

Road Map to the Varsity Field

by
Pete Celiberti

Many of our newer members frequently ask "What does it take to get on the varsity field?"

Here's what I feel is the "Roadmap to the Varsity Field"

Basically, you need to demonstrate the ability to apply the rules...on the field!
Rules knowledge and field presence go hand-in-hand.

Rules Knowledge:

- 1) Read and re-read the rule book and case book.
- 2) Attend meetings and clinics.
- 3) Talk football with other officials at every opportunity.
- 4) Review test questions and answers.

Field Presence:

- 1) Work as many below varsity games as possibly. If you work 40 games in 2 years and everything else in satisfactory, you should see some varsity experience by the third year.
- 2) Go to varsity games as a sideline observer. Also, work with the chains.
- 3) Continually read the officials manual with regard to your position.
- 4) Watch top rated officials who work your position. Ask questions.

Besides mastering rules and field presence, demonstrate these other traits:

- 1) Common Sense
- 2) Ability to work with other officials
- 3) Be able to give and take constructive criticism
- 4) Be honest with yourself when making self-evaluations
- 5) Ability to be firm and not confrontational with coaches and players
- 6) Work towards the betterment of officiating and the good of the officiating association

Other areas to concentrate on:

- 1) Hustle, but not hurry
- 2) Whistle control
- 3) Judgment
- 4) Consistency
- 5) Being in position
- 6) Seeing the whole play
- 7) Being prepared mentally and physically
- 8) Don't be lackadaisical

Good Luck...See you on the Varsity field!