

Rules Interpretation

7/20/2021

Bow High School, Bow, NH

President Tracy welcomed the membership to the 2021 rules interpretation meeting.

Steve Hall New Rules Presentation

Steve Hall gave a presentation on the new rules that were adopted for the year 2021. There is only one rule change this year.

- 1) **Blocking below the waist:** Blocking below the waist is allowed as long as both players are in the free blocking zone and on the line of scrimmage. The ball must also be in the zone. The block has to be an immediate initial action following the snap.

Steve Hall next went over some football reminders.

- 1) The head coach will now designate a person responsible for making penalty enforcement decisions.
- 2) Any delay of the game caused by weather in the last 3-minutes of the first half and last longer than 30 minutes, both coaches can mutually agree to resume the second period and then have a shortened half.
- 3) When there is an injury to a defensive player or an equipment issue for a defensive player the play clock will be reset to 40-seconds.
- 4) Any time a new series is awarded following a legal kick we will use a 25-second play clock.
- 5) The quarterback can now spike the ball to conserve time while in the shotgun as long as the snap is not muffed.

Points of emphasis;

- 1) Sportsmanship
- 2) Intentional grounding
- 3) Ineligibles down field
- 4) Line of scrimmage formation

Mechanics Committee Update

Councilor Finkle announced that observations are required this year. Next he went over some points of focus for this year.

- 1) Penalty flags: Make sure that when you throw a flag, get it high into the air so that everyone knows that a flag has been thrown.
- 2) Do not penalize the defense by stopping the clock when it should be running.
- 3) Wings should be pinching in when necessary.
- 4) Good forward progress spots.

Councilor Finkle next reviewed the mechanics for the use of radios.

Uniforms:

- 1) 2-inch shirts are recommended for 2021 and will be mandatory for 2022.
- 2) Radios are recommended for 2021 and will be mandatory in 2022.

Start of Business Meeting.

President Tracy requested a moment of silence for the officials that we have recently lost.

President Tracy gave his opening remarks.

Minutes from passed meetings:

Chairman Smith motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Councilor Cherbonneau. No discussion, motion passed.

Treasure's Report

Treasurer Presher went over the NHFOA budget with the membership. Gerry Veilleux motioned to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Russ Laney. No discussion, motion passed.

Golf Tournament:

Gerry Veilleux gave an update on the upcoming golf tournament.

Constitution and Bylaws Amendments:

Chairman Smith went over the following proposed amendments. See proposed amendments at end of minutes.

- 1) Proposed Amendment #1 to the NHFOA Constitution: Rights of membership. Dave Dickson motioned to adopt this amendment, seconded by President-Elect Patch. No discussion, motion passed, unanimously.
- 2) Proposed Amendment # 2 to NHFOA Constitution: Motioned to adopt by councilor Cherbonneau, seconded by Councilor Scofield. No discussion, motion passed, unanimously.

- 3) Proposed Amendment #3 to the NHFOA Constitution: Motion to adopt by President-Elect Patch, seconded by Rolly Janetos. After much discussion, motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Proposed Amendment # 4 to the NHFOA Constitution: Motion to adopt by Councilor Scofield, seconded by Treasurer Presher. After much discussion, motion passed with 10 members against.
- 5) Proposed Amendment # 5 to the NHFOA Constitution: Motioned to adopt by Rolly Janetos, seconded by Councilor Finkle. No discussion, motion passed, unanimously.
- 6) Proposed Amendment #6 to the NHFOA Constitution: Motioned to adopt by Dan O'Neil, seconded by Harry Irwin. No discussion, motion passed, unanimously.
- 7) Proposed Amendment #7 to the NHFOA Constitution: Roland St. Germain withdrew this proposed amendment.
- 8) Proposed Amendment #1 to NHFOA Bylaws: Motioned to adopt by Councilor Cherbonneau, seconded by Tom Gilpatrick. No discussion, motion passed, unanimously.
- 9) Proposed Amendment #2 to NHFOA Bylaws: Motioned to adopt by Councilor Scofield, seconded by Councilor Finkle. No discussion, motion passed, unanimously.

