

2021 Football Preseason Memo

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 2021 SDHSAA sports season and specifically football. I am honored to serve to serve you our SDHSAA member schools, official, coached and student athletes. Please understand my “door” is always open. I look forward to your, feedback as together we continue to develop, and grow opportunities across our entire state.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on all the positive contributions Buck Timmins blessed us with his entire life. Thank you for your mentorships, your wisdom and most of all your caring heart. You will always be remembered – Thank you Buck!

Another football season will soon be starting. The SDHSAA hopes everyone is excited for another football season and is beginning to prepare for the 2021 football season.

You recently received your 2021 SDHSAA football rules books, online testing, online rules meeting information and other important information for the 2021 football season. Review the information carefully. Please note your mailing address—it is very important to keep your mailing address and email address up-to-date with the SDHSAA Office.

**Do Not Wait Until After Your First Game To Fulfill Your
Meeting and Test Requirements!
Start Preparing For The Season NOW!
Before Your First Game**

Website Resources and Video Review

The SDHSAA has found that one of the most effective training tools for promoting consistency and improved officiating is through video review. We have updated our FB specific page to include new resources and will be posting all comminutions to this website for easy, one source access.



www.sdhsaa.com/activity/football-officials

Go to www.sdhsaa.com → Officials → Sport-Specific Information → Football

Content on this page will be updated throughout the season
Play close attention to the “Rules Information” sections at the bottom of the page
for additional video and rules review

A special and great big thank you to Mark Smith of Pierre, for his work on compiling our videos and the new voice over commentary.

The plays are not meant to pick on any one official, crew or team. These plays are meant to be a learning tool to help promote what we all want to see from our officials.

South Dakota Changes—2020 and 2021

1. Nine-man playoff brackets will be seeded 1 through 16 with no relevance to region or re-seeding at any point.
2. In ALL Classes of SDHSAA football, when a team secures a 35-point lead during the third or fourth quarter, the clock will continue to run except for timeouts (team or official) or after a score.
3. If a team secures a 35-point lead in the second half and the score subsequently falls below the 35-point mark, the clock will continue to run as outlined.
4. In any contest featuring a team from 11A, 11B or Nine-Man football: If a team secures a 50 point or greater lead at the end of the first half, or if they secure such a lead during the second half, the game is ended immediately.
5. Regulation timing is followed in the first half regardless of the score.

What is Your Plan To Get Ready For The 2021 Football Season

- **What are you doing to get ready for the 2021 SDHSAA football season?**
 - **Rules Knowledge—acquire a reverence for the rules and be guided and inspired by them**
 - **Current Mechanics—Study and Understand—Right Place—Right Time**
 - **Be in position to manage and officiate the play**
 - **Physical Workouts/Health**
- **Be The Very Best High School Football Official You Want To Be!**
 - **Going Into The Season--What Are You Going To Work On--We All Have Weaknesses**
 - **Build on your strengths**
 - **You can always get better**
- **Work On Being Excellent—Be The Best You Can Be—Preparation**
- **Maintain good communication with all participants**
- **Decisive—Consistent Decisions and Signals—Same Body Language**
- **The SDHSAA Expects Your Best**

SDHSAA Standardized Coin Toss Procedure--Review

The coin toss mechanic **MUST** be used in all SDHSAA varsity football contests this fall as listed on Pages 14 through 16 of the NFHS Football Officials Manual, with the toss occurring at the SDHSAA 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.

The rationale from the football 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**
- **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.**

Coin Toss Takes Place As The Absolute Last Item Before The Kickoff

Chains and Chain Crew Position Process

Bottom line we are back to “normal” with the line-to-gain chains, chain crews and process of measurements. Last year due to the COVID-19 protocols and restrictions the chains were on the home team sideline and the chain crew members were not allowed on the field during measurements. Effective immediately and until further notice the chains, chain crew procedures return to normal. Usually (unless facilities dictate) the chains and chain crews are located on the sideline across from the press box, which is normally in front of the visiting team. The chain crew will also be able to resume normal procedures in assisting with measurements. Reminder, please take the time to instruct both chain crews and ball crews in your pre-game. They are certainly part of the successful and safe administration of the game.

Pre-Contest Medical Time Out - Review

Prior to each competition officiated by SDHSAA Registered officials, head coaches or on-site administrators will need to be prepared to answer the following five questions before the game begins.

1. Who is the game administrator for each team?
2. Is there a qualified medical professional on site?
3. Is there an emergency action plan for this venue?
4. Is there an AED available?
5. Where is the emergency exit/entrance for the facility?

The “Pre-Contest Medical Timeout” must be conducted prior to every contest. If acceptable answers are not provided, officials must contact the SDHSAA to inform the SDHSAA staff of the situation.

The “Pre-Contest Medical Timeout” can be conducted with the host-site athletic director prior to the coaches meeting, but must be done day-of, on-site.

