



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

CFO COORDINATORS ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

National Football Foundation

Irving, TX, January 22-24, 2018

Summary Report

The annual winter meeting of the College Football Officiating (CFO) Coordinators was held in Irving, TX, at the headquarters of the National Football Foundation. The Division I coordinators were joined by:

Tom Burnett, Commissioner, Southland Conference and member, CFO Board of Managers

Ed Stewart, Big 12 Conference and NCAA Football Rules Committee

Ron Prettyman, NCAA Managing Director, Championships and Alliances

Ty Halpin, NCAA, CFO Administrator

Jim Blackwood, National Director of Instant Replay

Jeff Triplette, Arbiter Sports

Dave Yeast, Arbiter Sports

Atsunora Hamada, Japanese American Football Association, Osaka, Japan

Atsuo Tanaka, Japanese American Football Association, Tokyo, Japan

Kinjiro Ishiki, Japanese American Football Association, Osaka, Japan

Welcoming Remarks

Rogers Redding, CFO national coordinator, welcomed the coordinators and visitors, and thanked the National Football Foundation for once again hosting the meeting, for the fifth consecutive year.

Steve Hatchell, CEO of the National Football Foundation, welcomed the group and introduced several members of his staff: Matthew Sign, Will Rudd, Hillary Jeffries and Ron Dilatush. He thanked the coordinators for their work on behalf of college football and expressed the Foundation's pleasure with the flourishing relationship between the NFF and CFO. Hatchell noted the NFF's continuing project, "Football

Matters,” a concerted effort to counter some of the negative images of football in the public eye. He also highlighted several NFF initiatives, including the William B. Campbell Trophy, the College Football Hall of Fame, and the chapter system of the NFF.

Kevin Weiberg, executive director, College Football 150th Anniversary, addressed the group about several events for 2019, which is the anniversary year. Weiberg, former commissioner of the Big 12 Conference, informed the coordinators about several initiatives will take place during the 2019 season. A major effort will be to work with the conferences to have players wear a jersey patch with the anniversary logo.

NCAA Update

Ty Halpin (NCAA staff) led the group in discussions of items of particular concern to the conferences and the coordinators.

- *Uniforms.* Regarding the approval of uniforms, the NCAA has reached out to the major manufacturers in an effort to streamline the review and approval process. In some cases, conference offices have assumed a more proactive role; in others, schools or the manufacturers have contacted the NCAA for approval and guidance. The Division I Competition Committee and the Football Rules Committee have identified this as an issue that needs centralization. The Competition Committee has established a subcommittee to assist Halpin and SRE Steve Shaw in reviewing uniforms for approval (Ed Stewart, Big 12; Michael Strickland, ACC; and Scott Stricklin, Florida). The manufacturers and schools would be given opportunities to submit designs, and this group would evaluate current rules and insure consistency with approvals and denials. Halpin noted that at FBS schools uniforms are generally manufactured on a two-year production timeline; uniforms used on the field in 2018 were in the design stage in 2016. It was noted that if the uniform were clearly legal, it would not require a review.
- *Statistics/Research.* Halpin observed that in some areas, additional study and data are needed to assist NCAA committees and conferences. A good example is the coordinators’ current study of data to gauge the amount of elapsed game time that could be reduced with some rules changes. Additionally, more detail on key plays (e.g., targeting) may help to identify reasons for changes over time in numbers of fouls and reveal other useful information. Halpin commended the conferences for their assistance in helping on a national level.
- *Rules Committee and Competition Committee Meetings.* The annual meetings will be held during the NFL combine in Indianapolis February 27-March 2. The meetings will include, at various times, representatives from the television partners, NFL Competition Committee and others. The rules committee will hold a conference call with the coordinators and conference administrators prior to the public release of its report.

Rules and Mechanics Discussion

Steve Shaw (SEC and Sun Belt), NCAA secretary-rules editor, led discussions at various times during the meeting about possible revisions and new rules, as well as

officiating mechanics. It was noted that 2018 is a rules-change year of the two-year rules cycle. Among the items discussed were:

