

# STARS IN STRIPES

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www.EBFOA.org

May 2009

## The Presidents' Podium:

**Dennis DiFabio**

2009 EBFOA President

I have been elected to serve as President of the EBFOA for 2009 and I am looking forward to a great season. I hope that you will give me the same respect and efforts that you gave to Jerry Maher last year. I would like to personally thank Jerry for his efforts in helping make a very successfully 2008 season. We welcome James Long and Scott Wells to the Board for new 3-year terms, and Rich Robeson as our non-varsity representative for a 1-year term. These three individuals are a great addition to the Board and we look forward to their input and fresh ideas.

I'm sure everyone knows that we sent two very deserving individuals to the California State Championships in Carson, CA this past December. Congratulations to Jim McGeough and Dennis Binion who were selected from hundreds of officials to officiate these games. If you did not get to see them on TV, you can go to [kbcsports.com](http://kbcsports.com), go to search website, on demand media and click on the games. Check out your EBFOA colleagues in action.

Now is the time to think about upgrading your uniforms. In the off season, the prices are usually lower, especially on shoes, as the warehouses clear out last year's styles. Don't wait until the week before the clinic to check out your uniform needs. In fact, preparation is always a key to a successful season, so see page 3 of this newsletter for some important preparation dates .

Recruitment continues to be a top priority as we move forward. We need top quality individuals who will put in the time and effort to become a good official. Talk with your friends, colleagues, or even strangers in the coffee shop. You never know where our next group of officials will come from. Tell them that there is no better place to be than under the "Friday Night Lights". See the adjacent article by Conrad and James about the 2009 Recruitment program.

My door is definitely open. I encourage anyone who has ideas/suggestions/complaints to come directly to me with your issues. If not me, please share your thoughts with any other Board Member. Let's put everything out on the table and make sure that the EBFOA continues to be the premier officiating organization in the area. Again, I look forward to working with everyone this year. I hope to see you all at the summer study sessions as we prepare for the 2009 season.

## EBFOA

## Recruitment Round-Up

**Conrad Bassett and James Long**

2009 Recruitment Committee Co-Chairs

(Editor's Note: Board members and Recruitment Committee Co-Chairs James Long and Conrad Bassett started officiating nearly 30 years ago with EBFOA and they have taken on the challenge to spearhead bringing in new officials whom we can all enjoy working with and will be the foundation of the EBFOA into the future. The following is their story):

The most important role we have as an organization is to provide our leagues and schools with the best available football officials. The outstanding officials in our association come from varied professions, are of many different ages, and have different degrees of experience in officiating. What they all share is a genuine interest in football and a desire to help young people enjoy playing in a football game that is fair and safe.

One unavoidable way that officials change is that although each year the kids stay the same age, WE get a year older. We do not necessarily get a year faster but we do get a year more experienced. Eventually though, we need to add to our ranks as our membership changes with some officials leaving because of job changes or leaving the area, or physical injury or health reasons, or believe it or not...retirement.

The EBFOA has several officials who have officiated HS football for well over 20 years but they will not be on the field forever. So, to this end, the EBFOA is going to make some significant efforts to swell our ranks with competent people who want to be football officials.

Some of the areas we will explore will be in partnering with the football staffs at the local colleges to see if we can add to our ranks with ex-junior college and D-1 players who have ended their careers as players but still love the game. We are fortunate to have the University of California right in our area as well as Chabot, Laney, and Contra Costa community colleges who have football programs and many of our local former players have left the area to play college football and have now returned. Sports officiating classes are also offered at local schools and we will be pursuing that arena as well.

But please, don't forget that your next door neighbor, or that guy at the golf course, or someone from a business relationship just might be someone who shares the same passion for the game that we have.

Please share your ideas and thoughts with us as we try to continue to make our group the best in the NCS and all of California! We welcome any and all suggestions. Our contact information is on page 4 of this newsletter.

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# Football Officiating – EXTRA Credit!!

As we progress through our officiating avocation, we begin to realize that football isn't just a Fall and Winter sport. It has become an ongoing, year-round hobby. Off-season study sessions, film reviews, rules quizzes, camps, clinics, and cracker-barrel sessions are available all over the place. Anytime, anywhere, you can find a group getting together to "talk football officiating". Here are just a couple opportunities for you to consider that will help you "hone-in" your skills during the off-season. By participating in these camps and clinics, and other events, you will be prepared for the EBFOA Clinic in August.



