

My name is Mark W Redman Jr, and I would like you to consider me as a candidate for a NHFOA council seat. There is more than enough angst over votes in the world today, so I want to be clear that I toss my hat in the ring from a desire to serve the betterment of NHFOA, and not from a position of condemnation of current or previous leadership, nor any other candidate. The next few paragraphs will tell you a bit of my football officiating story, lay out how I hope to approach things were I to be elected, and the obstacles I feel NHFOA needs to focus on overcoming in order to ensure it continues, and ideally also improve. If any of my statements come across as antagonistic, or disparaging it is due to my failure to master the written English language, and not from spiteful intent. Fair warning: there is another member of the NHFOA with a remarkably similar name to mine; that man is my dad, and he is NOT running for council. So, name recognition aside, a vote for Redman the younger does not yield you Redman the elder.

In 2003, my dad gave me two full sets of his gear (he's known for keeping 6 or 7), I absorbed all I could from Bo in the apprentice class, and very tentatively and reluctantly threw my very first ever flag for a false start in a mites game at Hooksett. I moved to Connecticut at the end of that season for a girl (which I do not recommend that state, nor that reason for moving), and joined the other NHFOA in New Haven, CT. From 2008 to 2012 I was also a member of the CT chapter of the EAIFO and covered games at Div.2 & 3 colleges and universities throughout the northeast. A friend and I started a small business, which brought me back to New Hampshire in 2016. After four years, I feel that I should step down from reign of 'tearer' as the assistant to the 50/50 raffle administrator to take on other responsibilities.

Hopefully by now, you can tell that I generally try to keep things as light, and enjoyable as can be managed, and that I try to throw in a little humor wherever I appropriately can. If elected to the council, I hope to act as a conduit for the general membership to pass along their ideas and goals as well as fielding if not addressing questions and concerns. I am a firm believer in the benefits of logical application of Occam's razor. So, if there are competing solutions to a problem, I am likely to choose the one that is the least complicated. A fellow official (my memory fails to recall an exact name, but just know it is not a quote I take credit for) put it most simply as this: "officials should strive for economy of effort," and for me, that struck a chord. Most solutions to any issue do not make everyone happy, and some by design may even make everyone slightly miserable to avoid having to face a larger or worse problem. I will listen to just about anybody, but I cannot guarantee I will agree with everything they have to say. Other than these general approaches, I intend to be as transparent as possible while preserving individuals' confidentiality and privacy whenever appropriate.

The most pressing issues where I feel the NHFOA can direct its efforts to best effect are recruitment/retention of new officials, finding ways to pass along the decades of knowledge and experience of injured, retired, or retiring on-field officials, and streamlining non-field officiating tasks. I have a few ideas to potentially help address these issues, and am happy to discuss them with those who would like to, but to save on your reading, and my typing, I will lay out just a brief sketch of one idea each. It seems that all sports are having trouble finding and keeping good officials, so perhaps teaming up with those other sports' officials' associations to pool resources could help gain some extra traction on that front. There are many reasons that keep quality experienced officials from staying or being on the field (a pandemic for example), but having an observation and/or mentoring system in place would provide new or inexperienced officials with a conduit through which they might gain some of that hard-earned experience without having to learn lessons via trial by fire... despite that method's brutal effectiveness. Getting all three tests in pre-season was a great improvement toward simplifying off-field tasks. Additionally, the commute to and from online meetings has been fantastic, but the price we pay for that is losing out on opportunities to talk shop informally prior (ok, during too), and after those in-person meetings; which is among the most valuable aspects of in-person meetings.

I would welcome any ideas or questions you would like to share with me and I am best reached via the email address listed on my Arbiter profile. Thank you for taking the time to read this biography/candidacy statement, and I look forward to working with you on a football field soon regardless of the vote you choose to cast.