

South Carolina Football Officials Association  
March 29, 2021 Board Meeting  
SCHSL Office  
6:00 PM

**Those present were:**

President: Doug Hudson  
Vice President: Tim Cahill  
Past President: Jeff Cockrell  
Secretary: Paul Pool  
Commissioner: Charlie Wentzky  
Officials Representative to the Executive Committee of SCHSL: Kyle Boczkowski (Zoom)

District 1: Gaines Massey  
District 2: Mike Cohen (attended via Zoom)  
District 3: Brad Smith (attended via Zoom)  
**District 4: Dondi Brown**  
District 5: Garrick Messer proxy for Larry Saunders\*  
District 6: Darryl Jackson  
District 7: Sam Felder  
District 8: Cary Collins  
District 9: Granderson James (attended via Zoom)  
District 10: Greg Hawkins  
District 11: Keith Hajnal  
District 12: Ricky Robinson  
District 13: Brian Shealy

\*Reference email to President, Vice President and Secretary advising of proxy from Larry Saunders of March 9, 2020.

Agenda

1. Call to Order: Doug Hudson
2. Invocation: Doug Hudson
3. Approval of Minutes: October & November 2020.

**Motion by Darryl Jackson, Second by Keith Hajnal: To approve October 26, 2020 minutes and the November 24, 2020 minutes as corrected. Approved 16 yea - 0 nay.**

4. Committee Reports:

a. Governance Committee: Ricky Robinson

1. Exam Proposal (take the second exam (the "ratings exam") in the same year the football season is played)

A proposal was presented to the Governance Committee to change the By-laws Article 3: MEMBERSHIP POLICIES, Section 2: Examinations – Paragraph: B to take the second exam (the “ratings exam”) in the same year the football season is played.

The Governance Committee met on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and voted 4 – 0 to recommend to the Board that the By-laws be changed as follows:

*The day of the annual meeting a second exam will be taken to be used in calculating the official’s ratings for the ~~following~~ **current** year which will be used for assignments in a varsity game.*

Strike the word, “following” and insert the word, “current.”

Ricky, on recommendation of the Governance Committee, moved adoption of the change to the SCFOA By-laws. No second was required.

Questions were raised regarding the official’s (peer) ratings for those officials option out of the 2020 season due to the Covid virus.

The recommendation was temporarily withdrawn pending decisions on open questions from Board members concerning Official’s (peer) Ratings for those opting out of the 2020 season, All-Star games selection, District Meeting and Cooperation points and SCFOA (experience) Credit

**Motion by Jeff Cockrell, Second by Garrick Messer: Use 2019 official’s (peer) ratings for officials who opted out of the 2020 season due to the Covid virus. Approved 16 yea – 0 nay.**

It was understood by the Board, the Shrine Bowl and Touchtone Energy Bowl (North-South All Star) game officials would be selected in same year the football season is played beginning in 2022, if the recommendation of the Governance Committee passed. No vote was taken. No objections were voiced.

It was understood by the Board, District Meetings and Cooperation points would be based on August 1 of the previous year to July 31 on the current year, if the recommendation of the Governance Committee passed. No vote was taken. No objections were voiced.

**Motion by Garrick Messer, Second by Jeff Cockrell: SCFOA Credit would be granted for those officials who opted out of the 2020 season due to the Covid virus if dues were paid to SCHSL. Approved 9 yea – 8 nay.** It is noted the vote was 8 yea and 8 nay and the President exercised his right to break the tie.

The recommendation of the Governance Committee proposal to take the second exam in the same season the football season is played was restated by the chair of the committee Ricky Robinson.

A proposal was presented to the Governance Committee to change the By-laws Article 3: MEMBERSHIP POLICIES, Section 2: Examinations – Paragraph: B to take the second exam (the “ratings exam”) in the same year the football season is played.

The Governance Committee met on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and voted 4 – 0 to recommend to the Board that the By-laws be changed as follows:

*The day of the annual meeting a second exam will be taken to be used in calculating the official’s ratings for the ~~following~~ **current** year which will be used for assignments in a varsity game.*

Strike the word, “following” and insert the word, “current.”