## USA Football Officiating Seminar hosted by the San Francisco 49ers

Join USA Football and the San Francisco 49ers for a comprehensive one day seminar. Tony Michalek, NFL Umpire and Bill LeMonnier, Big Ten Referee designed these entertaining and educational workshops to help officials improve their skills. Youth, High School and Collegiate officials will learn from clinicians that include NFL and NCAA Division I officials during a full day of comprehensive training. Unique and interesting plays from the 2008 high school and college seasons will be used to discuss mechanics, philosophy and rules applications for all levels of officiating. Lunch and giveaways are included.

**Date:** Saturday May 30, 2009 - 9:00 AM to 5:00pm

**Cost and Availability:** \$75.00 As of May 2, there are still 75 seats remaining

**URL:** <http://www.usafootball.com/schools/details/2881>

**Location:** California High School 9870 Broadmoor Drive San Ramon, CA 94583



## HS Football Officials Camp, LLC

Unfortunately, this camp has been sold out since September, 2008. As you can see, it is an extremely popular camp. The EBFOA is proud to announce that a few members are attending the 2009 Camp. If you are interested in attending, either 1) sign-up for the wait-list, or 2) make plans to register for the 2010 Camp as soon as registration opens.

When?	June 25 - June 28, 2009
Where?	California State University, Fresno
What can you expect?	Develop fundamental officiating skills and knowledge Receive valuable feedback on mechanics Insight and techniques to improve communication and judgment
Who should attend?	High School Football Officials Youth Football Officials New Officials Anyone aspiring to improve his or her officiating skills
Payment terms:	Non-refundable \$350 deposit due at the time of registration - guarantees your spot in camp Balance of \$300 is due by April 15, 2009 No refunds of any kind after April 30, 2009
Payment options:	Pay online using VISA/MC or Paypal account Send check by mail
Contact Info:	<a href="http://www.hsfootballofficialscamp.com/forms/form_inforequest.htm">Request Information</a> ( <a href="http://www.hsfootballofficialscamp.com/forms/form_inforequest.htm">http://www.hsfootballofficialscamp.com/forms/form_inforequest.htm</a> ) <a href="#">Register for Camp</a>
Camp Staff:	<a href="#">Pete Dardis</a> - Camp Director

## **EBFOA Announces the 2009 Calendar of Events!**

Your EBFOA Board of Directors has been hard at work since the New Year. A few meetings have already been held and the committee chairpersons and calendar have been set. (If you want to know more about what goes on in the Board meeting, read Rich Robeson's musings on page 4, or better yet.....run for the Board next year!)

### **Summer Study Sessions:**

The "New Member Training Committee" (Rich Robeson, James Long, Sam Moriana, and Jim McGeough) is working on creating Summer Study Sessions that will cater more to the novice and "relatively new" football official. The dates for the sessions are set but stay tuned for start times. All four summer study sessions will be held at the Maintenance Department Conference Room at the Metropolitan Golf Links (near the Oakland International Airport) Tentative time for these meetings is 6:30 – 8:30pm, but they could start earlier for the newer officials. **Dates: Tuesday July 14 & 21 and August 4 & 18**

### **Annual Clinic:**

The clinic will be held from 8:30am until 5:00pm on **Saturday August 29**. Tentative location will be Salesian High School. We will hold on-field instruction in the morning and then class-room and test-studying in the afternoon. Pizza at Round Table will complete the fun day. Your attendance at this meeting is required so you can meet minimum requirements for accreditation.

### **Football Scrimmages:**

High School football scrimmages will be on Friday and Saturday **September 4 and 5**. Other dates will also be available for scrimmages. We encourage you to work as many scrimmages as possible. This is a great chance to get the cobwebs out, double-check the equipment, and work on mechanics and rules. To meet minimum requirements, you must attend at least one scrimmage.

