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ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION *of the* MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

Office of the
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Address
Washington University
Saint Louis, Missouri

October 22, 1938

Mr. Forrest C. Allen
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Phog:

During the past year I have been making an exhaustive study of affairs which have to do with officiating in both football and basketball, with the utmost thought in mind that it should be standardized, not only from the standpoint of appointing officials with a definite system of procedure but also the specific mechanics pertaining to the actual officiating itself on the field of play.

I have been in touch with A. R. Hutchens, Commissioner of Officials for the Southeastern Conference; Herb Dana, of the Pacific Coast; Major Griffith, of the Big Ten; and James St. Clair, of the Southwest Conference. In fact, I have recently been in conference with Mr. St. Clair for three days.

Out of all the material furnished by these agencies, I have set up what, in my judgment, would be a splendid plan for both the Big Six and Missouri Valley conferences to consider for adoption. Standardization in our section would go toward something definite in establishing a system which has been well accepted in the Southern, Southeastern, and Southwestern Conferences by the faculty representatives, athletic directors, and coaches.

Under this system, all officials are required to take an examination covering physical condition, knowledge of rules, and actual mechanics in officiating, which qualifies the individual for definite assignments.

In addition to the proposal, which is being sent to you today under separate cover, there is also in effect in these conferences a manual covering officiating in the actual games, giving the specific positions officials should assume while the game is in progress. For more than half a century the theory and practice of football officiating has steadily advanced. From the crucible of field experience throughout this long period, certain fundamental principles have emerged and are more or less in general use. Nevertheless, awkward situations do arise, and the development of uniformity does lag for want of recorded agreement on accepted principles. Therefore, in accordance with this plan, it is essential that a manual covering the mechanics of officiating be adopted. It is recommended that the manual be modeled after the ones now in used by the Southeastern and Southwestern conferences which have stood a critical three years.