

South Carolina Football Officials Association Board Meeting  
January 27 ,2025  
SCHSL Office: 5:00 PM

D1: Chip Dickert	D10: Greg Hawkins
D2: Dart Collins	D11: Keith Hajnal
D3: Brad Smith	D12: Ricky Robinson
D4: Alan Boatwright	D13: David Pitts (Virtual)
D5: Garrick Messer	Pres: Gary Lukridge
D6: Darryl Jackson	V-Pes: Lee Smith
D7: Bryant Williams	P-Pres: Kyle Boczkowski (Virtual)
D8: Tim Cahill	Sec: Alphonso Smith
D9: Eric McKnight	Charlie Wentzky
	Steve Sawyer (Virtual)

- I. Call to Order – Gary Lukridge
  - Invocation- Gary Lukridge
  - Introduction of New Directors – Gary Lukridge
    - Dart Collins
    - David Pitts
    - Tim Cahill
  
- II. Approval Of Minutes
  - January 26,2024
  - July 27, 2024
  - August 26, 2024
    - Motion to Approve: Darryl Jackson
    - Second: Brad Smith

- Motion Approved 16-0
- III. Approval of Committee Assignments – Gary Lukridge
  - Motion to Approve: Chip Dickert
  - Second: Garrick Messer
  - Motion Approved 16-0
- IV. Commissioner’s Report -Charlie Wentzky
  - 2025 Assignments as week 1-4 are possible
  - Reviewed Coaches Survey on Officiating
  - Officiating Weeks 1-4 (50% thought it was the same)
  - Officiation Last 7 weeks (55% thought it was the same)
  - 50% Satisfied with Officiating depends on Crew
  - 20% Dissatisfied with Officiating depends on Crew
  - Areas where officials need to Improve (Consistency, Communication)
  - More Online Training of official’s years 1-4
  - Recommended expansion of State Finals Crew to Top 10
  - Recommended Officials who move positions are not eligible for finals year of move.
  - Discussion:
  - Chip Dickert: Recommended a youtube channel for training.
  - Steve Sawyer: It is not luck some officials score better on exams than others they put in the work.
  - Bryant McKnight: Should be expanded to allow more diversity.
  - Chip Dickert: Competition is part of it. Officials are competitive.
  - Ricky Robinson: Everyone works hard to be the best. They should be rewarded for being the best.
  - Charlie: Federation Rules will be released in Mid-February.
- v. SCHSL Officials Representative: Steve Sawyer
  - Honor of being on the Committee
  - Please Contact him with any recommendations and he will present them to the Executive Committee.

vi. Committee Reports

- Mechanics Committee- Lee Smith
  - 10 or Less Proposals
  - Completed 1-2 Meetings
- Hall of Fame Committee- Bruce Hulion
  - March 15<sup>th</sup> Hall of Fame Banquet.
  - Since 1999 Only 88 Officials have gone into HOF
  - Criteria for HOF will not change.
  - Chris Jones has HOF Tickers
  - 113 Members in HOF Since 1946
- Governance Committee- Darry Jackson/Ricky Robinson
  - Nothing to report currently.
  
- All Star Committee -Keith Hajnal
  - Nothing to Report currently.
  
- Budge/Finance Committee- Garrick Messer
  - Presented 2024 Review of Budget/2025 Budget
  - It was decided HOF Money cannot be used for anything but HOF per our Bylaws.
- Scholarship Committee: Alan Boatwright
  - 1 Application for 2025
- Review Board-Mark Bishop
  - No Review Board members are present.

vii. Discussion Items:

- A. . Approved 2025 Due Structure (Ratified by Membership vote on 7/27/24)

### **Previous SCFOA MEMBERSHIP DUES CLASSIFICATION:**

Officers and Directors	\$60.00
Members last year who registers prior to the deadline	\$60.00
Those who were not members last year	\$65.00
Members last year who registered after the deadline set by the HSL (Includes \$15.00 late fee)	\$75.00
Members who register after the deadline set by the SCHSL	\$75.00
Returned check fee	\$25.00
Makeup Clinic fee (\$10.00 for SCFOA, \$10.00 to SCHSL)	\$20.00

Refund for resignation prior to August 1st: ½ the regular dues paid. Refund for resignation on/after August 1st: no refund.

