

# Throw in the Flag

## Scott Roadcap

The Capital Area Chapter of PIAA Football Officials is seeking new recruits to provide quality officiating for all levels of football in the greater Harrisburg area. CACPFO members officiate games including youth leagues such as the Keystone Midget Football Conference and the CFA Football League. Additionally, CACPFO provides officials for most PIAA affiliated school programs in the Mid-Penn Football Conference and a few Twin Valley Conference schools.

rule book, one week for exam prep, and one week for the exam.

After beginning classes each potential official is given opportunities to work with veteran officials on the football field which helps in exam preparation and with practical experience and advice. After passing the PIAA exam, CACPFO extends invitations to new officials and allows them to work some non-varsity level PIAA football games while refining skills on the youth level fields.

692-0665. Many current and former members of the CACPFO have gone on to officiate at the college level. If you want to see yourself on National TV in front of millions of college football fans, this could be the place to get your start while providing the local youth and high school teams with quality officials.

Scott is in his 9<sup>th</sup> year of officiating for CACPFO, having started based on a love of football and a desire to be involved in the game without the huge time commitment coaching involves while filling a critical role of the game.

### Scott's Most Memorable CACPFO Moments Revealed...

**Most redeeming moment ...** I made a controversial call in a AAAA game involving a fumble. I awarded the ball to the defense on a controversial play and unfortunately for me I was working the sideline for team that lost the ball. I was eventually vindicated after reviewing the game film, but not before taking a lot of abuse from the coaching staff of the team that lost the football.

**Most embarrassing moment ...** early in my career I completely froze up during a successful touchdown play. I just stood there like the proverbial deer in headlights. No signal, no nothing. UGGGHHH!!!

**Funniest moment ...** being on a local news broadcast with a local coach actually chewing on my arm. He was doing it in jest, but it looked really strange on TV.

**Best preventative officiating...** in a scrimmage game I recognized a potential trouble situation and intervened before the two players had a chance to really start fighting. It was the moment in my officiating career when I realized I wasn't worried about the rules in my head and I could actually see the field of play and react to the situations on the field.

**Become a Football Official**  
 Call: Ken Broome (717) 545-2731  
 or [kbroome@panetwork.com](mailto:kbroome@panetwork.com)  
 Capital Area Chapter of PIAA Football Officials  
[www.cacpfo.org](http://www.cacpfo.org)

CACPFO employs a feedback system wherein officials and coaches evaluate each other, providing constructive criticism and positive feedback. As each official continues to improve on the field, meeting his/her obligations to the chapter and PIAA, the official is more likely to be assigned higher level games, with varsity high school being the highest level.

After passing the exam and joining a recognized chapter he/she is required to attend at least 6 chapter meetings per season to retain certification.

One mandatory meeting is held every season to review any changes to the NFHS rule book. Meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM from August through early November.

CACPFO members are from varying backgrounds with everyone dedicated to providing quality officiating services in the local area. A strong commitment to football, players, and fellow officials are a few of the requirements to successful officiating. Self-confidence and a "thick skin" to withstand the criticism of fans, players and coaches are of the utmost importance. CACPFO provides great opportunities to build new friendships, learn more about the game of football, and continue to develop your officiating skills.

The challenge of being a football official is not for everyone, but if you love the game and want to be involved this is a great opportunity. If you are interested please check out [www.cacpfo.org](http://www.cacpfo.org) or you may contact Scott Roadcap at (717)

Officials must pass a certification exam administered by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Agency and join a PIAA recognized chapter of other officials before officiating at any PIAA affiliated events. CACPFO provides hands-on learning with weekly classes in preparation for the PIAA exam. The class provides opportunities for participants to review the National Federation of State High School Associations rulebook. Veteran officials relate personal experiences as well as answer questions.

Class attendance is not mandated by PIAA, but CACPFO strongly suggests it for at least year one of active officiating, and recommends a second year. Class is typically held on Wednesday evenings for two hours and covers each rule to give new officials the greatest possible comfort with the rules. Classes generally begin in August and run for 13 weeks, with an introduction, ten weeks to cover the ten sections of the