Results of the survey that was sent to the membership: Chairman Smith gave the results of the survey.

- 1) Question on Radio and Headsets: 60/40 in favor of radios
- 2) Question on 2" striped shirts: 50/50
- 3) Question on travel uniform: 75/25 in favor of not wearing ties.

Zebraweb: President Tracy gave an update on Zebraweb.

Proposed Amendment #1 to NHFOA Constitution

Submitted by Steve Hall (Endorsed by NHFOA Council)

Amend the Constitution by removing playoff assignments as currently stated in Article V, Section III, C. 5., which currently reads as:

Section III - Duties of Officers and Councilors

C. 5. Use field ratings from the current season to assign varsity play-off games. The Commissioner will not be eligible for playoff games. To be eligible for varsity playoff and championship games, a member must have officiated a minimum of twenty-five New Hampshire high school varsity games overall, and a minimum of six in the current year. Except in emergencies, no official shall work more than one championship game in one season. Thanksgiving Day games shall be assigned at the Commissioner's discretion.

And place them in Article IV, Section II, new Paragraph C, renaming paragraphs C-F to D-G, respectively, to read as:

ARTICLE IV – Duties and Rights of the Membership

Section II – Rights of Membership

A Member in Good Standing shall have the following rights:

A. The right to vote, provided that the member is a Regular Member meeting the requirements of Classification 1, 2 3 or 4 in Appendix A to the Bylaws; a Transfer Member; or an Inactive Member meeting the requirements of Classification 7 or 8 in Appendix A of the Bylaws .

B. The right to receive game assignments at the discretion of the Commissioner, provided that the member is an Apprentice Member, Provisional Member, Regular Member, or Transfer Member. Membership in the NHFOA does not guarantee receipt of game assignments.

C. The right to receive varsity playoff and championship game assignments subject to the following conditions: 1. The member must have officiated a minimum of twenty-five New Hampshire high school varsity games overall and a minimum of six games in the current season 2. If a member qualifies but works more than one position, then the Commissioner shall have discretion in assigning that official to a position in playoff games. 3. Except in emergencies, no official shall work more than one championship game in one season.

C. D. The right to see and hear all testimony used by the Council to levy punitive action against said member.

D. E. The right to at least 48 hours' advance notice prior to any hearing involving formal complaints against said member.

E. F. The right to appeal any punitive action or suspension imposed by the Council, including the right to a hearing on any such appeal and the opportunity to present evidence in the member's defense. Any appeal must be requested in writing to the Council.

F. G. The right to request a special meeting of the Council by making such request of any Councilor. 2

Proposed Amendment #2 to NHFOA Constitution

Submitted by Ernie Clark (Endorsed by NHFOA Council)

Amendment to Article V, Section III, D which currently reads as:

D. The Secretary shall:

1. Handle all correspondence as directed by the Commissioner, Chair or President.
2. Inform the membership of date, time and place of all regular and special meetings at least seven calendar days in advance of such meetings.
3. Inform the Council of regular and special meetings.
4. Maintain acceptable minutes of Association meetings.
5. Maintain a record of communications and present such to the Council and to the membership as necessary.
6. Maintain an up-to-date record of the Constitution and Bylaws.
7. Deliver amended copies of the Constitution and Bylaws to the membership in either hard copy or electronic format.
8. Provide the NHIAA and NHFOA with an updated roster of Members in Good Standing.
9. Be responsible to the Council for the diligent performance of the duties outlined above.

