

SDHSAA STANDARDIZED COIN TOSS PROCEDURE

- Adopted mechanic per SDHSAA Football Advisory Committee & SDHSAA Staff/Officials' Coordinator
- Pages 13-15 of NFHS Football Officials' Manual Procedure to be followed for **ALL GAMES** with specific direction:
 - Coin Toss to Occur at Midfield immediately prior to kick-off after all introductions/National Anthem/etc are completed
 - Captains should face each other with backs to sidelines
 - Actual toss completed, decisions made, proceed immediately to opening kickoff
- Rationale: Consistency among officials & sites across the state, opportunity for recognition of captains, eliminates players being taken from pre-game warm-ups & eliminates advantage/disadvantage of inconsistency in timing of toss



Beginning in 2016, the SDHSAA is making a move to consistently enforce the requirements of a “formal” coin toss as the required mechanic for football officials in varsity contests across the state. The SDHSAA Football Advisory committee heard from several coaches and officials over the past few years about the inconsistency of when a coin toss took place and the issues it created for coaches and athletes alike in pre-game warm-ups and planning.

To alleviate those concerns, the coin toss mechanic **MUST** be used in all SDHSAA varsity football contests this fall as listed on Pages 13 through 15 of the NFHS Football Officials Manual, with the toss occurring at a State Mandated time of immediately prior to kick-off after all introductions, starting line-ups, announcements, National Anthem and other associated pre-game items have been completed.

Officials shall escort the captains to the center of the field, with their backs facing their own sidelines where the actual flip will commence. Once decisions have been made, the captains will return to their sidelines and officials will meet to discuss any final instructions from the referee. Once complete, officials will proceed to their positions for the opening kick and teams are expected to be ready to go.

Again, much of the rationale from the advisory committee was to ensure a standard process that would fit all schools, and also reinforce mechanics that are already laid out in rule code but simply have not been adhered to in the past. Having the toss occur immediately prior to kick-off not only matches all other levels of competitive football, but additionally allows for:

- Consistency among all officials and host sites,
- An additional opportunity for recognition of a team’s captains for each game,
- Elimination of players being taken out of warm-ups and pre-game preparation, and
- Elimination of any advantage/disadvantage a team might gain by knowing the outcome of the toss with multiple minutes to prepare based on the result.