

South Carolina Football Officials Association Board Meeting
October 27th, 2025
River Bluff High School -5:00 PM

D1: Chip Dickert

D2: Dart Collins

D3: Brad Smith

D4: Alan Boatwright

D5: Garrick Messer

D6: Darryl Jackson

D7: John Harley

D8: Tim Cahill

D9: Eric McKnight

D10: Greg Hawkins

D11: Keith Hajnal

D12: Ricky Robinson

D13: Scott Patterson

Pres: Gary Lukridge

V-Pes: Lee Smith

P-Pres: Kyle Boczkowski

Sec: Alphonso Smith

Bruce Hulton

Charlie Wintzky

Frank Para

John Price

- I. Call to Order – Gary Lukridge
 - Congratulation Lee Smith and Brad Smith on there election as President and Vice President.
- II. Invocation- Gary Lukridge
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes- Gary Lukridge
 - Motion to approve-Darryl Jackson
 - Second: Brad Smith
 - Motion approved 16-0
- IV. SCHSL Deputy Commissioners Report0 Charlie Wentzky
 - State Championship cards given to directors.

- 5th/6th Dec. Football State Championships and SC State.
- Playoffs are here ECO may be status quo based on officials
- Officials who do not want to be an ECO need to block
- Less than 7 games on field may get ECO spot based on numbers.
- 3rd Round begins 7-man crew. Top 35/40 at Positions may end up on field in 3rd Round
- Semi-Finals crews are building to Finals
- Consistency on the field is key
- Concerns:
 - Later hits on the QB
 - Roughing the Kicker
 - Wings with heels on the sidelines all night.
 - Back Judge over officiating
 - Unsportsmanlike may need to be called if lineman continues to lay on top of a defensive lineman.

Comments:

- Darryl Jackson-Need mercy rule for sub varsity
- Ricky Robinson- Consistency give me a pre signal from some referees.

V. All Star Committee- Keith Hajnal

- Hotels are booked
- Pay Pal Donations were 500.00 for October

VI. Hall of Fame Committee-Bruce Hulion

- Banquet last March
- 2 Applications for 2026, Applications due Jan. 1

VII. Budget Committee -Garrick Messer/John Price

- Recommendation for HOF Banking account
- Greg Hawkins Questioned State Law on 5;00 Charge
- Gary Lukridge clarified it was all legal for Non-Profit and not against the law.
- This will be placed on Jan. Agenda for account clarity before a decision is made.

VIII. Governance Committee- Darryl Jackson

- Nothing to report

IX. Mechanic Committee-Lee Smith

- Nothing to report

X. Discussion Items: Gary Lukridge

I. Online Test /Election Review-Garrick & Gary

- Recommendation to expand sites
- Recommend retired officials to Proctor
- District 12 problems with computers and proctors
- Check In process/Sigh In process to be examined
- Rookie Exam discussion/ Talk in January

II. 2026 State Review Board Members – Brad Smith

- Rico Reed /Mark Bishop/Sean Vick
 - Recommendation to Approve -Darry Jackson
 - Second: Eric McKnight
 - Motion Passed 16-0

III. Arbiter Inquiries-Keith Hajnal

- Lots of Confusion with Arbiter multiple schools' multiple sites.
- Bill to address are wrong in arbiter

- C. Dickert- Contact information needs to be cleaned up and pay rates adjusted.
- C. Wentzky right now Arbiter is the best system out there if you have issues send them to Jill.

IV. Scrimmage Fees/ Game Fees Review-Chip Dickert

- Wants more than 100 per team for scrimmage
- C. Wentzky questioned how officials would be paid for scrimmage.
- C. Dickert wants funds to be disbursed by district to officials
- Discussion on paying officials for mileage for scrimmages.
- Nothing decided on this and no recommendations were made.

V. District Dissolution Discussion- Gary Lukridge

- Discussion on geographic districts less than 5%
- It's time to get rid of the By Law.
- G. Lukridge recommended sending something to Governance committee to get this resolved.
- C. Dickert- We need to look at options
- D. Jackson- It has been 2 years this can be brought back up for a vote to membership.

VI. Recognition of Out Going District Directors/Board Members.

- Outgoing district directors and Board members give plaques.
- Keith Hajnal/Brad Smith/Kyle Boczkowski

- VII. Directors assigning themselves crew through Jill- Gary Lukridge
- Gary read a letter about how crews are being assigned by district directors from an official and how it was unfair.
 - Lots of discussion on this topic.
 - C. Wentzky reiterated that current way officials are being assigned will not change and believes in the long run it will make us better.
 - C. Wentzky advised if officials are not ok with this new procedure they can quit.

- VIII. 2025 State Championship Weekend – Gary Lukridge
- Great weekend especially for our first time State Finals Officials.
 - We need to make this weekend special for them.
 - Need Board members who can show up and support their members.

Motion to Adjourn: Alan Boatwright

Second-Brad Smith

Motion passed 16-0

Dear SCFOA Board of Directors:

I am writing to address serious concerns about varsity game assignments this season and their detrimental effect on officials' morale. As a committed SCFOA member with over a decade of experience, including leadership positions and state championship game officiating, I am dedicated to maintaining high-quality officiating standards across all football levels.

This season, many officials have grown increasingly frustrated with crew assignments. While we remain committed to enforcing football rules, the current assignment strategy complicates our responsibilities. Traditionally, officials were assigned games based on performance ratings, which ensured crews with comparable skill levels. This approach fostered teamwork and mutual trust among crew members.

However, for the first five weeks of the 2024 season and throughout 2025, crew assignments have been randomized. This means highly-rated officials are now working alongside those with less experience, potentially creating performance disparities. This inconsistency generates additional stress for officials like me. Instead of concentrating exclusively on my specific game responsibilities, I find myself constantly monitoring and compensating for my crew members' performance levels.

As my colleague Charlie aptly states, "a football game is the same on every level." My passion lies in collaborating with fellow officials and preserving the game's integrity. The primary goal is maintaining a competent, well-prepared crew capable of effectively managing a game, regardless of its competitive level.

I understand the rationale behind randomly assigning crews throughout the football season. We do want to help lower-rated and less experienced officials gain more practice and learn from more experienced officials. However, I believe the approach is not achieving its intended outcomes. While less experienced officials are gaining game experience, they are not receiving real-time coaching or education necessary for improvement during those games. Higher-rated officials are there to officiate the game, not teach. There is not enough time in a game to do both. This causes frustration among more experienced officials because we want to help and coach, but cannot do our main job effectively while managing the less experienced.

The current assignment methodology undermines our ability to perform at optimal levels. A consistently skilled and prepared crew is crucial to maintaining the high standards of football officiating. There are opportunities to coach and train new officials, but a high-level varsity game is not the place to do so.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely