

South Dakota High School Activities Association

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Another football season will soon be starting. The SDHSAA hopes everyone is excited for another football season and is beginning to prepare for the 2017 football season.

You recently received your 2017 SDHSAA football rules books, online testing, online rules meeting information and other important information for the 2017 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 August 31 to fulfill your meeting and test requirements!

Start preparing for the season NOW!

Before Your First Game

New/Late Renewal Officials Applications Due

The last day for new/late renewal football official's application is Thursday, August 31. All registrations and registration fees must be submitted to the SDHSAA before the end of the SDHSAA work day on August 31.

Officials who did not meet the registration deadline of July 1 will pay a penalty fee of \$20.00.

If your crew has a NEW official officiating with your crew for the 2017 football season, make sure the NEW official has registered with the SDHSAA before August 31.

Contact the SDHSAA office if you have any questions about new/late renewal officials' applications.

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 13 through 15 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

Blindside Block and Pop-Up Kick Video Plays

Continuing with the focus on risk minimization, the NFHS committee created a definition for a blindside block and pop-up kickoff. The blindside block involves contact by a blocker against an opponent who, because of physical positioning and focus on concentration, is vulnerable to injury. Unless initiated with open hands, it is a foul for excessive and unnecessary contact when the block is forceful and outside of the free-blocking zone.

A pop-up kick is a free kick in which the kicker drives the ball immediately to the ground, the ball strikes the ground once and goes into the air in the manner of a ball kicked directly off the tee. Such kicks will be penalized as a dead-ball free-kick infraction.

Coaches and officials need to watch the videos produced by the Hawaii Football Officials Association to illustrate some examples of blindside blocks and pop-up kicks.

You can find the videos on the SDHSAA football official's web page. SDHSAA Home Page, Officials, Sport Specific Information, Football, Training Videos;

<http://www.sdhsaa.com/Officials/SportSpecificInformation/Football/TrainingVideos.aspx>

These videos will help define blindside blocks and pop-up kicks as emphasized by the SDHSAA and the NFHS for the 2017 football season.

Football officials can use the video plays to prompt discussion within your football officiating crew.

The video of plays must be viewed a number of times to see illegal blindside blocks, legal blindside blocks and pop-up kicks. The more times you as a football official can actually see plays and key indicators you will be able to determine it is now illegal to initiate a blindside block with forcible contact unless made with open hands.

South Dakota Changes—Half Time

Halftimes for all 9-man varsity football games shall be 12 minutes, with mandatory plus three minute warm-up to follow. Halftimes may be extended to a maximum of 20 minutes plus a three minute warm-up if both teams are provided 24 hours of advance notice.

Halftimes for all 11-man varsity competitions shall be 15 minutes, with the mandatory plus-three minute warm-up. Halftimes may be extended to 20 minutes-plus-3 minutes only if both teams are provided 24 hours of advance notice.

VIDEO

Whenever possible, watch tape of the games you work. Most athletic directors and coaches will gladly send a copy of the game if the crew provides a self-addressed, postage-paid video mailer. Internet-based options are also available.

Any time you watch a video, watch it with a critical eye, preferably as a crew. Questions you should be asking include: Are you lining up where you should be? After the ball is snapped, are you moving to be in position to make the necessary calls? Are you looking off the ball or are you being a ball watcher? How are your forward-progress spots?

Check to make sure penalties were properly enforced, the crew correctly signaled the clock to stop and start, flags and beanbags were dropped at the appropriate places and that the fouls you called actually show up on film.

Do You Have A Plan To Get Ready For The 2017 Football Season

- What are you doing to get ready for the 2017 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 Weakness
 - 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

Coaches and Officials—Online Rules Meeting

Online rules meeting PowerPoint presentations will be available from August 1 to August 31, 2017 (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). The PowerPoint presentations will be available to you after August 31 for your review of the material. You will not receive credit after August 31.

Officials: A \$25.00 fine and probation will be assessed if the online rules meeting requirement is not met.

Coaches and Officials—Online Test Requirement

During the 2017-18 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, 2017 (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, 2017 deadline.

Officials: A \$25.00 fine and probation is assessed if the online football open book test requirement is not met.

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 have an understanding of the mechanics and positioning of the officials on the field.

The online mechanics meeting will be available from August 1 to August 31, 2017 (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). The PowerPoint presentations will be available to you after August 31 for your review of the material. You will not receive credit after August 31.

