

**South Carolina Football Officials Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 28, 2019**

Those present were:

President: Terry Troutt
Vice President: Jeff Cockrell
Past President: Tommy Brush
Secretary: Paul Pool*
Commissioner: Charlie Wentzky
Officials Representative to the Executive
SCHSL: absent



Committee of

District 1: Jeff Thomas
District 2: Mike Cohen
District 3: Chris Horton
District 4: Steve Wilkie
District 5: Larry Saunders
District 6: Darryl Jackson
District 7: Sam Felder
District 8: Tim Cahill
District 9: Charles Drake, appointed by the Director to represent D9
District 10: Lee Blackmon
District 11: Keith Hajnal
District 12: Ricky Robinson
District 13: Brian Shealy

All motions were properly seconded.

1. Call to Order: Terry Troutt
2. Invocation: Terry Troutt
3. *Appointment of Paul Pool to complete unexpired term of Rob Davis.

Without objection, President Troutt appointed Paul Pool to complete the remaining term of Rob Davis. The term ends December 31, 2019.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the Director's meeting on July 26, 2019 and the Clinic Business meeting on July 27, 2019 will be taken up at the Director's meeting in March 2020.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. Mechanics Committee: Jeff Cockrell: Jeff has received reports that some Back Judges are 30+ yards deep or are not supporting the goal line when they start on the end line. Linemen and Line Judges are not consistently following the signals from the Mechanics Manual. Some are using last year's mechanics and others are following this year's mechanics (in the same game). There was discussion to clean up the manual and eliminate repeating phrases.
- b. Hall of Fame: No report presented.
- c. Scholarship: Steve Wilkie: Applications are to be submitted to the Commissioner no later than January 15, 2020. The Application can be found on SCFOA.net. The applicant must be a graduating senior and must be the child or guardian of an official who has been a member of SCFOA for a minimum of five (5) years.
- d. Governance: No report presented.
- e. All Star Committee: Brian Shealy: Seven districts have supported the North/South All Star Game and the Shrine Bowl. A request was made for the remaining districts to support the games and officials this year. Additional information was provided to the Board that the Shrine Bowl expenses for South Carolina officials and their families are approximately \$4,000 and the All-Star game expenses are approximately \$3,000 to \$3,500.
- f. Website: No report presented.
- g. Clinic Committee: No report presented.

6. New Business/Proposals:

- a. SCFOA Test – Implications on Ratings (Probation/Carryover Ratings): Discussion was held to suspend Article III, Section 1, Letter B of the By-Laws for the 2020 football season due to the lower test scores on the Ratings Test.

Motion by Mike Cohen; Second by Larry Saunders to suspend as discussed.

Motion approved: 16 Yea, 0 Nay.

The Board discussed reviewing and possibly changing the minimum game requirements and the carryover provisions in the Recommendation to SCHSL.

- b. Ratings Committee Report: Larry Saunders: Larry reported the trial of District 5 using retired, experienced officials to observe District 5 officials at Varsity and JV games has been an overall positive experience. Tim Cahill (District 8) also reported a similar trial taking place in District 8, mainly for officials with one, two or three years' experience. Both encouraged other districts to pursue similar observation programs.
- c. Review Board – Incoming Member Ratings Discussions: Tim Cahill: Tim reported the Review Board has no formal rating system to rate officials moving to South Carolina from other states or returning officials who have not been an official for more than one year.

Motion from Brian Shealy; Second by Mike Cohen to have the Review Board establish a written rating guideline for transfer and returning officials.

Motion approved 16 yea, 0 Nay.

- d. Finance – Budget/State Treasurer need Discussion: Larry Saunders: Larry suggested the need of SCFOA to have its own Treasurer who would be a non-voting member of the Board and appointed by the Board to serve a three-year term with a maximum of two terms. After discussion no action was taken by the Board.

Discussion by the Board on fees charged to SCFOA by SCHSL and if SCFOA is being overcharged by the SCHSL. Members of the Board expressed the need for a detailed breakdown of the fees charged by the SCHSL. A consensus was reached (no vote taken) that the Executive Committee would provide a detailed fee breakdown to the Board at the March 2020, Board meeting.

A reminder was given that a budget for 2020 was needed.

- e. 2020 Clinic Date: Mike Cohen: Mike proposed to move the Clinic from the last Saturday in July to the last Saturday in June to allow for additional meetings/on field training to teach mechanics the lesser experienced officials. It was determined the proposal was not in order because it required a By-Laws change and it was not presented thirty days prior to the Board meeting.
- f. State Championship Information: Commissioner Wentzky advised the Board the 1A and 2A champion game would be played at Benedict College and the 3A, 4A and 5A games would be played at Williams-Brice Stadium. The new turf field at Benedict has been installed but the dressing area for the game officials has not improved. All games are in Columbia, South Carolina.
- g. Reminder Districts 3, 6, 9 and 11 – New District Director Elections: President Troutt advised the Board that Director elections for District 3, 6, 9 and 11 are required for this year. Chris Horton advised that Brad Smith will be the incoming Director for District 3. Darryl Jackson advised the Board he had been re-elected for District 6. Keith Hajnal advised the Board he had been re-elected for District 11.

District 4 Director Steve Wilkie announced his resignation from the Board effective December 31, 2019 and the person elected would complete the remainder of his term which ends December 31, 2020.

7. Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Wentzky provided a report of the SCFOA finances. The current balance is \$21,125.91. Re-occurring Expenses are \$10,445 of which \$2,000 has not been made. Other pending expenses are for the Shrine Bowl and All-Star games which will be supported from the Districts working games as the officials donating their game fees. Seven districts have donated approximately \$4,866.16 for these games. -Hall of Fame (HoF) expenses should be reviewed for hidden fees (use of banquet hall, taxes, tips, etc.). Expenses for HoF are exceeding the amount taken in to support the Hall of Fame.

-Based on the legal action taken by Pennsylvania officials in asking the courts to determine if they were employees or independent contractors and the resulting determination that they were independent contractors, the Executive Director has request SCFOA to remove the term, "Commissioner" from its By-laws. The legal team from the SCHSL would provide the suggested change in terminology to the Board by early January 2020.

-Suggestion was made for SCFOA to begin and support the use of on-line training. An example would be, the basics of what every new official should know.

On-line training may help recruit and train the new officials.

-A flat rate plus mileage is under consideration for state finals. In some instances, ECOs are receiving a larger check than a game official.

-A 40/25 Play Clock operator/official will be added to the state championship crews. This official will be selected by the SCHSL.

Motion by Larry Saunders; second by Jeff Thomas to accept the Play Clock operator/official as position that qualifies as a worked state championship game.

Motion passed 16 Yea and 0 Nay.

8. Other Items:

- a. Incoming Vice-President Doug Hudson advised the Board that John Harley will be his appointment to the State Review Board. The appointment is effective January 1, 2020. He succeeds Tim Cahill.
- b. Paul Pool advised the Board to provide names of officials for the ECO position of the Shrine Bowl for 2020 to the Commissioner. Preferably an official who is lacking the game as a requirement for the HoF.
- c. Larry Saunders advised the Board if a district wished to have a Chain Crew for the state final games to let him know. A Crew consists of four members from a district.
- d. Chris Horton provided recruiting banners for all districts to use. The banners were left at the SCHSL office.
- e. Next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2020 at 6:00pm.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Brian Shealy; Second by Tommy Brush to adjourn.

Motion passed 16 Yea and 0 Nay.

Adjournment

Paul Pool, Secretary SCFOA

Date