



## **COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC**

### **2017 NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S PRESEASON LETTER**

Welcome to another great season of college football! I know that all of you officials, both on the field and in the replay booth, are as excited as the teams and the fans are to get this season underway. The weeks and months of preparation have prepared you well for the year, and I encourage you to continue to work diligently at a training-and-preparation routine throughout the year. The discipline of regular attention to our craft will certainly pay off.

Over the last several weeks and months, I have had the opportunity to get around to officiating clinics and camps, conference meetings, seminars with our media partners, and other events that point to the start of the season. It is clear to me from these experiences that college football officiating is in very good shape—and that is due to the hard work of all the officials and conference coordinators, plus the strong and enthusiastic support of the conference commissioners and especially the CFO Board of Managers. At the conference level there is unprecedented support and approval for what you are doing. Everyone involved in officiating on the field and in the replay booth continues to be deeply engaged in understanding the rules, the mechanics, the points of emphasis, and the myriad of details that you must master to be successful.

Because 2017 is an “off year” for new rules, there are very few changes since 2016. Player safety remains in sharp focus by the rules committee and the CFO. The point of emphasis directed at sideline decorum is an important highlight, one that requires our firm and fair attention. And management of the 20-minute halftime will require cooperation of everyone involved.

On a personal note: As most of you know, I have been serving in the dual roles of secretary-rules editor and national coordinator for the last several years. Because the position of secretary-rules editor is term-limited by the NCAA, I will rotate out of that part of my responsibilities, effective August 31. Steve Shaw, coordinator of officials for the Southeastern and Sun Belt Conferences, will take over that role on September 1. However, I am very excited to continue as national coordinator; this is work that I love and a position I am honored to hold. I encourage you to give Steve the same level of

support as SRE that you have granted me over my time in the position. He will do a great job, and I look forward to working with him as we make this a seamless transition. And of course, I value your continued support going forward as your national coordinator.

You have heard me say many times that every game requires our concentrated attention from the opening kickoff until the final horn. We are blessed to labor in an avocation that is difficult and challenging, where each play gives us another opportunity to excel. I know we will have a terrific season. You have my sincere wishes that this will be your best year ever.

***Rogers Redding***  
***National Coordinator of Football Officials***  
***August 6, 2017***