



THE CLEVELAND FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

THE GOALPOST

THE OFFICIAL’S NEWSLETTER

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JIM LANESE, EDITOR

2018 Meetings

Our 2018 meetings are all Monday sessions at
Brooklyn High School Auditorium.

2018 CFOA Meeting Dates:

Mtg	Day	Date	Time	Topic
1	Mon	Aug 13	6:30	OHSAA State Interpretation Bruce Maurer
2	Mon	Aug 27	7:00	Issues/Responsibilities Jim Rice
3	Mon	Sep 10	7:00	TBA Mike Dame
4	Mon	Sep 17	7:00	Controlling Sidelines and Coaches/HUDL Chuck Sroka & Bobby Bolin
5	Mon	Sep 24	7:00	TBA Mike Hayes +
6	Mon	Oct 1	7:00	TBA John Mastrey
7	Mon	Oct 8	7:00	TBA
8	Thur	Nov 1	6:00	Business Meeting and Banquet

Please note that the August 13 State Rules Interpretation meeting begins promptly at 6:30 and includes credit for a state and local meeting. Our meetings will include presentations, rules, and mechanics featuring video and visual illustrations.

Members Corner



CFOA Members **Mike Dame, Bill Pelka, and Josh Jameson** worked Ohio’s North-South All star Game in Massillon this June.

Video Review, Challenges, Concerns

The April, 2018 issue of *Referee Magazine* posts an interesting article by contributor Rick Woefel, a writer and sports official from Pennsylvania. He notes, “the rush to be ‘right’ is getting extra scrutiny now that video reviews have become an omnipresent part of the American sports landscape.” He notes the increased reliance upon replay and ‘centralized play review’ coupled with coaching challenges in all major sports leagues have prolonged the games and led to unnecessary applications of the technology...even to a point of coaches using challenges strategically to disrupt a team’s tempo or momentum. The mounting utilization of record/replay is an issue challenging all of the major league sports industries. Unfortunately, the spin-off impacts all coaches and officials at all levels of play. Video recording is rampant with intentions to challenge or influence actions and decisions on the field.

Fortunately, the ‘rush for perfection’ via replay technology hasn’t challenged the scholastic level yet! Let’s review the circumstances on Ohio’s high school fields. By way of technology, most all schools employ video recording of each game often driven by *Hudl* software. One of *Hudl*’s products called *Sideline* offers one or more camera angles to record and provide instant replay for sideline review by coaches for instantaneous adjustments on the field. The capability exists to have real-time replay, however with strict limitations!

NFHS Rules 1-5-3c2 and 1-6 address the legality of electronic communication devices including video recording equipment. The rules govern the usage of these devices during the game to communicate with players—they may only be used during time-out conferences outside the 9-yard marks. Further, Rule 9-8-1e specifies an unsportsmanlike foul for using any illegal communication equipment.

So, how does a coach challenge a ruling on the field? Rule 3-5-11 (and 3-5-2c) enables time-outs for the purpose of reviewing a game official’s application of a rule which may have been misapplied or misinterpreted. The rule and Ohio mechanics call for the coach-referee conference to take place in front of the team box with rule and gold book references to resolve the question. **Officials do not consult any recorded material** to discuss the rule application. If the ruling on the field stands, the time-out is charged to the team; if it is modified, the time-out is the officials’ and the game situation is corrected.

The employment of video-recorded game action may be used by coaches during and after the game under the guidelines. It also provides officials with the opportunity to review and evaluate action on the field after the game. We do not consume time to review discreet situations during the contest.

Memoriam

Please keep the family of **Mike Dame** in your prayers. Mike's dad, Roger passed away on June 30 and services were held in his hometown, Dracut, MA.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family **Joe Lesko, a member of the CFOA Hall of Fame**. Joe passed away in February, 2018. He coached at Holy Name and Collinwood HS, and officiated football after his collegiate career at Western Reserve University.

Keep the family of **Joe Trivisanno** in your prayers. Joe was a member of CFOA for a few seasons after a lengthy coaching career at Collinwood HS and Brush HS. Joe died in December, 2017.