Dues include the cost of membership in the National Federation of Interscholastic Officials Association and liability insurance, the South Carolina High School League (Arbiter) certification fee, a rule book, and a casebook. New members will also receive a copy of "Football Rules Simplified and Illustrated." If these costs are increased by the provider, they will be added to the dues paid to the SCFOA.

### **Approved Changes:**

#### **2025 SCFOA MEMBERSHIP DUES AND CLASSIFICATION:**

All SCFOA Members(including new and returning)	<b>\$75.00</b>
Members who register after the deadline(new and returning) (Includes \$15.00 late fee)	<b>\$90.00</b>
Returned check fee	\$25.00
Makeup Clinic fee (\$10.00 for SCFOA, \$10.00 to SCHSL)	\$20.00

Refund for resignation prior to August 1st: 50% the regular dues paid.  
Refund for resignation on/after August 1st: No refund.

*Note: Dues include the cost of membership in the National Federation of Interscholastic Officials Association and liability insurance, the South Carolina High School League (Arbiter) certification fee, a rule book, and a casebook. New members will also receive a copy of "Football Rules Simplified and Illustrated." If these costs are increased by the provider, they will be added to the dues paid to the SCFOA.*

B. . By-Law Modification for Playoff Assignments and All-Star Games.

- Chip Dickert By Law Modification Presented to Committee
- District 5 By Law and All-star modification presented to the Committee.
  - Discussion
  - Bryant Williams wants C. Wentzky to assign all officials regardless of ratings.
  - Steve Sawyer: Officials need to meet criteria have ability to earn a spot not hope you get picked.
  - Eric McKnight: Basketball does 2 and out and opens the pool of officials.
  - Gary Lukridge: Charlies does a great job picking the crew and putting the games together.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SCHSL: Proposed Changes 2025

The following recommendations have been approved by the SCFOA Board of Directors as suggestions to the SCHSL when selecting officials for playoffs, post season games and certain games utilizing seven-man ~~crews~~crews.

A. Selection of Officials:

On certain regular season games, as well as some post season games, the SCHSL may utilize seven- man field crews. The selection of the basic five officials (R, U, L, LJ, and BJ) for ~~seven-man~~seven-man crews typically is, and has historically been, based on rankings at each of these basic five positions even though all selections are at the complete discretion of the ~~Commissioner of Officials~~ SCHSL designee. Selection of officials for the 6th and 7th field positions (FJ and SJ respectively) on seven-man crews is at the complete discretion of the ~~Commissioner of Officials~~ SCHSL designee. This selection of the 6th and 7th field position will be made from the pool of officials viewed by the ~~Commissioner~~ SCHSL designee as qualified and capable of working the assignment with limited regard to the official's current SCFOA ranking. For state finals selection, however, eligibility for inclusion in the pool of officials considered for the 6th and 7th field positions requires an official to be ranked in the top 15 at their respective position.

B. State Finals Officials Selection.

For selection as a State Finals Official, the top eight eligible rated officials at each position will be assigned a State Finals game. The assignment may be on the field or as an E.C.O or P.C.O. and will be selected by the SCHSL designee.

B.C. Consecutive championship games allowed to officiate:

Starting with the 2010 South Carolina Football State Championship games, no No official may work more than three (3) consecutive state championship games, regardless of the classification or their position.

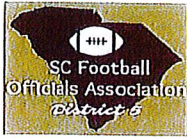
C.D. Side Judge/Field Judge selection for championships:

Starting with the 2010 South Carolina Football State Championship games, no official may work consecutive state championship games at the Field Judge and/or Side Judge positions.

D.E. Use of carry-over provision by an official:

An official must work a **minimum of seven (7) varsity games on the during field during** the regular season to be eligible for a play-off assignment.