To read as:

D. The Secretary shall:

1. Handle all correspondence as directed by the Commissioner, Chair or President.
2. Inform the membership of date, time, and place of all regular and special meetings at least seven calendar days in advance of such meetings.
3. Inform the Council of regular and special meetings.
4. Maintain acceptable minutes of Association meetings.
5. Maintain a record of communications and present such to the Council and to the membership, as necessary.
6. Maintain an up-to-date record of the Constitution and Bylaws.
7. Deliver amended copies of the Constitution and Bylaws to the membership in either hard copy or electronic format. ***Electronic format includes posting on NHFOA.net.***
8. Provide the NHIAA and NHFOA with an ***Maintain*** an updated roster ***and annual historic rosters*** of Members in Good Standing.
9. Be responsible to the Council for the diligent performance of the duties outlined above. 3

Proposed Amendment #3 to NHFOA Constitution

Submitted by Ernie Clark (Endorsed by NHFOA Council)

Amendment to Article III, Section I, A, E, G, and creating a new H, which currently reads as:

Section I – Categories of Membership

A. Applicant – An Applicant is a person who has applied for membership in the organization. Application for membership shall be restricted to: legal residents of New Hampshire; children of a Member in Good Standing; graduates of a New Hampshire high school, college or university whose parent or parents currently reside in New Hampshire; or individuals whose primary place of employment is in New Hampshire. An Applicant must be 18 years old prior to September 1 of the year in which application for membership is made. Applications for membership must be filed and the application fee must be paid on or before Labor Day of the year in which application for membership is made. Applicants shall be given a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws in either hard copy or electronic format.

E. Transfer Member – A Transfer Member is a member who has applied for membership in the NHFOA after being a member in good standing of another officiating organization. Transfer Members must be: legal residents of New Hampshire; children of a Member in Good Standing; graduates of a New Hampshire high school, college or university whose parent or parents currently reside in New Hampshire; or individuals whose primary place of employment is in New Hampshire. Requests for transfer from other recognized state high school football associations shall be considered on a reciprocal qualification basis (a NHIAA requirement). Requests for transfer from recognized collegiate football officials' associations shall also be considered for membership. Upon receipt of documentation from the previous football officials' association in which he or she was a member in good standing, the Transfer Member shall become a Provisional Member and be subject to completion of the requirements of Provisional and Regular membership. Accordingly, a Transfer Member may be assigned games at the discretion of the Commissioner.

G. Inactive Member – An Inactive Member is a member who, by choice, does not officiate any games assigned by the Commissioner, but who receives all communications pertaining to the activities of the NHFOA. Inactive Members in Classification 7 or 8 in Appendix A to the Bylaws are eligible to receive assignments from the NHFOA as clock operators or as members of line-to-gain crews.

To read as:

ARTICLE III – Membership

Section I – Categories of Membership

A. Applicant – An Applicant is a person who has applied for membership in the organization. Application for membership shall be restricted to: legal residents of New Hampshire; children of a Member in Good Standing; graduates of a New Hampshire high school, college or university whose parent or parents currently reside in New Hampshire; or individuals whose primary place of employment is in New Hampshire. An Applicant must be 18 years old prior to September 1 of the year in which application for membership is made. Applications for membership must be filed and the application fee must be paid on or before Labor Day **September 30** of the year in which application for 4

membership is made. Applicants shall be given a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws in either hard copy, or electronic format, **or directed to NHFOA.net.**

E. Transfer Member – A Transfer Member is a member who has applied for membership in the NHFOA after being a member in good standing of another officiating organization. Transfer Members must be legal residents of New Hampshire; children of a Member in Good Standing; graduates of a New Hampshire high school, college, or university whose parent or parents currently reside in New Hampshire; or individuals whose primary place of employment is in New Hampshire. Requests for transfer from other recognized state high school football associations shall be considered on a reciprocal qualification basis (NHIAA requirement). Requests for transfer from recognized collegiate football officials' associations shall also be considered for membership. Upon receipt of documentation from the previous football officials' association in which he or she **the person** was a member in good standing, the Transfer Member shall become a Provisional Member and be subject to completion of the requirements of Provisional and Regular membership. Accordingly, a Transfer Member may be assigned games at the discretion of the Commissioner.