**Ricky, on recommendation of the Governance Committee, moved adoption of the change to the SCFOA By-laws. No second was required. Recommendation passed 13 yea – 3 nay.**

2. Experience Point Years Change:

A proposal was presented to the Governance Committee to change the By-laws, Article 4: CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES, Section 3: Ratings, to reduce the SCFOA Credit (Experience Points) from 7 years to 5 years.

The Governance Committee met on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and voted 4 – 0 to recommend to the Board to keep the SCFOA Credit (Experience Points) as is, at seven years.

The Committee believes seven years allows the opportunity to gain on field experience and gradually gain playoff experience from early rounds to championship games and progress to All-star games.

**Ricky, on recommendation of the Governance Committee, moved to keep the SCFOA Credit (Experience Points) as is, at seven years. No second was required. Recommendation passed 13 yea – 3 nay.**

b. Mechanics Committee: Tim Cahill

Each proposal listed was properly recommended and moved by the Chairman of the Mechanics Committee on behalf of the Mechanics Committee for inclusion in the SCFOA Mechanics Manual. No second was required. Full proposal attached as part of the minutes.

Mechanics Proposals Vote:

1. POSITIONING OF REFEREE ON FIELD GOALS AND TRYS  
Approved 15 yea – 1 nay.
2. SIGNALS ON FIELD GOALS AND TRYS  
Defeated 15 yea – 1 nay.



3. POSITIONING ON PENALTY ENFORCEMENT  
Approved 13 yea – 3 nay.
4. BACK JUDGE AND FAIR CATCHES
5. POSITIONING ON PUNTS: BACK JUDGE  
Proposals 4 & 5 were combined.  
Approved 16 yea – 0 nay.
6. EDITORIAL CHANGE: REFEREE AND SCRIMMAGE KICKS OUT OF BOUNDS  
Approved 15 yea – 0 nay.
7. EDITORIAL CHANGE: READY FOR PLAY FOLLOWING A SCRIMMAGE KICK  
Approved 16 yea – 0 nay.
8. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE AND SCRIMMAGE KICKS OUT OF BOUNDS  
Approved 16 yea – 0 nay.
9. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE PUNT COVERAGE AND OUT OF BOUNDS  
Defeated 1 yea – 15 nay.
10. EDITORIAL CHANGE: RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORWARD AND BACKWARD PASSES  
Approved with deletion of “quick” and insertion of “immediate”: 16 yea – 0 nay.
11. EDITORIAL CHANGE: FORWARD PASS COVERAGE FOR BACK JUDGES AND WINGS  
*Withdrawn*
12. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE SIGNAL ON INCOMPLETE PASS  
Defeated 7 yea – 9 nay.
13. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE SIGNAL ON COMPLETE PASS  
Defeated 5 yea – 11 nay.
14. EDITORIAL CHANGE: UMPIRE TOUCHDOWN SIGNAL  
Approved 16 yea – 0 nay.
15. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BEAN BAGS AND FREE KICKS  
Approved 11 yea – 5 nay.
16. POSITIONING ON KICK OFFS: UMPIRE, LINE JUDGE AND BACK JUDGE  
Defeated 4 yea – 12 nay.

17. EDITORIAL CHANGE: FACIAL HAIR

Defeated 4 yea – 12 nay.

18. USE OF WHISTLE TO INDICATE READY FOR PLAY

*Withdrawn*

19. WING OFFICIALS AND FORWARD PASS COVERAGE

Withdrawn as a proposal and changed to a Point of Emphasis by the Chairman of the Committee

c. Scholarship: Keith Hajnal

Keith reported there were two applicants for the two scholarships to be awarded and the appropriate qualifications were in the process of being made.

d. Hall of Fame: Brian Shealy, no report.

e. All-Star Games Committee: Brian Shealy, no report.

f. Budget Committee: Doug Hudson

Doug presented the proposed budget for this year which had a projected spending of \$7,795 and a projected ending balance of \$18,497. The fee to prepare SCFOA tax return was corrected from \$200 to \$250 and it was decided by vote of the Board to add \$500 to the budget to pay for collecting the data for the Officials Ratings, enter the test score and ratings in Arbiter by a member of the SCHSL staff.

