



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

### CFO DIVISION I 2018 COORDINATORS SUMMER MEETING

Napa, CA June 4-6, 2018

#### Summary Report

The 2018 annual summer meeting of the College Football Officiating (CFO) Division I Coordinators was held in Napa, CA, and was hosted by the PAC-12 Conference. The coordinators in attendance were joined by:

Jon Steinbrecher, Commissioner, Mid-American Conference; Chair, CFO Board of Managers

Ty Halpin, NCAA, CFO Administrator

Dean Blandino, National Director of Instant Replay

Rich McKay, President, Atlanta Falcons and Chair, NFL Competition Committee

Ed Stewart, Senior Associate Commissioner, Big 12 Conference

Woodie Dixon, Senior Associate Commissioner, PAC-12 Conference

Ed Tschannen, Recipient of the Dave Parry Award

Anthony Johnson, Referee, Southwestern Athletic Conference

David Warden, Big 12 Conference

Jeff Triplette, Arbiter Sports

Dave Yeast, Arbiter Sports

#### Welcoming Remarks

**Rogers Redding**, CFO National Coordinator, and **Ty Halpin**, CFO Administrator offered welcoming comments. Redding recognized Dean Blandino, newly appointed as the National Director of Instant Replay. It was noted that several coordinators were absent: Jack Childress (Southern) and Harold Mitchell (SWAC) due to health issues (Mitchell was represented by Anthony Johnson), Walt Anderson (Big 12) due to international travel, and Byron Boston who had an NFL commitment. In addition, the officiating program of the American Athletic Conference (AAC) has been joined with that of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) under the leadership of Dennis Hennigan.

Redding welcomed **Dr. Jon Steinbrecher**, MAC Commissioner and CFO Board of Managers chair, for his remarks.

## **REMARKS FROM COMMISSIONER STEINBRECHER**

CFO Board Chair Steinbrecher addressed the group, first by thanking the coordinators for their work. Highlights from Dr. Steinbrecher's remarks:

- Welcomed Dean Blandino in his new position. It was noted that this position is structured in a way to avoid conflicts with Dean's role as an analyst for Fox Sports during the football season. The board and the coordinators look forward to Dean's contributions to the instant replay program, especially around training and education.
- Commended the National Referee Conference which he attended, and encouraged the group to bolster this meeting.
- The Supreme Court's recent decision on gambling will impact college football in ways that are not yet clear. Officials need to be careful about inadvertently revealing information about their games.
- The targeting foul continues to be a point of emphasis. We need to work hard to be consistent in making this call and in reviewing it in replay.
- College football will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. The CFO will be involved in recognizing this milestone year.
- The Football Oversight Committee and the Competition Committee are working to deal with a number of issues that impact the playing rules, officiating and other aspects of the game. CFO is represented on these two committees.

## **CFO/NCAA Updates**

**Ty Halpin**, CFO administrator and NCAA liaison to the Football Rules Committee and Division I Competition Committee took the floor to review several NCAA-related items:

- *NCAA Rules Process.* The NCAA Football Rules Committee and Division I Competition Committee continue to be pleased with the amount of engagement and feedback received by the conferences. The survey process in particular has been an area of improvement and the coordinators' assistance in reminding coaches is an important part. The plan moving forward is to continue to meet jointly during the NFL combine week and continue the positive momentum.
- *Uniform process.* Halpin noted that the NCAA distributed a request for Division I schools to submit all uniforms to be worn in the 2018 season. Any issues will be communicated to the conference and institution in early July.
- *CFO Background Check Program.* The background check program through Verified Volunteers was discussed and the coordinators will receive an e-mail before July to upload rosters, etc. Halpin noted that only officials that will be assigned to FBS games are required to go through the check with Verified; there is a separate program for FCS/II/III officials run by Arbiter/People Trail. So, if an official is planning to be eligible for the FCS/II/III championships, they will need to submit to that check.

- *Tracking of kickoff data.* The group discussed possibly eliminating a few items that are currently being tracked through QwikRef (and the crew) in order to collect solid kickoff data with the rules change. The group agreed to remove the helmets off data from the collection and focus on the kickoff play for the 2018 season.
- *Communication.* Overall, Halpin noted that he would continue to share any issues that come to Shaw and Redding to keep the conferences in the loop when their teams are involved.