- *Knee Pads* The rule passed in 2017 to take place in 2018 is that “the pants and knee pads must cover the knees.” This rule is to be enforced strictly. It is important to enforce this rule at the very beginning of the season, so that players and coaches see that there will be no leeway.
- *Blindside blocks* The coordinators are proposing to the rules committee that a blindside block should be legal only if the forcible contact is with open hands with arms extended or the player sets a pick.
- *Blocking below the waist* The committee should consider making blocking below the waist illegal except by a player stationary at the snap inside the tackle box, but it would always be illegal if the blocker approaches the opponent along a direction parallel or toward the blocker’s goal line.
- *Leaping* The coordinators recommend aligning the rules involving leaping of the punt shield and leaping in an attempt to block field goals and extra points.
- *Kickoff* Eliminate the formation of a “two-man” wedge on kickoff returns.
- *Mouthpiece* The coordinators recommend that it be a single solid color with no messaging or logo of any kind.
- *Unsportsmanlike Conduct* The coordinators discussed situations where a scuffle arises and both benches empty, with essentially all players and squad members participating. The recommendation is for an editorial change that would specifically allow the referee to charge each member of both teams with a foul for unsportsmanlike conduct, so that any team member charged with another unsportsmanlike conduct foul during the game would be disqualified.
- *Penalty enforcement* The committee should consider making the penalty for offensive pass interference 10 yards rather than the current 15 yards. Consensus is that the rule for defensive pass interference not be changed.
- *Officiating neutrality* Officials should be reminded that they must not do anything that would appear to compromise their role as neutral arbiters of the game. Congratulating coaches or players is not appropriate, as it can lead to perceptions of bias.
- *Reporting of targeting fouls* More detail is needed in our reporting these fouls to show what specific acts were deemed as targeting.
- *Referee announcements* Two points were made regarding announcements by the referee. (1) Always use the appropriate signals since it cannot be assumed that the microphone sound is audible to everyone. (2) Have in mind the words to be said *before* the microphone is opened; don’t “make it up” while speaking.
- *Punt mechanics* The group agreed to make a change to designate the umpire as having primary responsibility for preventing the snap during offensive substitutions.
- *Ineligible receiver downfield* We should continue to improve officiating this play. The suggestion was made to make the play reviewable when there is a flag for

this foul but replay clearly shows that the ineligible player was not beyond the three-yard limit.

- *Location of the chains* The suggestion was made to allow the line-to-gain chain to be used on either sideline. The consensus was to make this a conference option. This will be taken to the rules committee.

Arbiter Sports Update

Dave Yeast reported that enrollment is slightly increased for football membership in CFO. Again the launch date for the CFO/Arbiter web site will be June 15, 2018.

National Referee Conference

Walt Anderson (Big 12) reported that the 2018 National Referee Conference will be held April 27-28 at the Marriott DFW North, adjacent to the Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport. Sessions will begin at 10:00 AM Friday, April 27 and conclude at 3:00 PM Saturday, April 28. Most presenters from last year have committed to sessions again. Anderson asked for additional referees and/or topics, to increase the number of sessions and to keep the number any one presentation is made to two. This allows the presenters to also participate and attend sessions. Arbiter will again host the registration and session sign-up, which will begin around March 1—date to be determined.

Dave Parry Award

The selection committee chaired by Bill Carollo (Big Ten and MAC) announced its recommendation that the 2017 David M. Parry award be made to **Ed Tschannen**, former coordinator of the Gateway Conference. The CFO Board of Managers has approved this choice. Ed and his wife will be guests of the CFO at the coordinators' 2018 summer meeting in June for the formal presentation of the award.

Recruiting Committee

Committee chair Byron Boston (Southland) reported for the committee and commended the group for its efforts in recruiting minority officials. He observes that the addition of the eighth official has created additional opportunities. He noted an improvement in postseason games where crews were seen to include more minority officials, including at the Referee position. He also cited the positive aspects of the coordinators operating within a culture of sharing officials across conferences.

Several clinics will be held in the spring to highlight recruiting efforts:

SEC/BIG TEN DEVELOPMENTAL CLINIC

March 16-17

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

Contact: Steve Shaw, SEC Coordinator (sshaw@sec.org) or Bill Carollo, B1G Coordinator (carollo@bigten.org)

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE SPRING CLINIC

April 19-21

Bethesda Marriott

5151 Pooks Hill Road

Bethesda, MD 20814

Contact: Andre Lowe, MEAC Coordinator (andre.t.lowe@gmail.com)

HM FOOTBALL CAMP AND CLINIC

May 10-12

Houston, TX

Website: hmfootballcamp.com

Contact: Harold Mitchell, SWAC Coordinator (hmitchell@bellsouth.net)

STARS AND STRIPES ACADEMY

May 17-20

Salt Lake City, UT

Website: SASAFootball.com

Contact: Karl Richins, Big Sky Coordinator (karlrichins@me.com)

Instant Replay Committee

Jim Blackwood (National Director of Instant Replay) and committee chair Bill Carollo (Big Ten and MAC) led the discussion of issues with instant replay. They emphasized the need for consistency in the management of replay reviews.

