



2008 Newsletter

The 2008 season is upon us and your executive board has been meeting this offseason in preparation for another successful season officiating the Tri-County Midget Football League.

Your board has been diligent in following up on various items and we think we have the most up to date information to be passed along in this newsletter.

But first, a word from our President:

SJOA Members,

Once again I am honored to be representing you in my fifth 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 2008.

First and foremost however, I want to wish a speedy recovery to one of our most veteran and accomplished officials, Bill Vankat. Bill underwent quadruple bypass heart surgery in early June and is currently recovering at home. As you all know, Bill has been a valuable member of our organization, both on and off the field. He has served on the board as President, Golf Committee Chair and has led by example on the field as well as in the meeting room. Please join me in expressing a deep and heartfelt "GET WELL SOON BILL."

The 2008 season will be here sooner than we think. Preparation, both physically and mentally, should begin now if it hasn't already begun.

I look forward to another great season. Thank you for your trust in me as your President and let's have a great year.

Sincerely,

*Darryl Lee
SJOA President*

Your 2008 SJOA Executive Board:

President – Darryl Lee
Vice President – Mark Wood
Secretary – T.J. Patch
Treasurer – Scott Campbell
Trainer – Michael Grelli
Rules Interpreter – Jim Wakemen
Sergeant at Arms – Brent Harris
Assignor – Don Schramm
TCMFL Liason – Wade Rosenberger

19th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic:

As you may remember, our Golf Classic was cancelled last year due to a lack of golfers. Our members did a fantastic job raising sponsorship dollars but we fell short in our efforts to deliver golfers to the course. This year our Golf Committee, Bill Vankat and T.J. Patch, agreed to give it another shot and see if we cannot reverse our course from last season and have another successful effort this season. With Bill's recent surgery, additional help is needed to make this event happen. At this point, we are two months from the outing date. We need golfers and sponsors.

The event will be held on Saturday August 16th at Valley Brook Golf Course

with a 1pm Scramble Format. A post-golf dinner will be served inside at the Valley Brook catering facility. Members and their golfing foursome will enjoy 18 holes of golf including a cart, a buffet dinner and a draft beer/fountain soda “open bar” starting at noon, continuing throughout the event and through the three hour dinner. All players will also receive an insulated cooler bag as a “thank you” gift for playing as well as door prizes, a 50/50 raffle, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin and Putting Contests complete with prizes for each event’s winner.

The cost for the entire package is \$100 per golfer. Registration forms can be found on our SJOA website, www.sjoabandits.com. A link will be on the home page with all the information and forms needed for this event.

It cannot be stressed enough that this event is a success only if we all contribute and get golfers and sponsors. If we are forced to cancel the event again this year, the golf outing will not be continued and the philanthropy that it supports, the Scholarship Fund, may be in jeopardy.

Please contact T.J. Patch with golfers, sponsors and to offer your help in getting this event off the ground. He can be reached at either 856-341-3412 or tndpatch@comcast.net.

Scholarship Fund:

Speaking of the Scholarship Fund, despite the cancellation of the golf outing last year, our sponsors were generous enough to allow us to keep their donations and apply them to worthy and deserving applicants. This year we received in excess of 30 applications and

after careful review by the Scholarship Committee Chairman, Jim Wakemen, the field was narrowed to 10 top candidates. The Executive Board reviewed those 10 applications and narrowed the list further to three. After much deliberation and discussion, it was decided that we would award all three students with a portion of the money raised.

This year’s recipients are:

Vincent Chiaro – Pitman - \$800

Meaghan Slaughter – Salem - \$350

Ja’Lisa Furbush – Salem - \$350

Fundraising for SJOA:

This year the SJOA Executive Board decided to renew our efforts to raise money for the General Fund. Past efforts have been successful but the past few years have seen no fruitful efforts. In order to change that we discussed several options and decided on one that was not only easy but one that the members could participate in and enjoy. The Camden Riversharks.

The fundraiser is simple, each member will sell eight (8) tickets to the game at \$11 per ticket (we get \$6 per ticket sold). We have committed to sell 350 tickets. If we all do our part and sell our share of tickets we will raise \$2500 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.

TCMFL News:

TCMFL welcomed the Bellmawr Purple Eagles back in to the league this year. Two other teams, Glassboro and Cramer Hill (Camden) applied and were denied because of a lack of a home field. Clearview has reduced there organization to one team per age group instead of the two they had last season.

A new team in the Clearview High School sending district, the Harrison Township Hawks, was formed and did not officially apply to TCMFL because of sending district bylaws in TCMFL.

TCMFL will once again launch a JV schedule to essentially replace the “B” game schedule but teams are still able to hold “B” games.

TCMFL is proposing a Senior Division Tournament to be held at the end of the year. An All-Star game may also be played depending on scheduling.

SJOA has requested that TCMFL schedule no JV or “B” games for Tuesday nights so that those games do not interfere with our meetings. We have also requested eight (8) designated parking spaces at each venue so that our officials will have safe and secure parking. The SJOA board has been attempting to meet with the TCMFL board and, as of this newsletter, have not been able to schedule one. The SJOA board will continue to attempt to schedule this meeting.

TCMFL has implemented a “Gentlemen’s Agreement” for all games whereby when one team is leading by 30 points or more the game clock will become a running clock. If the score differential falls under 30 points, the

clock will resume standard operation. SJOA officials will retain the right to operate the clock as per the rules and in their judgment that which best suits the quality of competition.

Registration will be held on August 23rd.

2008 NFHS Rules Changes:

Rules 2-16-2e and 10-2-4 were revised to state that a team must foul twice during the same down to commit multiple fouls. These changes allow for enforcement of both fouls when the opponent of the scoring team commits a foul on both a touchdown-scoring play and the subsequent try.

An addition to Rule 3-3-4 clarifies issues at the end of the half if there is a foul by either team and the penalty is accepted for unsportsmanlike fouls, non-player fouls, fouls that specify a loss of down and fouls that are enforced on the subsequent kickoff as in Rule 8-2-2.

Changes to Rule 8-2-2 stipulate that fouls by the opponents of the scoring team on the last timed down of the first half can carry over to the second-half kickoff; however, fouls by the opponents of the scoring team on the last timed down of the second half cannot carry over to overtime play.

There are other more minor rules changes. The entire list can be found online at http://www.nfhs.org/web/2008/02/2008_high_school_football_rules.aspx.

Please access this link and become familiar with all of the rules changes.

Uniform, Dues, Game Fees:

As voted on and passed by the members last season, an addition to our uniform policy will take effect this season. Black pants will be allowed as part of the uniform. Mark Wood has been working with a vendor to provide these pants at a reasonable price to all members. He was able to secure a reduced price for SJOA at \$28 per pair. The pants are black with a white stripe that goes $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down the leg. It has an open bottom cuff and a draw string waistband. These pants will be the only pants allowed to be worn on the field to ensure that all official's uniforms match and are in compliance with SJOA policy. Members are not required to purchase these pants. However, the Referee or "white hat" in the game will determine the dress code for the games. If he calls for black pants and you do not have a pair you will be out of compliance with the dress code.

Dues this season are \$63. If you fail to pay your dues you will not be assigned games until your dues are paid in full. Failure to pay the dues by the end of the season will result in your membership status being adjusted and your seniority will be reapplied based on when you become current with your dues.

Game fees for this season will be \$45 across the board.

Game fees for the 2009 season will be \$48 across the board.

Our current contract with TCMFL has two years remaining on it and will cover the 2008 and 2009 seasons.

Recruitment:

Each year we look to add 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 coaching and teaching to come out and give youth football a shot.

This year we are making an effort to recruit college aged young men by advertising on local college campuses as well as continued advertising in the Gloucester County Times, Courier Post as well as other smaller local newspapers. We will also post a message on Comcast's Local Origination channel with information on how to join SJOA.

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

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday August 5th, 1st SJOA Meeting of 2008 season

Saturday August 16th, SJOA Golf Classic, Valley Brook Golf Course

Saturday August 16th, West Deptford Football Jamboree

Saturday August 16th Williamstown Football Scrimmage Friday August

22nd, Saturday August 23rd & Sunday

August 24th Bellmawr Football Jamboree

Wednesday August 6th, 7pm Camden Riversharks Game