The changes would give a projected spending of \$8,345 and a projected balance of \$17,947.

**Motion by Sam Felder, Second by Brian Shealy to add \$500 to the Budget to pay a member of the SCHSL staff to collect the data for the Officials Ratings, enter the test score and ratings in Arbiter. Motion passed 15 yea – 1 nay.**

**Motion by Garrick Messer, Second by Darryl Jackson to accept the budget for 2021 with changes. Motion passed 16 yea – 0 nay.**

g. Website: Ryan Smith

In Ryan's absence Paul advised the Board that then new website was ready to be turned on as soon as a few glitches were solved. The Board had been sent the temporary website link a few week ago and only a few Board members responded with comments and suggestions.

**Motion by Tim Cahill, Second by Garrick Messer to turn on the new website when ready. Motion passed 16 yea – 0 nay.**

h. Review Committee: Jeff Nettles

Jeff advised the Review Committee had 52 requests for ratings in 2020. The guidelines put in place for ratings and approved by the Board last year are on the SCFOA website. Lastly, Jeff advised the Review Committee for 2021 were Jeff Nettles, John Harley, and Marshall Connor.

5. New Business/Proposals:

a. Darryl Jackson:

1. If a district(s) does not have representation for any assigned field position in any of the state championship games, a maximum of 1 official from each non represented district shall be assigned by the Commissioner of Officials as either the game clock operator or the 25/40 second clock operator.

The Board was reminded the state championship assignments/selections are under the control of the SCHSL. Recommendations for the clock positions could be made by Directors. No formal action was taken by the Board.

2. That the SCFOA Board of Directors create and add the office of Parliamentarian to the SCFOA Constitution and By-laws. This position would be for the purposes of providing guidance to the Board of Directors on the legality and/or direction, as required by Roberts Rules of Order, of any matters that require a vote. The Parliamentarian position would not have voting privileges on any agenda items. This position should require an appointment by the SCFOA membership, or a contracted legal firm hired by the SCFOA. Mileage could be considered for a representative from the membership.

Brian reminded the Board a Parliamentarian the President the President may appoint a Parliamentarian. No formal action was taken by the Board.

3. That the following requirements be added to the By-laws for the office of the secretary. If the secretary does not have user rights to the website, then the secretary shall forward information to person that has those user rights.

- a. Publish on the SCFOA website the calendar date of all SCFOA Board meetings 72 hours prior to the meeting date.

- b. Publish on the SCFOA.net website the approved minutes from recent board meetings within 2 weeks after the board meeting date.

It was recommended the Secretary have access to the website and to add meeting dates when they become available and to add a draft of the minutes once they are reviewed by the Board to the website. No formal action was taken by the Board.



c. Mike Cohen: Possibilities of crews within districts assigned games by SCHSL.

The Board was reminded that booking of varsity games is done by the SCHSL and this request could create issues for the SCHSL.

d. Doug Hudson: 2021 Ratings Exam.

**Motion by Garrick Messer, Second by Cary Collins to have the Executive Committee write the exam for 2021. Motion passed 8 years – 7 nays – 1 abstain.**

e. Doug Hudson: 15 year Certificate and 25 year Plaques. Must have worked 15 years for the Certificate and 25 years for the Plaques.

Doug requested the Directors provide this information to the Secretary as soon as possible so the plaques could be orders and the certificates prepared.

f. Other new business.

Garrick proposed a Ratings Committee be formed to develop a process to calculate the ratings for SCFOA and provide the ratings to the SCHSL. The President would appoint the members of the committee.

Motion by Garrick Messer to form the Ratings Committee as proposed. The motion received no second. No further action was taken by the Board.

