

# South Carolina Football Officials Association Board Meeting

March 31 ,2025

SCHSL Office 5:00 PM

D1: Chip Dickert

D11: Keith Hajnal

D2: Dart Collins

D12: Ricky Robinson

D3: Brad Smith

D13: David Pitts (Video)

D4: Alan Boatwright

Pres: Gary Lukridge

D5: Garrick Messer

V-Pes: Lee Smith

D6: Darryl Jackson

P-Pres: Absent

D7: Bryant Williams (Video)

Sec: Alphonso Smith

D8: Tim Cahill

Charlie Wentzky

D9: Eric McKnight

Steve Sawyer (Video)

D10: Greg Hawkins

Bruce Hulion

## I. Call to Order – Gary Lukridge

- Invocation- Gary Lukridge

## II. Approval Of Minutes

- February 2025
  - Motion to Approve: Chip Dickert
  - Second: Darryl Jackson
  - Motion Approved 15-0

III. Commissioner's Report -Charlie Wentzky

- Training Imperative/Everyone in the same place
  - Must teach rule application
  - Forward Progress Critical on Friday Night
  - Enforce Train wrecks/Obvious fouls
  - 2025 Rule on Mouthpiece has been set aside
  - Arm Sleeve Rule will start in 2027
  - Drones need to be off the field of play
  - Forward fumble rule is between goal lines not in endzone
  - Must be able to distinguish Muff or Backward Pass and Fumble
- Comments
- Alan Boatwright asked about legislation to dissolve SCHSL

IV. Committee Reports

- Mechanics Committee- Lee Smith
  - 2 Recommendations to the Board
  - 1. Use of Bean Bag
  - 2. Line Judge to be responsible for Penalty Report
  - Motion to Approve: Chip Dickert
  - Second: Darryl Jackson
  - 1. N 9. Y
  - 2. Y 10.Y
  - 3. Y 11.Y
  - 4. N 12.N
  - 5. N 13.Y
  - 6. Y VP Y
  - 7. Y SEC N
  - 8. Y

**Motion Passed 10-5**

- Hall of Fame Committee- Bruce Hulion
  - Banquet Held in 2025 to recognize the best officials
  - 125 Attendees
  - Most HOF attendees paid for tickets
  - Cost of HOF banquet will be going up
  - Photographer went up from 300.00 to 400.00
  - 2025 Class was 6 Inductees
  - 1 Nomination so far for next class
  - Plaques/Name Badges/Program/Picture provided to inductees.
  - 30,000 officials have been on field / 118 in SCFOA HOF
  
- Governance Committee- Darry Jackson/Ricky Robinson

#### **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.

##### **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 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 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 SCHSL designee. This selection of the 6th and 7th field position will be made from the pool of officials viewed by the 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.

*GC voted in favor the verbiage change from Commissioner of Officials to SCHSL Designee. Recommends proposed change to the SCFOA BOD.*

**A. State Finals Officials Selection – added language**

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.

*Requested added language failed in GC for a lack of motion.*

**B. Consecutive championship games allowed to officiate:**

No official may work more than three (3) consecutive state championship games, regardless of the classification or their position.

**Proposed Change:**

Reduce from 3 years to 2 years

*GC voted in favor to reduce to 2 years beginning in 2026. Recommend proposed change to the SCFOA BOD.*

**C- Side Judge/Field Judge selection for championships:**

Current Wording: 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

Proposed change: Starting with the 2025 SC Football State Championship games, an official may work 2 consecutive state championships games at the Field Judge and/or the Side Judge positions.

*GC voted in favor of the proposed change. Recommends the change to the SCFOA BOD.*

**D. Use of carry-over provision by an official: An official must work a minimum of seven (7) varsity games during the regular season to be eligible for a play-off assignment.**

If an official works six (6) or less varsity games during the regular season, then the official will revert to the previous year's overall 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 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.

If an official has circumstances in a later year where he/she officiates' six (6) or less varsity games during the regular season, then the carry-over rating provision will not be used for the next football season. In those cases, the official will be assigned a rating by the State Review Board under guidelines used for out-of-state transferring officials or those officials who are returning after more than one year of absence. In all cases the official will not be eligible for the Shrine Bowl, the NorthSouth All-Star Game, or any state playoff game beyond the quarterfinals (semi-finals or finals) for that football season where he/she is assigned a rating by the State Review Board

**Proposed change:**

An official must work a minimum of seven (7) varsity games on the 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 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 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.

If an official has circumstances in a later year where he/she officiates' six (6) or less varsity games during the regular season, then the carry-over rating provision will not be used for the next football season. In those cases, the official will be assigned a rating by the State Review Board under guidelines used for out-of-state transferring officials or those officials who are returning after more than one year of absence. In all cases the official will not be eligible for the Shrine Bowl, the North-South All-Star Game, or any state playoff game beyond the quarterfinals (semi-finals or finals) for that football season where he/she is assigned a rating by the State Review Board.

