting at the field.
5. If playoff games need to be scheduled in an outdoor venue then adequate resources need to be provided to ensure that the field is in playable condition should weather become an issue. Only shoveling the lines when the field is covered in snow is not an effective solution.
6. Playoff game locations should be in a central location to permit reasonable travel time.

I do not know for sure if they listened but we accomplished some of what I asked for:

Schedules were mostly complete by the time school was out in June. The allocator and I met several times with the schedulers and were able to get something workable out of the mess that was first presented in time for the season start.

Much later I was very pleased to hear that quarter-finals semi-finals and finals were to be held at BC Place and NOT that field at UBC!

Unfortunately no change to the mercy rule was allowed but we should keep hammering away at this issue using safety stats to show the folly of their ways.

Grade 8 football and spring scrimmages:

We used the spring games this year to focus on 1st and 2nd year officials for education and also for experienced officials to move into other positions. They were able to practice in a minimum stress environment.

44 officials filled 166 spots during spring football.

Thanks to education committee members who came out to observe and provide much needed feedback.

There was one rookie clinic held on June 6 at Burnaby Lakes. Due to our efforts BCFOA now has a contractual relationship with the Corporation of the City of Burnaby to conduct future clinics at that location if desired.

Prior to the first 3 regular clinics we held a rookie clinic for one hour before at 6 pm and then invited the apprentices to sit in on the regular clinic. Thanks to Thomas Straley for helping out with the apprentice clinics.

The education committee designed and delivered 5 clinics during the regular season. The experience to me was very co-operative and aimed at achieving our goals.

Thanks to education committee members for all their hard work and collaboration Len DeJulius, Lee Brien, Thomas Straley, Alan Sleightholme and special thanks to Rob Kozak who opened his school for our meetings and the high school clinics.

Thanks also to Alan Sleightholme who delivered a high school football clinic in Prince George during the summer.

My apologies to Island officials for missing the Island clinic this summer and many thanks to Tim Heenan for picking up my slack and being the clinician. Thanks Tim!

I asked Walter Becker to be the allocator this year and I gave him the task of not just filling games but to be mindful of the travel limitations of our officials and also to consider any personal obligations when assigning games. If the number of declines are an indication of success then I would say we were successful. Declines for regular season games were down from over 200 last year to about 50 this season. Many officials commented to me that they appreciated the effort.

The playoff committee was struck this year with volunteers who agreed to not officiate any varsity playoff games. The committee met after each round of the playoffs to decide who would move on and what level they would work. This year was the most pleasant and polite of all the years I have been involved in playoff assignments. For some reason it was just not painful at all. Thanks to Mark Newlove for the use of his office, Thomas Straley, Bill Watson and Walter Becker for your co-operation and hard work at getting the job done.

I was able to secure a HUDL account for BCFOA for the first time in 2015 and we were able to provide video to varsity playoff officials. Next year I have planned to provide video to all varsity officials beginning in September. They will be able to see their own performance on their last game and preview teams they have been assigned to for the next week. This will be a great self-evaluation tool.

Lastly thanks to all the officials who came out and worked high school football games in sometimes not the greatest weather or the best of fields. Your efforts are surely appreciated by all teams and coaches and especially by myself.

Yours in football

Tim Lederman

Vice President BCFOA.