



COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC

2019 CFO NATIONAL REFEREES CONFERENCE **SUMMARY REPORT**

The fourth annual CFO National Referees Conference was held at the DFW Marriott North Hotel (Dallas) on Friday-Saturday, April 26-27, 2019. Approximately 250 officials who work the Referee position gathered for plenary sessions and breakouts; attendees included referees from FBS, FCS, Division II and Division III. This was hosted by the Big 12 Conference, with the major planning and execution directed by Greg Burks, coordinator of football officials for the Big 12 and Mountain West Conferences.

Dr. Jon Steinbrecher, Commissioner of the Mid-American Conference and chair of the Board of Managers of College Football Officiating, opened the conference with the keynote address. Dr. Steinbrecher challenged the attendees in several major areas: leadership, integrity, composure and consistency. He cited the need for officials to thoroughly understand the “science” of officiating—the details of the rules and mechanics—as well as the “Art” of officiating—how to actually work a game. He also called attention to the rise of sports wagering and the additional challenges it implies for officials.

Ty Halpin, NCAA Director of Championships and Alliances for Division I Football, brought the group up to date on NCAA activities and issues in his area of responsibility.

General session presentations were made by Steve Shaw, secretary-rules editor of the NCAA football rules committee and Rogers Redding, national coordinator of football officials. They covered the new rules as well as key basic topics that are fundamental for all officials.

Throughout the two days, the referees attended concurrent breakout sessions that covered several topics. These comprised a number of general areas, including Leadership 101, Starting Out as a Referee, Situational Awareness, Outside the Lines, Painting a Picasso, Inside the Red Zone, and Pre-Game Meeting and Evaluation. Breakout sessions were also held on some nuts-and-bolts items: Offensive Holding, Breaking Down Video, Using the Microphone, Mechanics, Seven-Person Mechanics, Intentional Grounding and Roughing/Running into the

Passer/Kicker, and Offensive/Defensive Pass Interference. Referees currently active in FBS and FCS conference led these breakout sessions, which were repeated so that every attendee could participate in at least two different sessions during the meeting.

A highlight of the meeting was a session on Friday evening where attendees viewed video of a number of targeting plays, particularly in regard to the new rule that eliminates “Stands” as a possible outcome of instant replay review. Everyone was then asked to electronically record their ruling: “Confirmed” or “Overturned.”

Special thanks go to the Big 12 Conference and especially Tracy Hunt, for her great work in organizing and managing the details of this important event.

Rogers Redding
National Coordinator of Football Officials