***GC voted to deny this proposed change.***

***On February 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM, the below By-Law requests were reviewed by the Governance Committee. The actions taken are listed in RED.***

1. Article 1, Section 6(B)

*Current Wording: The Commissioner shall receive all applications for membership that have been approved by the Director of the district where the applicant resides.*

*Editorial Change: The Commissioner shall receive all applications for membership.*

*Rational: The District Director no longer approves applications based on the current registration process.*

*GC originally voted in favor of this article. However, we were advised by Charlie that the editorial change will create an act of employment conflict for the league office. Therefore the GC does not recommend this article change.*

2. Article II, Section 1

*Current Wording: The annual meeting of the association shall be held on a Saturday in late July or early August at a place designated by the Board of Directors.*

*Proposed Change: The annual meeting of the association shall be held on a Saturday on a date and place designated by the Board of Directors.*

*Rational: Gives the Board of Directors greater flexibility to find the best location to meet the clinic needs.*

*GC voted against this article and does not recommend any proposed changes at this time to the BOD.*

3. Article III, Section 1(C)

*Current Wording: A membership year shall begin annually on January 1st, and end on the same date the next year following.*

*Editorial Change: A membership year shall begin annually on January 1st, and end on the December 31st of the same year.*

*Rational: A membership cannot begin and end on the same day.*



***GC voted in favor of this article and will recommend to the BOD for this proposed date change to occur.***

**4. Article III, Section 2**

***Current Wording:***

***A. To be certified, each official must take an online examination on the rules and mechanics of football. Members of the SCFOA must make a grade of 70 or above to be certified for officiating varsity games. Members will have five (5) opportunities to make a 70 or above before the deadline set by the Commissioner of Officials.***

***B. The day of the annual meeting a second exam will be taken to be used in calculating the official's ratings for the current year which will be used for assignments in a varsity game. If the officials' rating is too low for the varsity level, he/she will be used for "JV", "B", Jr. High and other such games.***

***Proposed Wording:***

***A. To be certified, each official must take an online examination on the rules and mechanics of football. Members of the SCFOA must make a grade of 70 or above to be certified for officiating varsity games. Members will have five (5) opportunities to make a 70 or above before the deadline set by the Commissioner of Officials. The initial score will be used for the exam score component of SCFOA ratings. SCHSL staff will give the initial scores to SCFOA Secretary to allow for computation of SCFOA ratings.***

***B. On date(s) and location(s) determined by the Board of Directors, certified officials will take a second exam used to identify potential Quarterfinal, Semi-Final, Final, and All-Star officials. SCFOA Secretary will calculate a second rating using the exam score and submit it to SCHSL by 1 Sept.***

***Rational: To maximize exam efficiency, using the certification exam for regular season ratings allows the Commissioner of Officials to compose a second exam to better identify officials who have a thorough understanding of the rules and mechanics. Officials not available or interested in working those games for any given year would not be required to take the second exam.***

***GC voted against this article and does not recommend any proposed changes at this time to the BOD.***

**5. Article III, Section 3(A)**

***Current Wording: All members shall conform to the mechanics and procedures prescribed by the SCFOA officials manual. An official who fails to attend the annual meeting or fails to take the written examination on the regularly scheduled date or both, shall have three (3) points automatically deducted from his/her officials rating for the following year. In addition, that member must attend the makeup clinic and examination and shall pay a fine as specified by the Board of Directors. In no event shall these fines be refunded. However, if such member missing the regular clinic, regular exam, or both, has a documented legitimate excuse, that member may appeal the deduction of those points to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall review and rule on these appeals under the published guidelines in the SCFOA directory.***

***Proposed Wording: All members shall conform to the mechanics and procedures prescribed by the SCFOA officials manual. An official who fails to attend the annual meeting shall have three (3) points automatically deducted from his/her officials rating. In addition, that member must attend the makeup clinic and shall pay a fine as specified by the Board of Directors. In no event shall these fines be refunded. However, if such member missing the annual meeting has a documented legitimate excuse, that member may appeal the deduction of those points to the Review Board. The Review Board shall review and rule on these appeals under the published guidelines in the SCFOA directory.***

***Rational: Striking "the following year" is an editorial change that corresponds with how ratings are currently calculated. For officials to work SCHSL sponsored games, officials will need to take the certification which will also serve as the regular season rating score. Officials failing to take the certification exam by SCHSL imposed deadline will not receive a rated nor eligible to work SCHSL sponsored games. Using the Review Board to review annual meeting excuses aligns with the current review board mission of determining other components of the rating system with regards to SCFOA Credit and Officials' Rating points.***

***GC voted in favor of this article and will recommend to the BOD this proposed change.***

**6. Article V(E)**

***Current Wording: Any matter brought before the Board and voted on may not be brought before the Board for a period of two (2) years from the effective date or date of implementation, the latter of which, without three-fourths consent of the Board of Directors. The effective date of any Board of***



*Directors' amendment shall be delayed until one (1) week after the next scheduled annual meeting.*

*Proposed Wording: Any matter brought before the Board and voted on may not be brought before the Board for a period of two (2) years from the effective date or date of implementation, the latter of which, without three-fourths consent of the Board of Directors.*