### **In-Season Meetings:**

All of our In-season meetings are held on Tuesday nights and the meetings generally run from 7:00pm until 9:00pm. Non-varsity officials are required to attend EVERY meeting and clinic we have (7 meetings and 1 clinic). Varsity officials are required to attend 5 in-season meetings and the Clinic. Location of the meetings is the auditorium at Oakland High School

Required Attendance by ALL Officials: **August 29 Clinic, September 8 & 29, October 6 & 27, and November 10.**

Additional Required Attendance Meetings for Non-Varsity officials: **September 15, October 13.**

Your "Varsity" or "Non-Varsity" status is identified on your "2008 Personal Evaluation Report"

### **Annual EBFOA Banquet:**

Your dues cover the costs of this fun banquet. Bring your spouse or significant other. We present the Kevin Reed Memorial scholarships to the football players, play the championship round of REFERDY, distribute first round playoffs, eat great food, win cash and prizes, and have a great time. Wednesday night, **November 18** at the Alameda Elk's Lodge

### **High School Playoffs:**

This is what every official strives for: the opportunity to work a post season playoff game. Dates for the playoffs are **November 20/21, 27/28, December 4/5, 11/12.**

**CIF State Championship – Carson California: December 18 & 19. Will the EBFOA be represented for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year?**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### USA FOOTBALL SEMINAR

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 30.  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

WHERE: CALIFORNIA HS, SAN RAMON (SEE PG 2 FOR DETAILS)

### 2009 NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

TIME: NOW THRU AUGUST 2009

### RENO FOOTBALL OFFICIAL'S CAMP

DATE: CAMP 1: JUNE 9-12, 2009  
CAMP 2: JUNE 16-19, 2009

WHERE: UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO

MORE INFO:  
[WWW.FOOTBALLOFFICIALSCAMP.COM](http://WWW.FOOTBALLOFFICIALSCAMP.COM)

### EBFOA SUMMER STUDY

DATES: TUESDAYS: JULY 14 & 21  
AND AUGUST 4 & 18, 2009

WHEN: 6:00 OR 6:30 – 8:30PM

WHERE: METROPOLITAN GOLF LINKS MAINTENANCE CONFERENCE ROOM

### 2009 EBFOA CLINIC

DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

## "It's Not BORING on the Board"

(Editor's Note: Rich Robeson is the 2009 EBFOA non-varsity representative on the Board of Directors. This is his story about his very first Board meeting experience)

I have never served on the board of anything before. So, I had no idea what to expect at the first formal meeting of the 2009 EBFOA Board of Directors on March 31<sup>st</sup>. All I had been told by previous rookie Board members was that I'd better sharpen my pencils and be ready to write fast. It's fair to say I had a little bit of anxiety—how intense was this going to be and how accountable would I be if I missed something?

My first surprise (kind of) was that the Board does not meet in a board room. We meet at Sam Moriana's house. Sam graciously served us what he refers to as a "snack": a delicious braised chicken with mushroom sauce, mashed potatoes, ice cream and cake with chocolate sauce. You would think that after a snack like this, the blood would rush out of heads to our stomachs and cause the notorious after-dinner drowse. But you'd be wrong.

Once we got down to business, it was all business and, like the movie, it was fast and furious. We went over the 2009 Master Calendar month by month; then we spent more than an hour and a-half discussing the Association's various liaisons, coordinators and chairpersons.

After that it was on to New Business. Not three or four items, not six or seven...but 10 separate issues for discussion. I was pretty quiet for once—better to just listen and learn sometimes. And here's what I learned: There is good reason each member of the Board is there to represent the Association.

It's not just a good meal and back-slapping talk about how great a job we all do. Everyone on the Board wants us to be better at what we do. Everyone wants uniformity within a framework of individuality. Everyone there is very passionate about football, the rules, the players, the leagues and of course, the officials and our association. As each Board member spoke, everyone listened quietly and attentively. There was no topic off limits and every topic elicited at least some discussion—some topics generating debate that lasted almost an hour!

So this is what a board meeting is...Dennis setting the agenda; James, Sam, Scott, Jim, Jerry, Jon, Bud and Conrad all contributing with thoughtful ideas, concerns and comments. Even I was asked for my perspective as a rookie on a couple topics.

The meeting was stirring and productive, and I believe it underlined the need for having a board to discuss timely and pertinent issues that affect all current and future officials.

And my predecessors were right about the note-taking. I had four pages written on my legal pad. Although the meeting lasted a near-record 3 hours and I had a very full belly throughout, in the end, I was more alert, awake and pumped up when I left than when I arrived.

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