6. Old Business: No Old Business was presented.

7. Commissioner's Report: Charlie Wentzky

Charlie reported: The Arbiter fee was \$35 per person for assignors and Directors needed access. Registration for football would open April 2<sup>nd</sup> and close May 14 for registration. Late registration would be from May 15 to August 2<sup>nd</sup> and then close. The registration fee is the same for all officials including directors, The one new rule change for 2021: Blocking below the waist now requires the block to begin immediately following the snap. Charlie commented that we (SCFOA) need to be consistent across the state with following the mechanics. Changes should not be made in pregame or during the game to the approved mechanics.

8. Adjourn:

**Motion by Tim Cahill, Second by Cary Collins to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.**

  
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**Paul R. Pool, SCFOA Secretary**

7-30-2021

**Date**

## **Governance Committee:**

### **Exam Proposal**

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The Governance Committee met on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and voted 4 – 0 to recommend to the Board that the By-laws be changed as follows:

*The day of the annual meeting a second exam will be taken to be used in calculating the official's ratings for the following **current** year which will be used for assignments in a varsity game.*

Strike the word, “following” and insert the word, “current.”

Mr. President: By recommendation of the committee, I move adoption of the change to the SCFOA By-laws as just read.

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### **Experience Point Years Change:**

A proposal was presented to the Governance Committee to change the By-laws, Article 4: CONDUCT AND RESPONSIBILITIES, Section 3: Ratings, to reduce the SCFOA Credit (Experience Points) from 7 years to 5 years.

The Governance Committee met on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and voted 4 – 0 to recommend to the Board to keep the SCFOA Credit (Experience Points) as is, at seven years.

The Committee believes seven years allows the opportunity to gain on field experience and gradually gain playoff experience from early rounds to championship games and progress to All-star games.

Mr. President: By recommendation of the committee, I move to keep the SCFOA Credit (Experience Points) as is, at seven years.



**2021 SCFOA**  
**MECHANICS COMMITTEE**  
MECHANIC CHANGES AND PROPOSALS:



**FINAL**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

To the SCFOA Board of Directors and Officers:

The SCFOA Mechanics Committee hereby submits its recommendations for changes to the official SCFOA Mechanics Manual. Much thoughtful consideration was taken by the members of the Committee, and represent changes and additions that are meant to improve the officiating of its members and grow the organization.

When reviewing all of the proposed changes submitted by the membership, the Committee considered whether or not the change would actually improve the level of officiating. In many instances, a proposed change provided an even greater obstacle to consistency, and was therefore rejected.

We feel that each of the proposed changes provides an improvement over the current mechanic, and should be supported.

Respectfully,

Tim Cahill, Chairman  
Mike Cohen  
Same Felder  
Granderson James  
Gary Lukridge  
Larry Saunders  
Ryan Smith

**PROPOSED CHANGES APPROVED**  
(by the Mechanics Committee)

**WING OFFICIALS AND FORWARD PASS COVERAGE**

**\*\* (Withdrawn as a proposal and changed to a Point of Emphasis by the Chairman of the Committee) \*\***

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** After snap: Observe keys and read tackle to determine run or pass. Stay on the line of scrimmage until ball carrier crosses line of scrimmage or until receiver(s) on your side of the field have gone at least 10-12 yards downfield. Move down sideline as required to cover pass on your side of the field.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that officials must be trained to recognize their keys for help in determining whether it is a passing or running play. Remaining on the LOS permits the official to properly read the play and be in position to rule on pass or run. Officials who move down field too quickly on a play that develops into a run are in poor position to rule on forward progress. Additionally they find themselves "swimming upstream" to get back into position. This is very dangerous position for them to be in. Wing officials must always be alert for the possibility that the quarterback will take off running and maintain proper positioning to cover both the key and the runner.

## **1. POSITIONING OF REFEREE ON FIELD GOALS AND TRYS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Replace: “[Referee] Position on the same yard line as the holder and at least 5 yards to the side, facing the holder and in a position to see the holder receive the ball when snapped.”

With: “Position three to five yards deeper than the holder and at least five yards to the side, facing the holder, and in position to see the holder receive the ball when snapped.”

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that it put the Referee in better position to cover a broken play, especially if the ball is returned towards A’s goal line.

