

CENTRAL VIRGINIA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Study Manual

PROFESSIONAL, PREPARED, TEAMWORK

by Andy Keel

The spirit and focus for the Association's training program is summed up in these three words- *PROFESSIONAL, PREPARED, and TEAMWORK.*

Our goal is to provide you with the necessary knowledge and skills to enter the football game as an official:

- who reflects with pride the PROFESSIONALISM of our Association and each of its members;
- to act in a manner that reflects the PREPARATION of a professional; and,
- to work with your crew members in a manner reflecting a total commitment to TEAMWORK.

As a game official you are assuming a position of great responsibility for which you are being compensated. The seriousness of your position as a game official can not be overstated. You are a professional and must accept the responsibilities associated with this position. Reflect upon the role you are stepping into and be sure you are prepared to assume the responsibilities to learn the rules, their proper interpretation, and have the physical conditioning necessary to maintain your responsibilities through the game. The attitude of the official and the manner in which the official relates to the players, coaches, and other game personnel must demonstrate a professional approach and understanding of the game. Professionalism starts by arriving at the game site in sufficient time to properly prepare your equipment and your mind for the task at hand. It ends when the crew leaves the game site with all the reports completed and a post game review and discussion has resolved all unusual plays and situations.

A PROFESSIONAL knows the value of, and the obligation, to be PREPARED. We have already noted that this means much more than just knowing the rules. It means understanding the rules so that a game situation will result in a correct reaction and rules enforcement in less than a second. It means being able to communicate with the players and the coaches in a manner that generates respect. It means being in the correct position through the proper mechanics to call the play properly. It means arriving at the game and participating in the pregame meeting with the other officials to insure a common interpretation exists and that teamwork is assured. It NEVER ends- regardless of the number of years of experience or the level of the contest, each official must continue to review the rules- to understand the spirit of the rule and their interpretation, game mechanics, and the elements of teamwork and communications.

A football official enters the field as a member of a CREW. The level and manner in which the CREW of officials administers the game is the final judgment of each crew members professionalism and preparation. The CREW must

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work as a TEAM to be successful. Therefore, it is TEAMWORK that brings all the elements of officiating together. As a result TEAMWORK has many meanings- it means all officials being consistent in rules interpretation and enforcement; it means "boxing in the play" and providing total play coverage; it means using all the resources of the crew to implement the proper call; it means communicating with your fellow official; it means helping your fellow official when the need arises; and, it means making the maximum effort from the first to the last play. At the end of the game, each official is judged by the success or failure of the CREW.

The Central Virginia Football Officials Association's success can be attributed to these three words. As the future of our Association, the Training Committee is committed to assisting each of you in developing the knowledge and the skills to advance as far and as fast as your capabilities allow. But in the end it is your commitment to these three words and the results of your efforts that will speak for you!