### **Rules Discussion**

**Steve Shaw** (SEC/Sun Belt), secretary-rules editor to the NCAA football rules committee, briefed the group about the new rules for 2018. He pointed out that while the NCAA will continue the two-year rules process, the rule book will be published every year. Key points from Shaw's report:

- *Free kicks:* When a player makes a fair catch inside his 25-yard line, Team B will have the ball at the B-25. This also applies when the player completes the catch after making an invalid signal.
- *Blocking below the waist:* It is illegal for Team A to block below the waist more than five yards beyond the neutral zone. Also, linemen inside the tackle box may block below the waist from the front or the side until the ball leaves the tackle box. All other players are allowed to block below the waist only from the front (i.e., 10 o'clock to 2 o'clock forward of the area of concentration of the blockee.) Other elements, such as the crackback block and the peelback block, remain in force.
- *Leaping to attempt to block a field or try:* The defender may not move forward from beyond the line of scrimmage and leap directly into the plane directly above the frame of the body of the opponent. This rule for action at the line of scrimmage now mirrors that for leaping the shield in front of a punter.
- *Knee pads and pants:* The rule change made in 2017 to take effect in 2018 is that the knee pads must be covered by the pants, and the pants and the knee pads must cover the knees. This rule will be a point of emphasis, especially early in the season.
- *Play clock:* After a touchdown, the 40-second play clock will start before the try, as in any other play in the game. Similarly, after a free kick, the 40-second play clock will start before the first play from scrimmage.

### **Dave Parry Award**

The 2018 David M. Parry Award goes to **Ed Tschannen**, former coordinator in the Gateway Conference. The award was made based on recommendations by the committee headed by **Bill Carollo** (Big Ten/MAC/MVFC). Patty Viverito, Commissioner of the Missouri Valley Football Conference (previously the Gateway Conference), formally presented the award to Ed during the annual dinner at the meeting.

## Arbiter Update

**Dave Yeast** (Arbiter Sports) made a presentation, with these highlights:

- Launch date of the CFO/Arbiter web site is June 15.
- Fees: No change for 2018. The fees remain as, Division 1: \$175; Division II: \$140; Division III: \$120.
- Welcome package: should be on track to ship as officials register.
- CFO test: scheduled to open June 15 and close July 9.

## Instant Replay

National Director **Dean Blandino** and Committee Chair Carollo made the instant replay presentation. Key points covered:

- National Instant Replay Meeting: The coordinators met in advance of the national meeting to achieve consensus on a number of plays. There was general agreement that this pre-meeting event should be continued.
- Videos: Blandino will post videos to the web site and distribute to the coordinators. Topics will include targeting, catch/no catch, and timing. Each topic will have one video specific to game and replay officials, and one video for coaches and players.
- Education and training: Other items of importance to the training and education of replay officials will be posted to the site as the season approaches. These will include tools for better decision making and performance under pressure.
- Collaborative replay: One issue yet to be settled is how to handle collaborative replay when the on-field officials and the replay officials are from different conferences.

## National Football League Report

**Rich McKay**, President of the Atlanta Falcons and Chair, NFL Competition Committee joined the meeting. He described the NFL's rules changes regarding use of the helmet and the kickoff. The approach for helmets is to remove the situational aspects of helmet use and address the issue of players lowering the head to deliver a blow, regardless of the situation. The emphasis should be on using the helmet as a protective device, not as a weapon. The new NFL helmet rule reads, "*It is a foul if a player lowers his head to initiate and make contact with his helmet against an opponent.*"

For 2018 only, the NFL also has changed the rule for kickoffs, recognizing that concussions occur with far greater frequency on kickoff returns than on any other play in the game. The major changes:

- *Kicking team formation*: When the ball is kicked, Team A players must all be lined up and stationary no more than one yard behind their restraining line.
- *Receiving team formation*: A **set-up zone** is established, defined by the Team B restraining line and a line 15 yards behind the restraining line. Until the ball is kicked, all Team B players must be behind the restraining line and at least eight players must be positioned inside the set-up zone.

- *Receiving team blocking:* Until the ball touches a player or the ground, no Team B player may cross his restraining line, or initiate a block in the 15-yard area between Team A's restraining line and five yards behind Team B's restraining line.

### **National Referee Conference**

The 2018 National Referee Conference was the third annual meeting, and once again was a great success. Attendance was 280. The number of topics covered in breakout sessions was expanded this year. The 2019 conference is scheduled for April 26-27, again at the DFW Marriott. Given that Walt Anderson has left the Big 12 Conference, it will be necessary to identify someone to take his place in chairing the committee to plan and execute the meeting. Redding will be working on this with the coordinators.

### **Recruiting Committee**

**David Warden** (Big 12) substituted for committee chair Byron Boston in making the report. The written report from Boston is included at the end of this summary. Warden pointed out that the focus on diversity is clearly achieving good results. Several successful camps and clinics aimed at developing officials were offered. The coordinators viewed a video of the Big Ten/SEC camp at Vanderbilt University.

### **CFO Issues**

Among the general issues discussed were these:

#### **Committee Assignments**

Redding invited the coordinators to email him regarding their preference for committee assignments. He also expressed appreciation for fine work on the committees and the willingness of the coordinators to be of service to CFO in any way possible.

#### **Topical Training Videos**

The commitments for topical training videos to be posted on the CFO/Arbiter web site are:

- *New Rules:* Shaw
- *Blocking Below the Waist:* Burks
- *Targeting:* Blandino
- *Catch/No Catch:* Blandino
- *Timing:* Blandino
- *Replay and the On-Field Official:* Blandino
- *Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players:* Carollo

#### **Other topics**

- *Tracking fair catches on kickoffs:* It was agreed that the person keeping the foul report during the game would also keep account of fair catches on kickoffs: in the end zone; between the goal line and the B-25; beyond the B-25.