## **2. SIGNALS ON FIELD GOALS AND TRYS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** If a field goal is unsuccessful **and** breaks the plane of the goal line, the Back Judge and Line Judge will signal “no score”, while the Referee only signals for a touchback.

**COMMENT(S):** Currently, the Referee is to signal both the unsuccessful score and touchback. Committee felt that the Referee’s signal of “no score” was redundant.

## **3. POSITIONING ON PENALTY ENFORCEMENT**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** During penalty enforcement, the Line Judge holds the enforcement spot and the Linesman mirrors the Umpire in stepping off the yardage.

This is a change in the current mechanic, which calls for the Line Judge to step off the yardage, along with the Umpire, while the Linesman holds the enforcement spot.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that this change allows the Linesman ample time to reset the chains and should reduce delays in the Linesman getting the chains and box set for the restart of play.

## **4. BACK JUDGE AND FAIR CATCHES**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** [Back Judge] “When a Fair Catch signal is made:

- Shift your position and your attention so that the receiver(s) can be observed following the kick, while maintaining the proper distance (5 – 7 yards) from the receiver(s).
- If the fair catch IS CAUGHT by the receiver, sound your whistle ONLY after the fair catch has been secured and mark the spot. Inform the Referee that a fair catch was made.
- If fair catch IS NOT CAUGHT, maintain proper distant from receiver(s) and observe action of both ball and receiver. The Goal Line is still your responsibility.”

**COMMENTS(S):** Committee felt that this gives all of the elements of the fair catch—the ball and all receivers—better coverage.



## **5. POSITIONING ON PUNTS: BACK JUDGE**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Back Judge should position three to five yards behind and five to seven yards to the wide side of the deepest receiver. Back Judge should not be in a position between two deep receivers (“splitting the receivers”).

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that too many Back Judges were leaving too many areas of the field uncovered during punt coverage.

## **6. EDITORIAL CHANGE: REFEREE AND SCRIMMAGE KICKS OUT OF BOUNDS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Change to: “[Referee] If the (scrimmage) kick goes out of bounds in flight: Short kick—Indicate out of bounds spot to the covering official by signaling the spot with a downward chop.”

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that requiring the Referee to run to the out of bounds spot was not practical.

## **7. EDITORIAL CHANGE: READY FOR PLAY FOLLOWING A SCRIMMAGE KICK**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the requirement that the Linesman give the Referee a ready for play signal following a punt.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that the Referee should become aware if the Linesman is not ready for the next down by his positioning, etc. It is the responsibility of the Referee to know if the crew is in proper position and ready for the next down.

## **8. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE AND SCRIMMAGE KICKS OUT OF BOUNDS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the requirement that the Back Judge should assist the Linesman with the out of bounds spot if the kick goes out of bounds in flight.

Referee should assist the Linesman with the out of bounds spot by lining him or her up and using the “chop” signal at the out of bounds spot.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that the old mechanic was not being utilized and called for the Back Judge to help with something he or she would not be able to assist with adequately.

## **9. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE PUNT COVERAGE AND OUT OF BOUNDS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the requirement that the Back Judge cover long or deep scrimmage kicks out of bounds on the Linesman’s side. Change the responsibility for all out of

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that the old mechanic was not being utilized and called for the Back Judge to help with something he or she would not be able to assist with adequately. bounds scrimmage kicks to the wing officials.

## **10. EDITORIAL CHANGE: RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORWARD AND BACKWARD PASSES**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the responsibility for ruling on whether a ~~quick~~ pass, immediately after the snap, by the quarterback is forward or backward from the Referee and placing the responsibility on the wing officials. Further, primary responsibility for this ruling would fall on the wing officials from which the pass is moving away.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that this change provided the best opportunity to make the correct call consistently, especially on passes thrown in the direction of the Referee.

## **11. EDITORIAL CHANGE: FORWARD PASS COVERAGE FOR BACK JUDGES AND WINGS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Back Judge: Change

“Be ready to rule on all passes near the goal line and end line” to:

“Be ready to rule on passes near the goal line and end line”.

