

The REFEREE as the Crew Chief

- **To be a great Referee, you must have an obsession for officiating and a passion for the game! You must enjoy the pressure! You must demonstrate common sense!**
- **The crew needs a leader and you are it! Crew members want and expect you to take charge. Be the leader at all times -- without being overbearing. Be firm, fair and considerate. You must be understanding and at the same time be decisive. You are the final answer!**
- **Keep studying the rules forever! Be a rules expert! You need to keep working until you have the feeling you "can handle everything" that happens out on the field.**
- **Set crew time meetings in advance - "Lombardi Time" for everything!**
- **On and off the field, everyone on the crew is valuable - crews are judged on how well everyone works individually and together.**
- **Have your crew understand: no crew member remembers or knows everything - especially you! Make sure they feel comfortable coming to you if they sense something is not quite right - on or off the field.**
- **Be together as a crew as much as possible before the game.**
- **Prepare a pre-game agenda in advance for yourself - review the entire schedule with the crew.**
- **Insist on a thorough pre-game - the fewest mistakes reap the greatest rewards.**
- **A good pre-game gives crew members the confidence they can handle anything that happens on the field.**
- **During the pre-game discuss items without embarrassment - get crew members involved - a special aspect of the game, a test...**
- **Continually accumulate notes on play situations you experience - use these in your pre-game - "banter".**

- **Pre-game interaction with the coaches - "hello Coach" (not first name) – respect his position - talk to him normally - treat him with dignity - be pleasant - do not be in a hurry - stay in control - if he asks about a specific play, ask him what he saw - if he says something bad, especially out on the field, move away - one abrasive altercation is never forgotten**
- **Continually work on your persona - your presentation makes a difference. Your persona is how the crew is viewed.**
- **Do not try to invent a personality - be yourself. Watch good referees - refine your process.**
- **Everything I do, I took from others - nothing original.**
- **If you use a mic - develop a written list of announcements. Know, in advance, how you want to deliver announcements.**
- **Being on the mic is the show business part of officiating - it is like you are walking out on the stage - the theatrical side of the business!**
- **Stay in control no matter how bad it gets!**
- **Have a great season!**