

2009 President's Address

Welcome to the 2008/09 Annual General Meeting. This meeting we will be reporting on matters following the 2008 AGM to date.

Developing team unity:

- Any team looking to compete to it's top level must have team unity. A poison in any team, regardless of the talent, will cause the team to break down. In 2008 the TCMTFA has grown to where the team is able to work together and accomplish its goals.

Predators:

- Home games at WLU, field construction issues, lights, at a top flight facility.
- PW, Coach Mack Estime' had a good season with a record that did not reflect the effort and dedication of it's coaches and players. Coach Mack has moved on to Montreal and we wish him and Rita luck in the years ahead.
- JV, Coached by Russ Hughes, successful season and launched into the post season in an exciting game with the Brantford Bisons. If you did not get to see the game, the last play is still posted on You-Tube. Thank-you Coach Russ for your dedication to the game and players.
- Varsity was a new program that operated in the Ontario Football Conference. Lead by Coach Anapolsky, they went 3 for 5 with 3 games being lost by a combined 7 points.

Rogers TV:

two games set to be broadcasted but facility issues prevented this from occurring. Rogers TV 20 has indicated that they would like to return to the Predator home games. Our communication with Rogers 20 will continue as our 2009 Pre-season continues.

University of Waterloo and March break:

- There were 53 players registered to participate in a week long camp run by University level players and professional coaches. This program will be repeated in years to come.

SOFAL:

- Red and White. 3 Red and 9 White. This was a big step for a traditionally White formatted division. Challenges with player evaluation and roster of teams. Some hard lessons learned and concerns were addressed which will lead to a more structured process.
- 12 teams. This required some effort to fill vacancies. Coaches new to the program were given opportunities to take on new roles. Two new coaching staffs had to be recruited at Atom and Peewee.
- Fair play in Red. SOFAL does not have any regulations for fair play. This should not effect the TCMTFA goals of fair play. Guidance was given to Red teams when concerns were raised.
- White and development. This program was one that required the most attention. The 12 on 12 off fair play rule was manipulated by coaches to win games. This was seen across SOFAL at all ages and TCMTFA was not immune to this. Stronger guidelines will be installed and signed off by coaching staff with ramifications for not following.
- Largest program in SOFAL. TCMTFA had the largest number of teams in the league and will be looking to max out the rosters of in the 2009 SOFAL season.

Board Transition:

- TCMTFA faced some tough internal challenges in 2009. Rick and Yvonne Nobbs stepped down to return to team level involvement as coach and manager. I would like to thank Rick and Yvonne for your investment in the Twin Cities program.
- Russ Hughes resigned following the 2008 JV season. Thank you for providing years of dedication to not only TCMTFA but football in Ontario owes much of its success by your efforts.
- Cathy Mason tendered her resignation in 2008. This was not the first time she has done so. She returned in 2008 to assist with the Predators and was very helpful in seeing the launch of the Varsity program. Cathy has offered to return in 2009 as the JV Predators manager. Welcome back.

Website:

- The board of directors undertook and established direct control of the TCMTFA website. This has enabled our membership to have a consistent and up to date means to gain information.
- The proposed Predators website was shut down by the board due to a lack of administrative controls. The Predators team information was added to the twincitiesfootball.ca domain.

Change in leadership:

- Due to many external factors, the management of the Predators program was brought back to direct board control. The TCMTFA board has learned some valuable lessons in this area and planning for the 2009 season has been in the works for 3 months now, Thank-you Suzanne Growen.

Administrative controls:

- The 2009 board of directors has taken stock in the previous 12 months. Tighter administrative controls have enabled better tracking of equipment, finances, and volunteer guidelines.
- Special thanks to Jaime Hamley who has brought a new level of proficiency at the equipment lock-up. I am sure you will be impressed with how the room is managed.
- Team budgets will be presented to the Predators parents and players who will need to agree to the projected financial goals or there will be a reduction in services. Direct payments or commitment to fundraising will allow all to be clear in what is needed and expected.
- Team managers will have a key role to play in the teams operation. A set job description has been established and will be monitored closely by the board of directors.
- Code of conduct violations will be documented and those who continue to behave in an unbecoming manner will be challenged.

2009:

- From the OVFL to the OFC. Your board of directors has made a decision to move its JV and PW team from the OVFL to the OFC. Your Predators Director has provided a document laying out the rationale for this decision.
- Transparency
- Sustainability
- National levels of play, Varsity, BCFC and PFC.
- 3 down football
- No territory issues
- Junior (U-22) for 2010

- Cradle to grave football in KW, ages 2 to 22 in Twin Cities alone, Great WCSSAA level play, 2 CIS programs, NFC and NAFL.
- Practice rosters of up to 20 players at varsity and peewee
- SCOFL , development football, Bridge the gap between JV and V for those players born in 92 who may not be able to compete at varsity.
- SCOFL has no limitations on territory in the Tri- Cities area.

Warhawks:

- The branding of a single team in SOFAL was decided upon by the board of directors. This is within the mandate of the board of directors. This will allow a unified name similar to what is being done at other SOFAL programs. The Warhawks was the first TCMTFA team and it reflects the 2 CIS programs, the Waterloo Warriors and WLU Golden Hawks.

Administrative process:

- In 2008, 3 independent and different board members conducted bids for spirit ware. Jenn and Dan Givlin both declared conflict and a bid was entered. The board of directors voted upon the matter. Artal's was awarded the business and the materials were provided, on time.
- Kelly Steiss has now started a new process which is working out very smoothly.
- Equipment returns will be completed in a more timely fashion.

Registration:

- Online registration offered by the OFA. Credit card payments accepted.

Your 2008 board of directors, as recruited by Jenn Givlin and other board members.

New in 2008

- Kelly Steiss, Events
- Dean Steiss, SOFAL
- Suzanne Growen, Fundraising and jack or all trades, Predators
- Jamie Hamley, equipment
- Jenn Ward, Secretary
- Janet Cumby, Fields
- Jason Furlong, Equipment and Predators
- Bardish Chaggar, managers and now your registrar
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Returning from 2007 to 2008

- Jim McArthur, Coaches
- Dan Givlin, Treasurer
- Jenn Givlin, VP
- Yours truly, Mike Duke, President

I have enjoyed the 2008 season. We've seen lots of positive developments and new growth. There is a strong sense of unity on the board with passionate volunteers who give of the own time to manage the programs you all enjoy. I am willing to continue as long as I am welcome and have the desire to contribute. I made a personal commitment to stay on as President for 3 years. Should the environment change and my involvement is no longer providing a positive contribution, I will remove myself to let a new President step in. I remain proud to be working with a great board of directors and looking forward to the 2009 program.



Mike Duke

President TCMTFA