



Special points of interest:

- Opening remarks for 2009 season
- SJOA executive board
- Fundraising
- 2009 NFHS rules changes (highlights)

2009 Newsletter

The 2009 season is upon us and your executive board has been meeting this off-season in preparation for another successful season officiating the Tri-County Midget Football League.

Meetings start the first Tuesday in August and continue every Tuesday until the pizza and beer night on November 24th. The executive board is looking forward to the challenges and rewards that lie ahead for the 2009 season.

First a word from our President:

Once again I am honored to be representing you in my sixth year as President of SJOA. Over the years I have found this position both challenging and rewarding. I look forward to the challenges and rewards that lie ahead in 2009.

Good preparations and training are the hallmark of the SJOA. The 2009 season will be here sooner than we think. Preparation, both physically and mentally, should begin now if it hasn't already begun. Last years first and second year class did an outstanding job with us. I am looking forward to seeing another great season. Thank you for your trust in me as your President and let's continue the good traditions that have been the ground work of the SJOA.

Sincerely,

Darryl Lee
SJOA President



Your 2009 SJOA Executive Board

			Phone number
President	Darryl Lee	(cell)	856-520-1078
Vice President	Mark Wood	(cell)	856-266-0885
Secretary	Rick Schober	(cell)	609-458-4579
Treasurer	Scott Campbell	(cell)	856-491-5065
Sergeant	Shane Mitchell	(cell)	856-534-2500
Assignor	Don Schramm	(sjoa)	856-494-3738
Trainer	Mike Grelli	(cell)	856-491-5078
Rules interp.	Jim Wakeman	(home)	856-228-9249
TCMFL rep.	Wade Rosenberger	(cell)	856-279-3003

Helpful web sites

- Assessment Workshop**
www.football.refs.org/workshop/
- Officiating Gear**
www.pluspos.com
www.honigs.com
- South Jersey Officials Association**
[ww.sportscombine.com/SJOA](http://www.sportscombine.com/SJOA)
- NFHS**
www.nfhs.org
- NJ State Interscholastic Athletic**
www.njsiaa.org
- Ask the experts**
www.usafootball.com/resource-center/officiating/ask-the-expert/
- Helpful sites**
www.naso.org
www.referee.com

Fundraising for SJOA

After many long discussions about the golf outing the executive board decided to shelf the 20th annual golf classic for 2009. Our members did a fantastic job raising sponsorship dollars but fell short in our efforts to deliver golfer to the course over the last few years. The executive board would like to thank our 2008 golf committee co-chairs, Bill Vankat and T.J. Patch for their outstanding efforts.

This year the SJOA executive board decided to renew our efforts to raise money for the General Fund. Years past efforts have been successful, but last couple have seen difficult times. In order to change we've discussed several options and decided on a couple. Fundraisers that would not only be easy, but ones that the members could participate in and enjoy like the golf outing. One will be a night-out at Adelphia's. More information will be forthcoming on night-out. The other would be the

Camden Riversharks game. The Riversharks fundraiser was done last year with good response.

The fundraiser is simple, each member will sell (9) tickets to the game. A board member is responsible for contacting member on their list and getting ticket to them. The money will be due back by August 10th. The games is on August 20th.

If we all do our part and sell our share of tickets we have raised at least \$2500.00 for the SJOA general fund. The money in this fund pays for hall rental for meetings, rule books, case books, insurance for all members as well as other miscellaneous expenses. This fundraiser will replenish the general fund. Every member should actively participate.

In the past the Golf outing funded the Scholarship fund. Without the golf outing it is important to renew our efforts for everyone.

narrowed the list to four. The board decided to award the four finalist equal shares of the \$2000.00 available funds of the Scholarship.

The SJOA scholarship winners are;

Joseph Yacono

Stacie-Dawn Williams

Tia Schober

Ashlee Johnson

Scholarship winners

One of the greatest missions of the SJOA is to fund our Scholarship Fund. With renewed efforts from the general membership we can continue this missions.

This year the Scholarship applicants started coming in slow, but grew to a list of over thirty at decision time. Scholarship Committee Chairman, Jim Wakemen narrowed the field to about 12 applicants. The Executive Board reviewed those 12 applications and

TCMFL News

TCMFL will once again play a JV schedule. They would like to play most JV game over the weekend. If the Varsity is playing on Saturday @ home the JV would play on Sunday away. The SJOA felt that would make it very difficult to have enough officials to cover. More discussion to come.

Parking - For some venues it is all but, if not impossible to provide 8 parking spots for officials coming to games. The Executive Board

wanted to advise officials coming to early games to not use provided parking spots, but to leave available for second crews arriving for later games. That venues should provide at least 4 spots. TCMFL said they would remind clubs of responsibility to have space available.

SJOA asked if clubs could provide a site director at venues to help coordinate event between clubs and officials. Much

Dealing with head coaches tip:

Make eye contact, A coach wants to be assured that he has your attention.

Don't act distracted.

The way a tournament director would run any tournament. They would coordinate security, parking for incoming officials, visiting teams and site contact. There has been need for someone in charge of venue other than the coach. The coaches are concentrating on their teams. The site director could have the second, third, and fourth teams ready to come on the field at the conclusion of the game before. Call for police assistance when needed and works as a liaison between arriving teams, coaches and officials. They could even police the fans for any problem or out of control people.

Game fees for 2009 season will be \$49.00 across the board (all games).

Our current contract with TCMFL will be expiring at the end of this 2009 season. The Executive boards of both Tri County and SJOA have met to begin negotiations for a new contract. To date, there has been only preliminary discussions and no agreement has been reached. Paul Berry President of TCMFL would like to have a contract agreement in place before the end of 2009.

Dealing with
head coaches

tip:

Let coaches have
their say. When a
coach approaches to
protest or argue,
adopt an instant
"listening mode"
and let the
aggrieved
individual finish his
remarks. DO NOT
INTERRUPT

TCMFL - There has been some concern with the short length of some of the freshman level games. When the clock is keep on the field the games average about two hours. When the game clock is keep on the field, they run at times a hour and a half sometimes less. TCMFL would like to have a more honest game for SJOA with those games. It was suggested by the SJOA to enforce the 45 second play clock so team would be forced to get more plays in and keep the game moving. TCMFL will keep discussions open for other ideas on how to improve timing issues.

2009 NFHS rule changes

Highlights,

3-3-4b5 (new) If a penalty resulting in a safety occurs on the last times down of a period. The period is not extended.

9-4-3k (new) The horse-collar tackle has been added to the list of illegal personal contact fouls. Regardless of where it occurs on the field. It is illegal to grasp the inside back or side opening of the collar of the jersey or

shoulder pads of the runner and subsequently pull the runner to the ground.

There are other rules and minor changes. The entire list can be found online @;

http://www.nfhs.org/web/2009/04/2009_nfhs_football_rules_changes.aspx

Recruitment

Each year we look to our ranks with new as well as experienced officials looking to enjoy officiating youth sports. Part of that process includes each of us talking with and enthusiastically encouraging people we know in other officiating fields as well as coaches and teachers to come out and give youth football a shot.

This year we will continue to advertise in the Gloucester County Times, Courier Post as

well as other small local newspapers.

Each of us plays a part in the continuing growth and success of our organization. Think about the people you know and have coached with, been coach by or just know who are involved in youth sports and encourage them to meet us in August. We would be glad to welcome them to the SJOA.