Distributed with each officials packet this year was a card that has the five questions on it. Officials please carry the card with you and be sure to ask these questions prior to the game contest so you are aware of the answers to these questions, should there be an emergency.

SDHSAA Requirements Reminders

- Officials must work during the current football season a minimum of five (5) regular season football games to be eligible for selection for quarterfinal, semifinal or final football playoff games (not applicable to 1st round games).
- Only officials having certified status will be hired to work the playoff games. Crews having a “registered” official(s) will be allowed to replace the “registered” official(s).

Coaches and Officials—Online Rules Meeting

Online rules meeting PowerPoint presentations will be available from August 1 to August 31, 2021 (11:59 PM CST). All officials and coaches will need to view individually to receive credit. If you plan to view the presentations together as a coaching staff or officiating crew, each coach and official will need to be logged into a computer (you could use the computer lab at your local high school).

Coaches and Officials—Online Test Requirement

During the 2021-22 school year, the SDHSAA will be using the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) online exams system for conducting the open-book test requirement for each sport.

The online football open book test will be available August 1 to August 31, 2021 (11:59 PM CST). You can print a hard copy of the test from the SDHSAA website prior to accessing it online. You will complete the test online. The test questions will be in the same order as the hard copy you print.

The SDHSAA strongly suggest you use the hard copy of the test to write your answers beside each question, then log in and submit your test answers online. This must be done before August 31. When you submit your answers online, you will immediately receive your test score. You WILL NOT receive information as to which questions you missed until after the test window closes on August 31.

Score required for the Part I open book test is 80%. You will only be allowed two tries to take and pass the test (80%) and this must be done prior to the August 31, 2021 deadline.

Officials—Online Mechanics Requirement

Officials only are required to view the online mechanics meeting. This requirement is in addition to official's requirement to view the online rules meeting.

The SDHSAA strongly suggests that coaches view the mechanics meeting so you understand the mechanics and positioning of the officials on the field.

The online mechanics meeting will be available from August 1 to August 31, 2021 (11:59 PM CST). All officials will need to view individually to receive credit. If you plan to view the presentations together with other officials, each official will need to be logged into a computer (you could use the computer lab at your local high school).

Officials: A \$25.00 fine and probation is assessed per meetings or exams requirement with a maximum of \$50.00 if it is not met.

Coaches: A \$50.00 fine for not taking either online rules meeting or rules exam. If you do not take both the school will be fined \$75.00

SDHSAA Supervised Test

Supervised Test Date—Wednesday, August 25

- To move from “registered” classification to “certified” classification, officials must take and pass the supervised test (closed book)—score at least 75% to pass.
- The supervised test will be offered at Aberdeen Central, Faith, Mitchell, SDHSAA Office, Rapid City Central, SF Washington, Volga, Watertown and Yankton.
- An official may stay in the “registered” classification indefinitely.
- Registered officials are restricted to working only regular season contests.
- Please contact the SDHSAA office as to the location in which you would like to take the test by August 20.
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SDHSAA Football Jamborees

In 2020 the SDHSAA decided to waive the jamboree requirement for the sports of volleyball and football. If you needed a jamboree the fall of 2020 you received a one-year extension. With that in mind please complete your Jamboree requirements this fall by attending an approved Jamboree.

Football Region Coordinators have scheduled Jamborees for you to attend and meet the requirements. Achieving all requirements, including update to date Jamboree attendance is a requirement for post season assignment eligibility.

Football Officials or Coaches Concerns

- If you have any play situations during your games that officials statewide should know about to help them become better officials, please send plays to be included in weekly bulletins.
- If you have questions about rule interpretation, please forward your concerns to me Justin Ingalls – email = coordinator@sdhsaa.com or phone = 605-201-9721
- If you have any questions or comments about any information you will receive this football season--please forward to me.
- If you have any ideas for newsletter topics that would benefit all the SDHSAA officials, please let me know your topic(s).

2021 Football Observation Program

Again, we have in place the FB observers for the 2021 FB season. This group of dedicated veterans are here to grow and support officials across the state. My goals this year to observe 100% of our crews at least once – whether that be in person or via video review. Please be open and cooperative with our observers as they provide feedback. This is a valuable program as we strive for consistency and growth. If you and crew would like to be observed drop me a note and I will make sure we have someone onsite to help.

2021 Football Region Meetings

You have received a list of football region dates for all 11 regions. Mark the dates for the region meetings in your area on your calendar.

Plan to attend more than one region meeting. With the rules and mechanics meetings online, this will be your opportunity to have face-to-face discussion with other officials in your region.

Be the official to step up and be a presenter at a region meeting. This will give you the opportunity to research a topic for discussion, which will make you a better official.

**Best of luck for a safe and successful 2021 SDHSAA
football season.**

Remember, MIBT = Make it be there...