If an official works six (6) or less varsity games on the field during the regular season, then the official will revert to the previous year's ~~overall-rating~~peer rating for the subsequent football season. This "carry-over" provision may be used by an official only **ONCE** during their officiating career. During the football season when ~~the official~~the official is using this provision, he/she forfeits the opportunity to officiate the Shrine Bowl game, the North-South All-Star Game, or any playoff contest beyond the quarterfinals. The carry-over rating will not be used to allow an official to gain an all-star game or a state semi-final or state final game.



## District 5 Playoff/All Star Proposals

**Proposal 1:** Referees and Umpires are not allowed to work more than 2 consecutive state championship games at their rated position.

Rational: In general, Referees and Umpires have few on field possibilities when compared to other positions. The opportunities for Referees and Umpires to work the Side Judge or Field Judge position are limited due to numerous factors including mobility. Reducing the number of consecutive games offers more opportunities to deserving officials.

**Proposal 2:** Starting with the Quarterfinal round, use 8 man on field crews to incorporate a Center Judge (CJ) position. The CJ position would be reserved for rated Referees and Umpires.

Rational: Adding a CJ position would give Referees and Umpires more on field opportunities and reserve the Side Judge and Field Judge slots for officials more accustomed to working the sideline or deep down field. The NCAA mechanics could be used for the 8 man crew.

**Proposal 3:** Officials moving to a new rated position would NOT be eligible for a State Final and/or All Star Game.

Rational: With the new rating system of using current year scores, officials moving to a new position are now eligible to work State Finals and All Star games immediately. Officials moving to a new position should have a full year of experience prior to becoming eligible for working a State Final and/or All Star game at their rated position.

**Proposal 4:** District Directors will compile a list of officials willing to accept a playoff ECO assignment. There will be no penalty if an official declares in advance their unwillingness to work an ECO assignment. However, if an official declines a ECO playoff assignment without a written excuse then 2 cooperation points will be following year's rating.

Rational: Some officials are not willing to work ECO assignments. It is less work for SCHSL staff to know in advance who is and who is not willing to work as a ECO. It is better for crew morale to have all officials invested and interested in their assignment.

- Chip Dickert: Recommendation to Table Discussion
- Darryl Jackson: Governance Committee to Review both proposals.

C. 2025 SCFOA Annual Clinic and Exam -Garrick Messer  
Presented Proposal for Board to Consider. All Day Clinic at  
Columbia Convention Center.  
Cost Approximately 10,500.00  
All Day event.

➤ Thoughts:

**District 1:** Excited, concerned about the cost and change of annual meeting per By Laws.

**District 2:** Great Concept, trying to be consistent. Concerned about all day event and cost.

**District 3:** In favor, we must do something to get better, concerned about the cost.

**District 4:** Moving too Fast. His District voted against this concept.

**District 5:** In favor

**District 6:** Like Idea, Leaders of Classes should be SCFOA Officials.

**District 7:** Like Idea, Consistency is needed. Concerned about participation.

**District 8:** In Favor, Participation cannot be required. Need a permanent clinic committee, do not pack too much information into the clinic. It won't be perfect but let's make it better

**District 9:** In Favor, Great for our officials

**District 10:** Great idea, By Law change would be required. There would have to be voluntary attendance. His district voted against this 37-2. We would be paying 1300.00 an hour to pass out certificates.

**District 11:** In favor, Great to get everyone on same page.

**District 12:** Concerned about cost and participation. His district is not in favor of this event.



**District 13:** Left Meeting.

D. North/South All-Star Games and Shrine Bowl Dialogue

- Concerning the rooms and accommodations for officials for All Star Games.
- This topic is to be discussed with All Star Committee.

VIII. Presidents Report.

- Directors need to show up for their officials at All Star Games and State Finals.
- Newsletter, please encourage your officials to join.
- High School State Championship games
  - Good Venue
  - 11/12 Officials first year finals
  - Level of officiating was outstanding.

IX. Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Chip Dickert
- Second: Darryl Jackson
- Motion Passed 14-0