- *Gambling*: Several people expressed views about gambling in light of the new Supreme Court ruling. Some conference independent contractor agreements address gambling, and Halpin will obtain these from the conferences. Distinction should be made between gambling in general and sports wagering. There was general agreement that officials should not be engaged in sports wagering in any form or fashion.

**Rotation Schedule for Hosting Future Summer Meetings**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Host</u>
2019	Big 12 Conference
2020	Arbiter Sports
2021	Big Ten Conference
2022	Atlantic Coast Conference
2023	Southeastern Conference
2024	PAC-12 Conference

**FUTURE CFO MEETINGS**

**CFO Divisions II and III 2018 Coordinators Summer Meeting**

*NCAA Offices*  
Indianapolis, IN  
July 10-11, 2018

**CFO Division I 2019 Coordinators Winter Meeting**

*National Football Foundation*  
Irving, TX  
January 21-23, 2019

**CFO 2019 National Referee Conference**

*Marriott DFW North*  
April 26-27, 2019

**CFO 2019 National Instant Replay Clinic**

*Chicago Hyatt Regency O'Hare*  
May 2-4, 2019

**CFO Division I 2019 Coordinators Summer Meeting**

*TBA*  
June 3-5, 2019  
Hosted by the Big-12 Conference

**--Rogers Redding**  
***CFO National Coordinator***

## **RECRUITING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The recruiting committee would once again like to thank Commissioner Steinbrecher, Rogers, Ty, and all of the coordinators for their support in helping us achieve another successful year. The results have been noticed by officials and administrators across the country. The report below will outline many of the clinics and camps attended by the coordinators. These camps and clinics continue to afford young aspiring officials an opportunity to showcase their talents under game like conditions.

1: *Sugarland Clinic*: Nearly 300 officials attended the Sugarland clinic hosted by Walt Anderson and the Big 12 Conference. The addition of an instant replay segment led by David Warden has opened up another avenue for potential minority candidates to become involved in the NCAA officiating process. The feedback from the clinic attendees was overwhelmingly positive.

2: *Tom Beard East*: The Tom Beard camp and clinic was once again a big success and several of the campers received invites from a number of the coordinators in attendance to work games in their respective conferences.

3: *Big 10 and SEC Minority Camp*: Thanks again to Steve Shaw and Bill Carollo for hosting this camp at Vanderbilt University. There were quality candidates in attendance and several were given an opportunity to be a part of the officiating consortiums of the Big 10 and SEC. Steve advised that he had hired 8 new officials and 5 were minority candidates. Bill and Steve plan to continue to host this clinic and it has proven to be a very worthwhile endeavor. As I noted in the winter report, one of the officials from the initial camp worked the CFP National Championship game this year.

4: *Arkansas Camp*: The annual camp in Little Rock hosted by Walt Anderson once again proved to be an enormous success. Seven officials from this camp will be given an opportunity to work assignments in the Big 12 and Southland Conferences during the 2018 season. This group included two female officials.

5: *MEAC Camp*: Andre Lowe held a camp in Maryland that was attended by many of the coordinators. Andre was very pleased with the quality of the attendees and has advised that several will receive an opportunity to work selected games in the MEAC as well as other conferences in the area.

6: *SWAC Camp*: Harold Mitchell held his annual SWAC camp in Houston and there were nearly two hundred officials that had an opportunity to work on the field. This camp has consistently provided the coordinators with an in depth look at officiating candidates under game situations. Harold uses local high schools in the Houston area that agreed to have full contact scrimmages at multiple locations. The instructors and clinicians provide hands on training to the campers. Numerous officials from this camp will work games in the SWAC, MEAC, and Southland Conferences this season.

7: *El Paso Camp*: The El Paso camp concluded Memorial Day weekend. There were 118 officials working on the field at this camp. There are several officials from this camp that will receive assignments for the 2018 season. The Head Football Coach at UTEP had several of his players come to the field and participate in the scrimmages and film sessions as officials. They were amazed at what all it takes to officiate a football game!

8: *Tom Beard West:* David Coleman will be hosting the Tom Beard West clinic in June at Arizona State University. I spoke with Dave and he is expecting a large turnout for this event and is hoping to hire some officials from this camp onto his supplemental roster.

9: *Milt Halstead:* Milt is continuing his program of visiting colleges in an effort to recruit potential officials from players that have used up their college eligibility. This gives those players an opportunity to continue their association with the game of football. Milt will update his efforts during the summer coordinators meeting.

I am sure that I may have missed a clinic or camp and if I did please bring it up during the Recruiting Committee portion of the meeting. The progress in leveling the playing field for minority candidates has steadily improved and for that the committee is eternally grateful. Once again thanks to all of you for making this effort the success story it has become and I look forward to working with each of you this season.

Thank you,

Byron Boston  
Chairman: Recruiting Committee

Milt Halstead  
Recruiting Committee Member