



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2019 CFO DIVISION I COORDINATORS ANNUAL WINTER MEETING

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

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

Dean Blandino, National Director of Instant Replay

Jeff Triplette, Arbiter Sports

Dave Yeast, Arbiter Sports

Zach Christopher, NCAA Graduate Intern

Atsunora Hamada, Japanese American Football Association, Osaka, Japan

Hiroyasu Nanakubo, Japanese American Football Association, Tokyo, 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 seventh 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.

NCAA Update

Ty Halpin (NCAA staff) was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict with the NCAA. In his absence the group discussed items from his written input.

- *Uniforms.* Last year, the NCAA established a streamlined review/approval process with the schools and major manufacturers. Conference administrators have been involved when needed, but we have a small committee that reviews uniforms when needed. Halpin and secretary-rules editor Steve Shaw will initially review any that appear to be in question. About 35-40 samples were assessed an in-person review. We continue to work with the manufacturers to get involved earlier in the process.
- *Statistics.* The tracking of kickoff data seemed to go well, and the information will be very helpful to the competition and rules committees to have this data fair catches play. Ty expresses his appreciation to the coordinators for their good management of this process.
- *Rules Committee and Competition Committee Meetings.* The annual meetings will be held during the NFL combine in Indianapolis, February 28-March 1. Coach David Shaw (Stanford) is the new chair of the rules committee. As in the past, we will hold a conference call with the coordinators and conference administrators prior to the public release of its report. More details on this, but it will be Friday, March 1 – likely early afternoon.
- *Cards and Forms.* Zach Christopher was available at the meeting with updated officiating cards and forms.

Rules Discussion

Steve Shaw (SEC and Sun Belt), NCAA secretary-rules editor, led the discussion at about possible revisions and new rules. It was noted that 2019 is not a rules-change year; thus, the rules committee will take action only those changes that directly impact student-athlete safety, although other topics may be discussed. Steve also noted that a rule book will be published in 2019. Among the items the group discussed:

- Collaborative Replay
- Possible changes to the Targeting rules
- Changes to Instant Replay for Targeting
- Illegal wedge and double-team blocks on kickoffs
- Fair catch on kickoffs
- Additional kickoff options
- Blocking below the waist
- Blindside blocks
- Extra Periods
- Assigning on-field officials and replay officials from the same conference
- Players wearing uniform numbers during pregame warmups
- Disqualification of players and coaches

Arbiter Sports Update

Dave Yeast reported that enrollment in 2017-18 for football membership in CFO is approximately 3700, an all-time high. Again the launch date for the CFO/Arbiter web site will be June 15, 2019.

National Referee Conference

Greg Burks (Mountain West and Big 12) reported that the 2019 National Referee Conference will be held April 26-27 at the Marriott DFW North, adjacent to the Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport. Sessions will begin at 10:00 AM Friday, April 26 and conclude at 3:00 PM Saturday, April 27. Many presenters from last year have again committed to presenting sessions again. Registration will open March 1.

Dave Parry Award

The selection committee chaired by Bill Carollo (Big Ten and MAC) announced its recommendation that the 2019 David M. Parry award be made to **Jim Maconaghy**, who has just retired as coordinator of three conferences: Colonial Athletic Association, Patriot Conference and Ivy League. The CFO Board of Managers has approved this choice. Jim and his wife will be invited to attend the coordinators' 2019 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. Some of these are noted in the report of the committee, which is attached at the end of this summary.

Targeting and Instant Replay: Commissioners Meeting

The Board of Managers met during the time of the College Football Playoff national championship game for a focused discussion of *targeting and instant replay*. Participating in the meeting were secretary-rules editor Steve Shaw, national director of instant replay Dean Blandino, Bill Carollo, chair of the coordinators instant replay committee, Ty Halpin, NCAA liaison to D-I college football, and national coordinator Rogers Redding. These five led a discussion of the coordinators by way of reporting on and receiving feedback on the topics of the Board's meeting.

The coordinators also viewed video of several targeting situations (called and not called on the field) to work toward getting better consensus of how replay should view these plays. The point was emphasized that the coordinators must be on the same page with regard to targeting and how instant replay responds to these fouls, in order to achieve a very high level of accuracy and consistency.

Here is a brief summary of the discussion points:

- Targeting – Recommend to remove the option of “stands” during instant replay reviews. Instant replay officials are to re-officiate the play; under this

recommendation they would make a decisive call of “confirm” or “overturn,” without the “when in doubt it is a foul” guidance that on-field officials have.