The 2018 National Instant Replay Clinic will be held at the Chicago Hyatt Regency O’Hare in Rosemont, IL, May 4-5, 2018. **Coordinators, instant replay officials and communicators are expected to attend.** The suggestion was made for the coordinators and their conference instant replay coordinators/directors to meet together as a group on May 3, the day before the full clinic

The coordinators viewed several targeting videos from the 2017-18 postseason games. Here are the play reviewed and the results:

<u>Game</u>	<u>IR RULING</u>
1. Peach Bowl: Auburn v. Central Florida (1) Coordinators: Agree	Confirmed
2. Peach Bowl: Auburn v. Central Florida (2) Coordinators: Agree	Reversed
3. Outback Bowl: South Carolina v. Michigan Coordinators: Agree	Confirmed
4. Cure Bowl: Georgia St. v. Western Kentucky Coordinators: Not agree. Technically a correct ruling, but no consensus	IR—Confirmed
5. Boca Raton Bowl: FL Atlantic v. Akron Coordinators: Disagree with ruling. Should have been confirmed	Reversed
6. Gasparilla Bowl: FL International v. Temple (1) Coordinators: Disagree with ruling. Should have been confirmed	Reversed
7. Gasparilla Bowl: FL International v. Temple (2)	IR—No TGT

Coordinators: Agree	
8. Texas Bowl: Texas v. Missouri	Stands
Coordinators: Agree (not unanimous)	
9. Holiday Bowl: Michigan State v. Washington St.	Confirmed
Coordinators: No consensus, with differences of opinion	
10. Military Bowl: Navy v. Virginia	Reversed
Coordinators: Agree	
11. Music City Bowl: Kentucky v. Northwestern	IR—Confirmed
Coordinators: Agree	

The group also reviewed video of targeting fouls for sliding ball carrier and blindsides blocks.

Board of Managers Perspective

Tom Burnett, commissioner of the Southland Conference and member of the CFO Board of Managers, attended the entire meeting and made his remarks to open the second day's session. He cited the history of the creation of the CFO, now ten years old. Several governance changes have taken place in the NCAA, such as the creation of the Football Oversight Committee and the Football Competition Committee, which could have an impact on the CFO. He commended the coordinators for their work toward better officiating consistency, which continues to be an important area. Burnett also encouraged that there be no back-tracking on targeting fouls.

With regard to FCS matters, Burnett reiterated the need for outstanding officiating during the NCAA playoff games. He said that some of the FCS conferences are considering going to eight-member officiating crews; for the Southland this could potentially happen in 2019. He also commended Walt Anderson and the Big 12 for the consortium model, whereby the Big 12 partners with the Mountain West (FBS) and the Southland (FCS) on officiating.

Ron Prettyman, NCAA managing director of championship and alliances and a member of the CFO Board of Managers, also attended each session of the meeting. He offered some observations from the NCAA perspective. He commended the coordinators for their work, for their attention to the detail of officiating, and for the role they play in the stewardship of the game.

College Football Playoff

Bill Hancock, executive director of the College Football Playoff, addressed the group. He observed that the playoff will remain at four teams, despite some calls for enlarging to eight. He indicated that several members of the selection committee had rotated off and that new members include Ronnie Lott, Ken Hatfield, and Joe Castiglione. Hancock also cited the work of the CFP Foundation for Teaching, directed by Britton Banowsky, former commissioner of Conference-USA. Its focus is on supporting classroom teachers through contributions that can be made through donorschoose.org. He emphasized that the commissioners who manage the playoffs encouraged that the playoff always "be a first-class event."

The College Football Playoff office was again kind enough to host a wonderful reception for the coordinators at the CFP office complex.

General CFO Issues

- *Feedback from bowl game coaches* When a coach in a bowl game has questions about the officiating, he should be directed to the coordinator for his conference, who then would contact the coordinator whose crew worked the game. He in turn would communicate his responses back to the coordinator in the coach's conference. Redding asked that he be kept informed of these communications.
- *Dragonfly use of TV plus coaches' film* Kirk Miller of Dragonfly has a proposal for the use of TV footage as well as coaches' film. Redding will be in contact with him to set up some interaction with the coordinators.

Summer Meeting

The coordinators' 2018 summer meeting will be hosted by the PAC-12. This will be at the Napa Valley Marriott in Napa, CA. Dates are June 4-6, 2018. David Coleman distributed information about the hotel and the area.

Hosts for Future Meetings

We will continue to hold the annual winter meeting at the National Football Foundation, and we are very grateful to the NFF for being such wonderful hosts.

Here is the rotation for hosting the annual summer meetings:

- 2019--Big 12
- 2020--Arbiter Sports
- 2021--Big Ten
- 2022—ACC
- 2023—SEC

Upcoming CFO Meetings

2018 CFO National Referee Conference

Marriott DFW North
April 27-28, 2018

2018 CFO National Instant Replay Clinic

Chicago Hyatt Regency O'Hare
May 4-5, 2018

2018 CFO Coordinators Summer Meeting

Napa Valley Marriott
June 4-6, 2018
Hosted by the PAC-12 Conference

2018 Division II and III Coordinators Summer Meeting

NCAA Offices

Indianapolis, IN

July 10-11, 2018

2019 CFO Coordinators Winter Meeting

National Football Foundation

January 21-23, 2019

--Rogers Redding
CFO National Coordinator