Officials: A \$25.00 fine and probation is assessed if the online mechanics meeting requirement is not met.

SDHSAA Supervised Test

Supervised Test Date—Wednesday, August 30

- 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 Lincoln, 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.
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SDHSAA Football Jamborees

- NEW officials must attend a jamboree once in the first two years of registration, and then must attend one during the next three years.
 - CERTIFIED officials must attend a jamboree once every 3 years.
 - The SDHSAA will not be sponsoring football jamborees for the 2017 football season. The reason being that more teams are on playing on Week Zero and schools do not want to put their football team on the road in a bus (cost factor).
 - **DO YOU NEED TO MEET JAMBOREE REQUIREMENT?**—Check your officials information on SDHSAA web site. **If your last jamboree year is listed as 2014, you will need to attend a jamboree this year.**
 - You will need to contact your football official's region coordinator to set a date to use your local high school football scrimmage as a jamboree.
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2017 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 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.

2017 Football Region Coordinators

Region 1	Northeast Area	Contact Micheal Perrion Email: miperrion@gmail.com	Cell: 380-7889
Region 2	East Central	Contact Mike Lockrem Email: michaellockrem@gmail.com	Cell: 695-0406
Region 3	Sioux Empire	Contact Orrin Anderson Email: orrin.karen@gmail.com	Home: 332-5957
Region 4	Lewis & Clark	Contact Chad Gordan Email: cg_smithins@iw.net	Cell: 661-1520
Region 5	Mitchell Area	Contact Buck Timmins Email: buck.timmins@k12.sd.us	Cell: 933-1493
Region 6	James Valley	Contact Brad McGirr Email: brad@creativeprinting.com	Cell: 354-0974
Region 7	Northern Plains	Contact Tanner Jondahl Email: tannerjondahl@hotmail.com	Cell: 216-3555
Region 8	Northwest	Contact Scott Besler Email: sbbsler@sdplains.com	Cell: 641-0171
Region 9	Central	Contact Pat Snyder Email: psniddy007@gmail.com	Cell: 222-8345
Region 10	Black Hills	Contact Steve Hilton Email: andone39@gmail.com	Cell: 390-1301
Region 11	Winner Area	Contact Randy Kludt Email: randy.kludt@k12.sd.us	Cell: 842-6426

Check Your Equipment

- Pre-season preparation applies to updating one's uniform. Take the time to review your uniform annually so that you present a clean, crisp, neat uniform. As we all know, "you never have a second chance to make a first impression".
 - It is also important to review your other officiating equipment (shoes, socks, undergarments, equipment bags, and other officiating supplies) to make your uniform complete. Many officials work more than one game per week and need the ability to have multiple uniforms available for their use.
 - Don't compromise your appearance by attempting to make that shirt and pant last another year.
 - Game control starts with your appearance and the professionalism that goes with it. Be fit, be neat, be sharp.
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Taking Care of Business

- Pay special attentions to your loved ones. They sacrifice a lot to enable you to do what you do.

- During the season, be sure your officiating travel meshes with your responsibilities at home. Plan ahead so you are not rushing out the door in a frenzy. Give everyone a hug, a kiss, and a smile before you leave.
- Be sure officiating travel coordinates with your work responsibilities. Your job is what pays the bills; don't take chances with your livelihood.
- Confirm all your dates, times, locations, and crewmates.
- Have your cell phone with you -- Carry important phone numbers with you.

Recruitment and Retention

The SDHSAA needs the current officiating membership to help recruit officials by word of mouth. Talk to a friend, co-worker, or whomever to recruit new officials. We ask that each member recruit at least one new member each year.

As a football official you must share your feelings about officiating with young athletes. Officials need for young athletes to feel the pull to officiating as we once did. It is our responsibility as the men and women of the avocation, to sell the next generation on our officiating work.

Best Officiated Games

- As a good game official, you want game participants and fans to notice you positively for your appearance
- You want them to notice you for your hustle, proper mechanics and solid signals
- You want them to notice you for your game management and presence
- And you want them to notice you for your good calls
- Game officials who aren't noticed aren't doing something right
- Get noticed for good things

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 buck.timmins@k12.sd.us or call me at 605-996-1483 (home) or 605-933-1493 (cell).
- If you have any questions or comments about any information you will receive this football season--please forward your concern to me.
- If you have any ideas for newsletter topics that would benefit all the SDHSAA officials, please let me know your topic(s).

It's Not too Late to Begin Getting Ready for the 2017 Football Season!