G. Inactive **Auxiliary** Member – An Inactive **Auxiliary** Member is a member who, by choice, does not officiate any games assigned by the Commissioner, but who receives all communications pertaining to the activities of the NHFOA. Inactive **Auxiliary** Members in Classification 7 or 8 in Appendix A to the Bylaws are eligible to receive assignments from the NHFOA as clock operators or as members of line-to-gain crews.

H. Inactive Member – An Inactive Member is a member who, by choice, separates NHFOA as A Member in Good Standing, does not officiate any games assigned by the Commissioner, but who wishes to maintain status as a Member in Good Standing and be allowed to return to NHFOA with the same status as the time of separation as either a Regular Member or a Provisional Member dependent on the length of inactivity as outlined in Article 3, Section III. 5

Proposed Amendment # 4 to NHFOA Constitution Submitted by Steve Hall (Endorsed by NHFOA Council)

Amend Article V, Section III, C. 2. & 5., which currently reads as:

C. The Commissioner shall:

2. Assign officials to all varsity games in a fair and equitable manner. The Commissioner may reassign officials as necessary. The Commissioner shall use the final ratings from the previous season to assign varsity regular season games. The Commissioner shall use the official's Classification in Appendix A of the Bylaws for the previous season to assign sub-varsity and junior high school or middle school games. The number of varsity assignments will have a direct correlation to the official's final ratings from the previous season and official's rank among active members. In addition to the final rating from the previous season, the Commissioner may include closed dates and other assigning criteria, which will impact the correlation between the official's rating and schedule. 5. Use field ratings from the current season to assign varsity play-off games. The Commissioner will not be eligible for playoff games. To be eligible for varsity playoff and championship games, a member must have officiated a minimum of twenty-five New Hampshire high school varsity games overall, and a minimum of six in the current year. Except in emergencies, no official shall work more than one championship game in one season. Thanksgiving Day games shall be assigned at the Commissioner's discretion.

To read as:

2. Assign officials to all varsity games in a fair and equitable manner. The Commissioner may reassign officials as necessary. The Commissioner shall use the final ratings from the previous season to assign varsity regular season games. The Commissioner shall use the official's Classification in Appendix A of the Bylaws for the previous season to assign sub-varsity and junior high school or middle school games. The number of varsity assignments will have a direct correlation to the official's final ratings from the previous season and official's rank among active members. In addition to the final rating from the previous season, the Commissioner may include closed dates and other assigning criteria, which will impact the correlation between the official's rating and schedule. 5. Use field ratings from the current ~~previous~~ season to assign ~~recommend~~ varsity play-off game **assignments to the NHIAA. In addition to the rating from the previous season, the Commissioner shall include closed dates and other prescribed assigning criteria in determining his or her recommendations for playoff assignments. The assigned member must be, on date of assignment and subsequent date of game, able bodied, and shall be a Member in Good Standing. Officials who, due to injury or other extenuating circumstances, were unable to work a sufficient number of games during the previous season to qualify for a playoff assignment, but who remained a Member in Good Standing and completed all of the requirements of a Regular Member during the previous season, met all other qualifications and were actively officiating in the current season may be recommended for playoff game 6**

assignments subject to the judgment and discretion of the Commissioner. The Commissioner will not be eligible for playoff games. To be eligible for varsity playoff and championship games, a member must have officiated a minimum of twenty-five New Hampshire high school varsity games overall, and a minimum of six in the current year. Except in emergencies, no official shall work more than one championship game in one season. Thanksgiving Day games shall be assigned at the Commissioner's discretion. **The Commissioner will not be eligible for playoff games.**

Proposed Amendment # 5 to NHFOA Constitution Submitted by Paul Smith (Endorsed by NHFOA Council)

Amendment to Article VI, Section V which currently reads as:

Section V – Quorums

One-third of the Members in Good Standing shall constitute a quorum at the Summer Business Meeting, Annual Meeting or special meeting. No official business can be transacted without a quorum.