Also for Back Judge: Remove

“If the pass is complete: Move in to spot the ball.” And add this requirement to both the Line Judge and Linesman’s responsibilities.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that wing officials need to be trained to take this responsibility, especially as they prepare for seven-man mechanics. Only in instances where the Back Judge is passed—which we hope is never—should the Back Judge get the spot.

This change makes the Back Judge the secondary on spots for completed forward passes, with the wing officials assuming primary responsibility.

Exact language will have to be adopted by the Committee.

## **12. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE SIGNAL ON INCOMPLETE PASS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the requirement for the Back Judge to signal for the clock to stop following an incomplete pass. Change to “Give the incomplete pass signal”. Remove “E followed by the time out signal.”

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that this was no longer the proper way to stop the clock, as the incomplete pass signal accomplishes the same thing.

## **13. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BACK JUDGE SIGNAL ON COMPLETE PASS**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the requirement for the Back Judge to signal for the clock to stop following a completed pass and the ball is dead beyond the line-to-gain.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that the wing officials were in the best position to make this signal.

#### 14. EDITORIAL CHANGE: UMPIRE TOUCHDOWN SIGNAL

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the option for the Umpire to signal touchdown on all scrimmage plays.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that the sole responsibility for the touchdown should fall on the wing officials.

#### 15. EDITORIAL CHANGE: BEAN BAGS AND FREE KICKS

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Remove the requirement that all officials hold the bean bag in their hand during a free kick.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that this requirement is not needed. If a bean bag is needed during the play, it can be grabbed quickly enough.

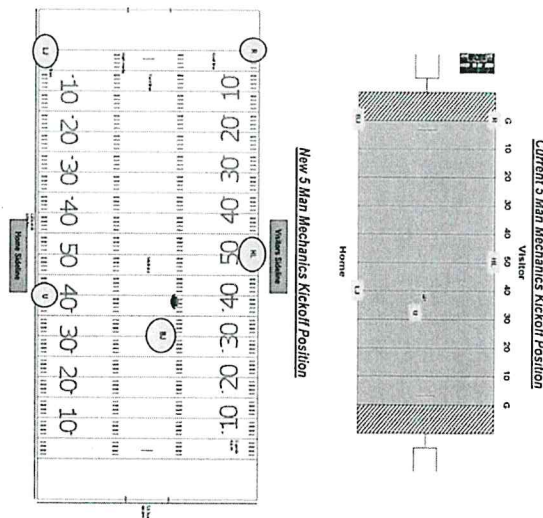
#### 16. POSITIONING ON KICK OFFS: UMPIRE, LINE JUDGE AND BACK JUDGE

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Adjust positioning on kickoffs as follows:

- Referee: No change
- Umpire: K's line, on LJ side of the field
- Linesman: No change
- Line Judge: R's goal line, opposite the Referee
- Back Judge: With the kicker

**COMMENT(S):** This lineup will give us better goal line coverage (to K's goal line). The play will be coming at the BJ, which is usual during scrimmage play. It also puts the BJ in great position for lining up for the ensuing scrimmage play. This formation also does not force the action away from the Umpire. He or she will still have the action coming in their direction.

Finally, this gives us the best chance to get K's goal line covered. The Back Judge is used to maintaining that 20-yard or so cushion, and there should be very few instances in which he or she would not be able to be at the goal line before the runner.





## **17. EDITORIAL CHANGE: FACIAL HAIR**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** Officials are permitted to wear a mustache, goatee or beard that is maintained at a length and pattern so as not to detract from the official's professional appearance. Beards must be trimmed and shall not be permitted below the Adam's apple or on the neck. Hair, beard and/or mustache will not give the appearance of being ragged, unkempt, or extreme in appearance.

Sideburns (worn without a beard) shall not extend below the earlobe, shall at no point be more than 1 1/2 inches wide, and shall be trimmed horizontally across the bottom.

Mustaches shall be neatly trimmed and shall not exceed more than one half inch beyond the corners of the mouth or extend more than 1/4 inch below the corners of the mouth. Mustaches shall not cover any part of the upper lip.

