

**South Dakota High School Activities Association
Football Mentor's Report**

Date of Game Observed: _____

Level of Game Observed: Jr. High Jr. Varsity Varsity

Official's Name: _____ Official's Position: _____

Mentor's Name: _____

OFFICIAL'S RATING FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH MENTOR

Officials Rating System

1 = Excellent 2 = Good 3 = Average 4 = Fair 5 = Poor

N/A = not applicable or not observed

Appearance	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Pregame Duties (on-field)	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Initial Position Start of Play	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Reaction (Read) on Pass/Run Plays	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Goal Line Coverage	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Scrimmage Kick Coverage	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Kickoff Coverage	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Accuracy of Flag Placement	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Proper Use of Flag	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Use of Whistle	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Use of Bean Bag	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Control of Side Lines	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Control of Players	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Use of Common Sense	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Use of NFHS Signals	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Rules Knowledge	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Reaction Under Pressure	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Decisiveness	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Hustle	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Focus/Poise	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A
Fraternization	__ 1	__ 2	__ 3	__ 4	__ 5	__ N/A

Official's Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mentor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Send Report To:

Buck Timmins
1403 East 2nd
Mitchell, SD 57301
buck.timmins@k12.sd.us

APPROVAL: _____

SDHSAA OFFICE

The SDHSAA thanks you as a mentor for your dedication and effort that will see the dream come true for the new official to be a sports official.

Overview

It is the goal of the mentor program that young officials will learn the correct way to perform as an official. Mentor training will better train young officials. Adequately mentored from the outset, young people with an interest in officiating can develop as capable officials.

The mentor will be a teacher providing learning opportunities for the young official. It will be the mentor who will answer the tough questions, support the young official in tight situations and encourage the young official in times of distress.

The mentor will be responsible for critiquing the young official. Improvement rather than perfection will be the goal. Positive rather than negative evaluations will be critical to reinforcing the accomplishments of the young official.

Discuss With The Young Official

1. **What does it take to become a good official?**

It takes a thorough knowledge of the rules of your sport, a love of athletics and kids, physical ability, self-confidence, the dedication and determination necessary to work hard, and above all, personal integrity. The athletes and coaches look upon each contest as being the most important thing happening in their lives at that moment, and the official must look upon each contest the same way, and react accordingly. If you have the interest and the attributes described, you may find this to be some of the most rewarding work you will ever be involved in.

2. **What expectations will officiating have of the young official?**

To become a respected official one must invest time to learn, time to practice and time to develop. Although the time devoted will vary from person to person, there are some requirements that must be observed. Rules meetings, clinics, jamborees, and region officials meetings are necessary. *Officials improve according to their efforts.*

3. **What is the biggest adjustment young officials may need to make?**

It is important to understand that the basic ingredient of officiating is that of being a decision maker, and sometimes people do not like decisions that don't go their way. Once realize that people will criticize you because you make necessary decisions, rather than you are a bad person, and you can accept this fact, you are on your way. It is not easy. Do not get discouraged! Stay in the game.

4. **Training Materials**

The young official will read the SDHSAA Officials Handbook and Directory of Sports Officials, read the Rules Book, Casebook, and Officials Manual, study signals, mechanics and proper positioning.

The Young Official and Mentor Will

1. Attend contests to observe and study the young official
2. Discuss and practice development of an impartial attitude
3. Develop a professional style for an official when developing relationships with coaches
4. Discuss entering/leaving the field as a group
5. Promote and practice common sense decisions and the courage to make decisions
6. Explain the need to rely on partners
7. Discuss "over-officiating", what it is and how to avoid it
8. Identify and practice techniques to maintain emotional control and to deal with specific pressure packed situations
9. Encourage the young official to observe, talk with and "be around" veteran officials
10. Critique the young official during every contest
11. Accentuate the positive. . . always
12. Encourage the young official to keep a log into which game notes and comments are entered.