*Rational: The effective date portion of Article V(E) has not been enforced with previous By-Law changes to include certification exam implementation and striking annual physical requirement. The general membership retains the opportunity to overturn amendment changes. Removing the clause allows the Board of Directors to implement changes for the betterment of the association in a more timely manner.*

*GC voted against this article and does not recommend any proposed changes at this time to the BOD.*

**State Review Board:**  
**Board Rating Procedure**

*Current Wording: None*

*Proposed Wording: Officials not attending the annual meeting will need to submit a written excuse no later than 7 days prior to date to their District Director to avoid a 3-point deduction from their rating. The District Director will submit the documentation to the Review Board for consideration. Officials attending a college clinic or on military orders will automatically be excused once appropriate documentation is received. Late emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis.*

*Rational: The Review Board currently handles other data points for the SCFOA rating scheme, therefore this additional task fits with their mission.*

*GC voted in favor of this proposed wording and will recommend to the BOD this proposed change.*

- All Star Committee -Keith Hajnal

- Nothing to Report currently.
- Budge/Finance Committee- Garrick Messer
  - All Star Games 4300.00
  - 6834.00 Over Revenue in Budget for 2025
  - Ricky Robinson discussed Chain Crew Hats
  - Keith Hajnal wants no chain crew hats in budget
  - Greg Hawkins questioned the figures in this budget
  - Lots of discussion on taking a loss in 2025 Budget
  - Banquet Held in 2022/2025
  - 5261.83 Hall of Fame
  - Discussion on separating 2 accounts SCFOA/HOF Funds
  - Discussion to have the finance committee look at Accounts

Motion to Approve 2025 Budget- Darryl Jackson

Second- Keith Hajnal

1. N	9.	Y
2. Y	10.N	
3. Y	11.Y	
4. N	12.Y	
5. Y	13.Y	
6. Y	VP	Y
7. Y	Sec	N
8. Y		

**Motion Passed 11-4**

## 2025 Budget

Category	Budgeted	Expense	Revenue	Difference
SCHSL Payment	\$ 10,860.00		\$ -	\$ (10,860.00)
Hall of Fame allocation	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -		\$ 3,500.00
Scholarships	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
Website	\$ 170.00	\$ -		\$ 170.00
State Final	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -		\$ 2,400.00
Board milege	\$ 1,353.70	\$ 767.10		\$ 586.60
Clinic	\$ 10,470.50	\$ 987.00	\$ 4,219.61	\$ 3,232.61
Exam	\$ 700.00	\$ -		\$ 700.00
Tax Return	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Ratings	\$ 500.00	\$ -		\$ 500.00
All Star Games	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 827.29	\$ 2,000.00
Late Exam Fee	\$ 400.00		\$ -	\$ (400.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (6,834.20)</b>	<b>\$ 1,754.10</b>	<b>\$ 5,046.90</b>	<b>\$ 3,292.80</b>

### Notes:

2024: 724 2024 Registered Officials

State Final: Includes gifts, plaques, food/drink, chain crew hats

Clinic: Includes Convention Center, AV, Hotels, 25 yr Plaques, Insurance, Donations

Will not be charged for filing of 2024 tax return

All Star Games: Donation carryover from 2024 - \$827.29. Covering hotels in 2025

Recommend Oct BOD be conducted virtually to reduce mileage costs

Only 1 scholarship application received

### Overall Picture

Account balance (2/23) \$ 39,365.87

HoF Allocation \$ 10,500.00 (Last HoF banquet was Mar 2022)

**Operating Funds \$ 28,865.87**

### Overall Picture Notes:

In 2026, will see 2025 due increase of \$25/official. Revenue based on 2024 registered officials, \$18,100

- Scholarship Committee: Alan Boatwright
  - 1 Application for 2025
- Review Board-Mark Bishop
  - No Review Board members are present.

### v. Discussion Items:

- Membership of Geographical Districts -Gary Lukridge
  - Motion to drop from 5% to 2% did not pass in 2024
  - 2 Districts below 5% District 4 and District 13



- Lots of talk about continuing to monitor
- The board has not acted on this in 3 years
- B. Williams do what is best for SCFOA
- C. Dickert, this rule was passed for voting power.
- Registration closes August 21<sup>st</sup> action taken on Aug 1.
- Verbiage needs to be cleaned up
- Recommend sending back to Governance Committee.
- Annual Meeting /Clinic
  - 2025 Educational Clinic held July 12, 2025, Columbia
  - 2025 Annual Meeting/Exam/Elections Held July 26, 2025
  - 2025 Makeup exam -Monday July 28, 2025

Motion to Approve- Darryl Jackson

Second: Tim Cahill

1. N	9. Y
2. Y	10.N
3. Y	11.Y
4. N	12.N
5. Y	13.NP
6. Y	V-Pres Y
7. Y	Sec Y
8. Y	

**Motion Passed 10-4**

VI. Presidents Report

- Discussed the newsletter and members participation
- Discussed Hall of Fame Banquet.

VII. Executive Session

Motion to Go to Executive Session- Garrick Messer

Second: Keith Hajnal

Motion Passed 13-0

VIII.

- Motion to Adjourn: Chip Dickert
- Second: Darryl Jackson
- Motion Passed 13-0