- Targeting – Emphasize the word “attack” or “attacking” in the rule language of each of the *Indicators of Targeting* in Note 1 on page FR-88.
- Targeting – Repeat offenders should receive a one-game suspension. Conferences would track and manage enforcement.
- Instant Replay – Consideration of a summit (1-2 days) to discuss instant replay in football and basketball.
- Collaborative Replay – Establish protocols for the conference video centers similar to that for stadium instant replay booths (e.g., personnel allowed, recommended audio/video, etc.).
- Collaborative Replay – Recommend to the rules committee that the experimental rule be codified as a rule change.
- Collaborative Replay – Dean Blandino will investigate some cost potential if the conferences wanted to move to regional centers in the future (outside of the conference offices).
- Review blindside blocks where there is no targeting.
- Consider outlawing blocking below the waist, especially low blocks at the knee.
- Kickoffs: Consider outlawing double-team blocks. Assess the effectiveness of the fair catch rule.

Mechanics

Mechanics committee chair Steve Shaw led the discussion. Salient points:

- Continue to have one mechanics manual for six, seven, and eight officials.
- Need for diligence for enforcing rules for unsportsmanlike conduct by players and coaches. Particular concern around taunting the opponent.
- Commitment to create a training video for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Need for continued attention to uniforms.

College Football Playoff

Bill Hancock, executive director of the College Football Playoff, addressed the group. He observed that the playoff is starting its sixth year with very strong support nationwide. He indicated that several members of the selection committee had rotated off and that new members are R. C. Slocum, Ray Odierno, and Terry Mohajir. Site selection follows a “Ten in Ten” model—a different site in each of the first ten years, to expose different parts of the country to the playoff. Next year the championship game is in New Orleans, and then Miami, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, and Houston will round out the first ten years.

Hancock and the College Football Playoff office once again were kind enough to host a wonderful reception for the coordinators at the CFP office complex.

150th Anniversary of College Football

Kevin Weiberg, executive director, College Football 150th Anniversary, addressed the group about several events for 2019, which is the anniversary year. Weiberg briefed the coordinators about several initiatives that will take place during the 2019 season. A major effort will be to work with the CFO and the conferences to have players and officials wear a jersey patch with the anniversary logo.

General CFO Issues

- Use of a microphone by the Umpire
- Postgame interactions with coaches
- Defensive stemming
- Umpire in CJ position in seven-member crew
- Conflict-of-interest issues in game assignments for officials

Summer Meeting

The coordinators' 2019 summer meeting will be hosted by the Big-12 Conference. Greg Burks announced that the meeting will be at the J. W. Marriott in San Antonio. Dates are June 3-5, 2019.

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:

2020—Arbiter Sports

2021—Big Ten

2022—ACC

2023—SEC

2024—PAC-12

Upcoming CFO Meetings

2019 CFO National Referee Conference

Marriott DFW North

April 26-27, 2019

2019 CFO National Instant Replay Clinic

Chicago Hyatt Regency O'Hare

May 3-4, 2019

2019 Division I CFO Coordinators Summer Meeting

J. W. Marriott

San Antonio, TX

June 3-4, 2019

Hosted by the Big-12 Conference

2019 Division II and III Coordinators Summer Meeting

NCAA Offices

Indianapolis, IN

July 9-10, 2019

2019 Division I CFO Coordinators Winter Meeting
National Football Foundation
January 27-29, 2020

--Rogers Redding
CFO National Coordinator of Football Officials

Recruiting Committee Report 2018 Season

Below is a summary from the recruiting committee regarding the 9 season.

1: Clinics: Participation by the coordinators in off season clinics continues to be a major part of the improvements in minority official's participation in NCAA football officiating at all levels. The clinics have proven to be a resource for the coordinators to see qualified candidates perform on the field and enable them to make more informed hiring decisions. Upcoming clinics that I am aware of are:

- A: Los Angeles Invitational held in January**
- B: PAC 12 Officiating Development Clinic in March in San Francisco**
- C: CFO West Clinic held in Dallas in February.**
- D: CFO West Little Rock Camp held in Little Rock in April.**
- E: Tom Beard Camp and Clinic held in March**
- F: MEAC Camp and Clinic held in April**
- G: Big 10 & SEC Diversity Camp held in April in Canton OH**
- H: Harold Mitchell Camp held in Houston in May**
- I: El Paso Camp and Clinic held in El Paso in May**

2: Cooperation Between Coordinators: Nothing has proven more beneficial to leveling the playing field for all officials than the continued cooperation amongst the coordinators. Officials now have more opportunities to work games in multiple conferences when coordinators have a need in the non-conference part of the schedule for additional officials.

3: Post Season Participation: I watched many of the post season games and minority participation was greatly improved. Several major bowl games and conference championship games featured minority referees. Both the CFP and FCS National championship games featured multiple minority officials on the field.

4: Milt Halstead, David Coleman, and Andre Lowe will update the group on their efforts to improve officiating at all levels.

In summary, the committee appreciates the efforts of this group. Without your help none of this would be possible. We would also like to give a special thanks to Rogers Redding, Ty Halpin, and Commissioner Steinbrecher for their continued support in this endeavor.

**Byron Boston
Chairman**

**Members:
David Coleman
Milt Halstead
Andre Lowe**