Also, sympathies and prayers to the family of **Ed Guzowski whose wife Mary** passed away in January and the family of **Tom Coccia who lost his mom Marianne** in November, 2017. Sympathies to the family of **Dale Smith whose father-in-law William Chambers** died in February.

Some Rules History... Where did they come from?

A stroll through the enshrinement hall of the Pro Football Hall of Fame during the finals in Canton last fall revealed one member who was neither a player nor coach, nor executive in pro football history. Hugh "Shorty" Ray was a high school teacher in the Chicago Public Schools beginning before 1910. Shorty Ray helped organize the Chicago Public High School League in 1912 and he became interested in rules. He had been a great athlete in football, track, baseball, and basketball under George Huff who was a stickler for having his players well versed in the rules.

When President Theodore Roosevelt pressed to make the game safer in 1905, Ray began by making innovative rules suggestions to the NCAA. Because of this success, the **High School Federation** hired Ray in 1929 to write a new set of rules for its game. They were having trouble obtaining group injury insurance because of the high injury rates suffered playing under the NCAA rules. Around this time Shorty's good friend George Halas, the legendary owner and coach of the Chicago Bears asked him to do the same for the NFL game. From 1933-52 Ray rewrote the NFL rules, stressing speed, safety, and excitement. For some time, he was considered "The Rules Book Author" and he conceived of the study of rules by writing "FOOTBALL RULES THRU PLAY SITUATIONS" which taught the rules by example and is still utilized today (our CASE BOOK). In 1938 Ray was officially appointed the NFL's first Technical Advisor on the Rules, and Supervisor of Officials. He wrote rules that created the modern passing game. He also invented hash-marks that opened up the field, the play clock, penalty flags, the two minute warning, free substitution, whistles for every official, and many other hallmarks of today's game.

During this time and until 1952, Shorty was the only Big Ten Official ever to work three sports—baseball, basketball and football. He was enshrined into the Hall of Fame in 1966.

CFOA Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame Committee begins its search for new inductees at the beginning of each season. Eligibility for nomination is included in the CFOA Constitution By-laws and is posted on clefoa.org. If you would like to suggest a nominee, contact a CFOA officer with details to provide to the Committee.

Members Corner



The 46th Annual East-West All Star Scholarship football game saw an eight man crew of officials in the June, 2018 game at John Carroll Don Shula Stadium. Crew members included: Front row - **Mike Dame, Mike Mewhinney, Mike Joseph, Tom Coccia** Back row - **Mike Fantone, Paul Manfredi, Brian Crummie, Jamie Mewhinney, Mike Hayes**. Photo by; Palmieri's Photography, 9470 Stafford Road, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023. Chagrinvalleyphotography.com

We Impact Athletes' Lives!!

Our role to manage and assure competitors of a safe and fair contest played according to the rules of the game is fundamental to our mission. We can, in the process influence athletes and coaches with our behavior and demeanor while carrying out our duties. However, life-changing effects upon athletes are quite rare, or are they??

From Associated Press reports, June, 2018: Johanna Konta failed to shake the umpire's hand after a bad-tempered end to the Nottingham Open [tennis] final, with Ashleigh Barty winning. After the first two sets were shared, Konta recovered from 4-1 down in the decider to level at 4-4 but got angry with umpire Paula Vieira Souza for not overruling a Barty shot that looked long as the top-seeded Australian held for 5-4. Neither the line judge nor Souza called it out.

"It's an absolute joke," fourth-seeded Konta told Souza. "You're making decisions that affect our lives. Do you fully understand that?"

The British No. 1 won only one more point as Barty clinched victory with a backhand pass. Konta then walked straight past Souza and off the court.

Cleveland Public Library/CFOA Collection Update

The library staff has continued to support our effort to preserve our documents and catalog our resources. As of July, 2018 a collection of *Referee Magazine* and the *NFHS Football Rule and Case Books and Manuals* are bound and shelved in the reference section of the Social Sciences/Sports Department in the Stokes Wing of the Man Branch. THE CFOA Hall of Fame plaque remains on display in the Sports Research Center. Stop in to explore the collection.