Piercings are prohibited.

**COMMENT(S):** The trends and customs of today are far different from those that existed several year—even decades—ago. Officials with well-groomed facial hair can still provide a professional appearance and be perceived in a positive light. Removing the restrictions on facial hair will also allow the SCFOA to recruit a new generation of officials.

## **18. USE OF WHISTLE TO INDICATE READY FOR PLAY**

*(WITHDRAWN by Chairman of the Committee)*

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** End of Down Mechanics/Signals:

Following a scrimmage play when the line-to-gain is reached, the 40-second play clock starts in accordance with the rules. Once the down indicator is set the Referee will signal the ball ready for play using the whistle and proper signal(s). When the ball is downed out of bounds, NFHS Signal 1 will be used to signal the ball ready for play accompanied by a whistle. When the ball is downed inbounds, NFHS Signals 1, 2 in one continuous motion will be used to signal the ball ready for play accompanied by a whistle and starting the game clock. The Umpire after spotting the ball will move back to position prior to ready for play.

**COMMENT(S):** The current mechanic requires the U to remain over the ball. However in actuality this is not happening. In addition, having the U wait before moving could result in them (U) not being in position when the ball is snapped. Thus they are not focused on officiating, but protecting themselves while moving out of harms way. While ideally SCFOA Umpires would have the agility to move quickly into position, in actuality many Umpires are not able to move quickly. This mechanic change focuses on what is actually happening on the field.

By having the R use the whistle, the U is free to move to position earlier and the R uses the whistle to communicate with A when the ball is ready for play. This will decrease the likelihood of A snapping the ball prior to ready for play.

One final note: Using the whistle provides consistency with mechanic following all official's timeouts. While the play clock may be 40 or 25 seconds, the same mechanic (ready for play with whistle) will be used.

## **19. WING OFFICIALS AND FORWARD PASS COVERAGE**

**\*\* (Withdrawn as a proposal and changed to a Point of Emphasis by the Chairman of the Committee) \*\***

**PROPOSED CHANGE:** After snap: Observe keys and read tackle to determine run or pass. Stay on the line of scrimmage until ball carrier crosses line of scrimmage or until receiver(s) on your side of the field have gone at least 10-12 yards downfield. Move down sideline as required to cover pass on your side of the field.

**COMMENT(S):** Committee felt that officials must be trained to recognize their keys for help in determining whether it is a passing or running play. Remaining on the LOS permits the official to properly read the play and be in position to rule on pass or run. Officials who move down field too quickly on a play that develops into a run are in poor position to rule on forward progress. Additionally they find themselves "swimming upstream" to get back into position. This is very dangerous position for them to be in. Wing officials must always be alert for the possibility that the quarterback will take off running and maintain proper positioning to cover both the key and the runner.

## SCFOA Budget: 2021

Below is the proposed budget for SCFOA 2021:

Proposed Budget for 2021

Current Balance	\$26,352
Allocated To HOF For Past 2 Years	\$7000
Total Amount Available for SCFOA Jan 2021	\$19,352
Allocated To HOF 2021	\$3,500
Total Amount Available After HOF Deduction	\$15,852
Income From SCHSL (\$15 X 696 Officials)	\$10,440
Total Amount For SCFOA Proposed Budget	\$26,292
Total Proposed Sending For 2021	
1. Scholarships	\$2,000
2. Website	\$250
3. State Finals Plaques (45 x \$14)	\$630
4. State Finals Gifts (45 x \$25)	\$1,125
5. Mileage for 2 Board Meetings (2x850)	\$1,700
6. Fee to prepare SCFOA tax return	\$250
7. Plaques at the Clinic	\$1000
8. Memorials	\$300
9. Clinic Hotel Rooms for SCFOA Officers (4x125)	\$500
10. Zoom Meeting	\$140
11. Calculation of Rating	<u>\$500.00</u>
Projected Budget Spending	\$8,345
Projected Ending Balance 2021	\$17,947
Projected Balance to Carry To 2022	\$17,947