To read as:

Section V – Quorums

One-third of the Members in Good Standing shall constitute a quorum at the Summer Business Meeting, Annual Meeting or special meeting. No official business can be transacted without a quorum.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution or adopted rules of order, a quorum may include one-third of the Members in Good Standing in attendance at an association meeting that is held virtually.

Proposed Amendment # 6 to NHFOA Constitution Submitted by Paul Smith (Endorsed by NHFOA Council)

Amend the Constitution by adopting a new Article X to read as:

ARTICLE X – SCHOLARSHIP

There is hereby established the “Jeff DeLois New Hampshire Football Officials Association Scholarship” to be awarded on a yearly basis in a manner determined by the NHFOA Council in keeping with precedent as to funding and awarding. 7

Proposed Amendment # 7 to NHFOA Constitution

Submitted by Roland St. Germain (NOT endorsed by NHFOA Council)

Amend Article V, Section III, C. 2. & 5., which currently reads as:

C. The Commissioner shall:

2. Assign officials to all varsity games in a fair and equitable manner. The Commissioner may reassign officials as necessary. The Commissioner shall use the final ratings from the previous season to assign varsity regular season games. The Commissioner shall use the official's Classification in Appendix A of the Bylaws for the previous season to assign sub-varsity and junior high school or middle school games. The number of varsity assignments will have a direct correlation to the official's final ratings from the previous season and official's rank among active members. In addition to the final rating from the previous season, the Commissioner may include closed dates and other assigning criteria, which will impact the correlation between the official's rating and schedule. 5. Use field ratings from the current season to assign varsity play-off games. The Commissioner will not be eligible for playoff games. To be eligible for varsity playoff and championship games, a member must have officiated a minimum of twenty-five New Hampshire high school varsity games overall, and a minimum of six in the current year. Except in emergencies, no official shall work more than one championship game in one season. Thanksgiving Day games shall be assigned at the Commissioner's discretion.

To read as:

2. Assign officials to all varsity games in a fair and equitable manner. The Commissioner may reassign officials as necessary. The Commissioner shall use the final ratings from the previous season to assign varsity regular season games. The Commissioner shall use the official's Classification in Appendix A of the Bylaws for the previous season to assign sub-varsity and junior high school or middle school games. The number of varsity assignments will have a direct correlation to the official's final ratings from the previous season and official's rank among active members. In addition to the final rating from the previous season, the Commissioner may include closed dates and other assigning criteria, which will impact the correlation between the official's rating and schedule. 5. Use field ratings from the current season to assign ***recommend*** varsity play-off games ***to the NHIAA. In addition to the rating from the current season of currently active members, the Commissioner shall include closed dates and other prescribed assigning criteria; assigned member must be, on date of assignment and subsequent date of game, able bodied, and member's current membership status shall be in 'good standing.'*** ***Officials who were injured in the previous season but who have met all other qualifications and are actively officiating in the current season are entitled to leniency in recommendations for playoffs.*** The Commissioner will not be eligible for playoff games. To be eligible for varsity playoff and championship games, a member must have officiated a minimum of twenty-five New Hampshire high school varsity games overall, and a minimum of six in the current year. Except in emergencies, no official shall work more than one championship game in one season. Thanksgiving Day 8

games shall be assigned at the Commissioner's discretion. ***The Commissioner will not be eligible for playoff games.***

Proposed Amendment to NHFOA Bylaws Submitted by Paul Smith

Amend Bylaws Article II, F

F. NHFOA members must attend at least three of the first six ***five*** weekly meetings and either the mechanics clinic or mechanics meeting to be eligible for playoffs. Failure to meet these requirements will make the member ineligible for playoff assignments.

Amend Bylaws Appendix A "Meetings box"

Meetings: No "penalty" for missed meetings. Can attend up to eight (8) ***seven (7)*** total meetings. Three (3) ***Two (2)*** State Meetings and five (5) Local meetings offered on Tuesday and Wednesday.