



# British American Football Referees' Association

6<sup>th</sup> April 2006

To all BAFA-affiliated teams

Dear team manager,

## **SUBJECT: BAFA FIELD AUDIT 2006**

I am writing to let you know about an initiative that BAFA is taking this year to monitor, and hopefully improve, the quality of field markings.

The BAFA Rules Committee is anxious that while the *quantity* of American football being played in Britain is on the increase, the *quality* of it in terms of facilities for games is not. The Committee is particularly concerned that an increasing number of teams do not mark all the field and team area markings required by rule, or the lines are faint or crooked. We recognise that many teams provide excellent facilities, and we hope that a process of education and incentives will help other teams to improve faster than a system of penalties and censure.

As part of the "education", I enclose a copy of the field marking diagrams taken from the rulebook, plus a copy of the "Notes for groundsmen" that are also to be found there. If you want to refer to the complete rulebook, it can be found on the web at <http://www.bafra.org/rulesctee/rulebook/2006/index.htm>. The rules relating to field markings are all in Rule 1. Other aspects of game management are in Rule 13.

As the "incentive", and to monitor progress, at each game this year the BAFRA officials will assess the field markings using the enclosed audit form. A perfect field will score zero, with marks increasing according to how much the field does not meet the mandatory and recommended markings specified in the rules.

At the end of the season, BAFRA will recognise the teams with the best (i.e. lowest) average score over all their games, by presenting them one of our John Slavin Memorial Awards, named in memory of the long-time BAFRA member and director who passed away last year. Significant improvers will also be recognised.

We acknowledge that for a variety of reasons, teams do not always have control over what markings can be provided, and we do not want to force teams to abandon otherwise excellent stadiums or grounds. However, we are keen that wherever possible the markings should be correct and clear.

You might like to use the audit form to conduct a self-assessment of your facility, or to compare your field markings with those of other teams.

Next season, we may focus on a different aspect of game management (perhaps chain crews and ball boys, another area of concern).

If you have any questions about the field audit, please contact me by email at [president@bafra.org](mailto:president@bafra.org).

Best wishes for a successful season on and off the field,

Dr Jim Briggs  
President, BAFRA and Chair, BAFA Rules Committee

Enclosures (3)