

Player Participation Newsletter – 2007-01

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Summer's here and teams will be in camp in a few short weeks. The 2007 NFL preseason will be starting before you know it. We hope you've enjoyed the off-season. This is the first newsletter for the 2007 season and we'd like to update everyone on the changes for this season.

Player Participation is Considered Production

That's right, it's official. The Player Participation system is no longer considered a pilot program. All 32 clubs will be participating in the program this year. This is great news for us and means that we all have to work hard to ensure the system works flawlessly.

The Player Participation data is important to all clubs during the preseason as they are often looking to fill positions from players cut from other clubs. In the past, they'd have to review a lot of game film to locate the few plays a player may have participated in before being cut. Now, with the Player Participation information they can find those plays in an instant.

Sharing of Information

The Competition Committee has agreed to share Player Participation information with all clubs under the following conditions:

1. 2006 season data has been shared with all 32 clubs as of May 3, 2007
2. Preseason data will be shared with all 32 clubs throughout the course of the preseason
3. After the regular season ends, data for the clubs that are eliminated from the playoffs will be shared with all 32 clubs after week 17. As teams are eliminated from the playoffs, their data will be shared with all 32 clubs
4. During the regular season, when a player becomes a free agent, all his Player Participation data will be made available to all clubs on the day that he is released

The Player Participation data is available in ClubDB in a table named "PlayerParticipation."

Importance of Preseason

Now that the Player Participation information is being shared with all clubs during the preseason, it is extremely important that all Player Participation crews ensure that their equipment and personnel are ready to work well starting with the first preseason game. All crew chiefs should prepare for the first preseason game by following the steps below. **This should be completed at least 1 week prior to your first preseason game.**

1. Gain access to your Player Participation equipment and test the cameras and laptops to ensure they are in proper working order. This is also a good time to give the batteries a fresh charge and format all CompactFlash cards. Also, confirm with your GSIS stadium technician that the updates to GSIS and Player Participation have been applied to your Player Participation laptops. If you don't have contact information for your GSIS stadium technician please contact John Cave (email: cavej@nfl.com, 212.450.2443)
2. Obtain game credentials and parking arrangements for each of your crew members
3. Scout out the camera locations to ensure everything is ready to go
4. Send an email to John Cave notifying him that you've completed these steps.

Last Season's Accuracy

We couldn't be happier about the performance of our crews last season. After reviewing 231 games and 816,231 players we found that the average accuracy rate of all crews is 99.873% on gameday. That's an average of 4.5 mistakes in each game. On top of that, we had 25 "Perfect" games last season where crews submitted games in which we found no mistakes.

We truly appreciate the hard work and dedication each of you put forth on gameday. Thanks to you this project has been an overwhelming success and has now been adopted League-wide.

Training Video

We've finally had a chance to put all of our thoughts about training that have previously been on paper into a training video. I'd like to thank the folks at the Philadelphia Eagles for kindly sharing space in the South endzone video booth so that we could videotape the game. Now, before you get too excited about seeing a wonderfully produced training video, I have to warn you that we went low-budget on the training video and produced it ourselves. Had we had it produced by the award winning NFL Films, I'm sure it would be much less boring.

In any event, the training video should be helpful to you when helping to train new members of your crew. Since you are now experts on the Player Participation system, you are probably better prepared to train new crew members than our League trainers.

We'll be sending out the training video before the start of preseason. Please feel free to give us feedback on the training video so that we can continue to make your job easier.

New Camera Replacing Old Silver Cameras

In the next few weeks we'll be shipping new camera bodies to clubs who've shipped back the old silver camera bodies. If you have not shipped back your old silver camera bodies you will not receive the new ones until we receive the old ones (see list below). If you have any silver camera bodies in your equipment trunk please remove the lens and place a cap over the lens and camera body. Caps were distributed to all clubs in last season's return disk shipment. Wrap the camera bodies with at least 2 inches of bubble-wrap. Also, locate the battery chargers, old batteries and A/C adapter for this camera. The A/C adapters should be in your tripod bags. Ship the camera bodies, batteries, chargers and A/C adapters to John Cave.

The following is a list of clubs who have **not** shipped their old silver camera bodies:
Arizona, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, New Orleans, Oakland, San Francisco, Tampa Bay, Washington.

Enjoy your summer. We'll see you soon!

NFL Player Participation Crew

John Cave, Nikiforos Stamatakis, Vic Denardi