

South Dakota High School Activities Association

2020 Football Preseason Memo

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Know The Facts About COVID-19

Hopefully you have been able to stay smart when it comes to your health and that of those close to you. You can do that and still not lose your connection to officiating during this unprecedented and unpredictable time as COVID-19 affects South Dakota and the world around us.

Another football season will soon be starting. The SDHSAA hopes everyone is excited for another football season and is beginning to prepare for the 2020 football season.

You recently received your 2020 SDHSAA football rules books, online testing, online rules meeting information and other important information for the 2020 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**

Video Review

The SDHSAA has found that the most effective training tool for promoting consistency and improved officiating is through video review.

This week's training video deals with 2020 Rule Changes and 2019 Rules Change Reminders.

Thank you to Mark Smith of Pierre, for his work on compiling a video review of 2020 Rule Changes and 2019 Rule Change Reminders.

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.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvA4Dhwbe1>

2020 Online Football Mechanics Meeting

Play 4—Did You See The Illegal Block???

PLAY 4: Point of emphasis for play was that a run towards the line judge—the line judge needs to take three or four steps into the backfield to get a better view of the blocking. After play ends up out-of-bounds the line judge needs to turn all the way around to view players out-of-bounds.

As you watch the play look at the action by wide receiver #8. At the snap the receiver moves back toward the snap to block the defensive player.

Who should see this block?

Click Play 4.mp4 to view play!



Play 4.mp4

South Dakota Changes—2020

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Regulation timing is followed in the first half regardless of the score.

Do You Have A Plan To Get Ready For The 2020 Football Season

- What are you doing to get ready for the 2019 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

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

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

- 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, 2020 (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).

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

Coaches and Officials—Online Test Requirement

During the 2020-21 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, 2020 (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, 2020 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, 2020 (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 if the online mechanics meeting requirement is not met.

SDHSAA Supervised Test

Supervised Test Date—Wednesday, August 26

- 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, Brookings, 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 by August 20.
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SDHSAA Football Jamborees

The SDHSAA has decided to waive the jamboree requirement for the 2020 fall season for the sports of volleyball and football. If you were in need of jamboree this fall (2020) you will receive an extension for one year, keeping in mind that you will need to attend a jamboree in the summer or fall of 2021.

Football Region Coordinators will be allowed to host and award credit for jamborees this fall if they so desire. Officials attending a jamboree will be awarded credit like normal, but, again, those in need of a jamboree this year will still be allowed to work postseason contests either way.

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).
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2020 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.
