

NHFOA Council Meeting

9/3/2020

Virtual Meeting

Attendance

Officers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Delois (Chairman) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Tracy (President) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> TBD (President-Elect) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ernie Clark (Commissioner) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Presher (Treasurer) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Brownley (Secretary) |

Council

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Parkin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Jaskolka |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Lafond | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kyle Scofield |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Parslow | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Cherbonneau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Sarette | |

Additional attendees: Bill Smallwood

Meeting called to order by Chairman Delois at 6:03 P.M.

August Meeting Minutes

Chairman Deloris requested a motion for approval of the August meeting minutes. Councilor Scofield moved to accept, seconded by Councilor Cherbonneau. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Technology Committee:

Bill Smallwood gave a report on the Arbiter Hub, and is looking for some feedback from the council on how the weekly meeting will be run through the hub. Councilor Scofield feels that the Technology committee should get their direction from the curriculum committee on what info will be presented at the local meetings. Councilor Cherbonneau volunteered to chair the State meetings committee. Councilor Parslow is the chair for the local meeting curriculum committee.

Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Clark went over the COVID protocols with the council (I have added the protocols to the end of these minutes for reference). Chairman Deloris requested a motion for approval of the COVID Protocols. Councilor Parkin moved to accept, seconded by Councilor Cherbonneau. No discussion. Motion carried 8-1, Councilor Scofield opposed.

Old Business

A) No old business this month

New Business

- 1) Scholarship Fund: Chairman Delois had sent out the new scholarship fund policy prior to the meeting. Chairman Delois requested a motion to accept the new policy. President-elect Tracy motioned to accept, seconded by Councilor Scofield. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

With there being no additional business to come before the council, Councilor Cherbonneau moved to adjourn, seconded by President-Elect Tracy. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously

Meeting adjourned: 7:47 P.M.

2020-21 NHFOA Officials Protocol for Returning to Officiating

The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

1. Uniform (officials)

a. LEGAL UNIFORM

- i. Long sleeves are permissible.
- ii. Long pants are permissible.
- iii. Undergarments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid black color of any undergarment visible.
- iv. Cloth face coverings (black or white) required from arrival to game start.

b. GAME EQUIPMENT

- i. Electronic whistles are permissible.
 - 1. Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
 - 2. Check the market for approved choices.
- ii. Face coverings (black or white) are permissible and personal choice.
- iii. Gloves (black) are permissible and personal choice.

Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.

2. Rules Considerations

a. PREGAME CONFERENCE

- i. Suspend handshakes prior to and following the pregame conference.
- ii. All conference involving officials and coach will be conducted either at an off-field location or on field between the 45-yard lines inside the 9's with separate conferences with each team coach. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet. No physical greeting.
- iii. Limit attendees to REFEREE, UMPIRE and, the head coach from each team, or speak with the coaches and team representatives in a separate, secure off-field meeting.
- iv. Clock operator, masked, will meet BACK JUDGE on field
- v. NHFOA provided clock operator shall ALWAYS be masked.
- vi. Umpire shall conference with centers to explain ball spotting procedure.
- vii. Script conferences - ensure consistency with teams & auxiliary personnel.
- viii. Coin Toss–Referee, Umpire, and the number of captains TBD by game administration. **Maintain 12'square for proper distancing.**
- ix. Maintain social distancing of 6' between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions away from LOS.

b. AUXILIARY OFFICIALS

- i. Limit team box to essential personnel which includes home team and visiting team ball personnel, line-to-gain personnel, statisticians, athletic trainer(s) and medical personnel and maintain clear 6' belt between team box and out-of-bounds line.
- ii. Line-to-gain crew shall wear protective masks and be located at rear of 6' belt on **home team side of field**. This is contrary to current recommended mechanic. This will prevent exposure to and by visiting team. LTG crew shall wear masks when entering field for measurements. Game officials shall attempt to minimize measurements. Game officials will conduct usual mechanics when measuring for possible first down and shall clean hands after measurements. LTG crew is responsible for disinfecting hands as often as possible during game and disinfecting LTG equipment throughout contest.

- iii. **Ball Crews** - Both teams shall provide multiple, **responsible, capable** ball personnel, minimum two on respective team sideline. Ball people will have a minimum of 4 approved game balls on sideline or on field. Ball personnel shall be masked when within 6' of game official. **Ball personnel shall be responsible for retrieving ball following all incomplete passes, ends of kicks and change of possession as instructed by game officials on respective sideline.** Ball personnel must be physically fit to run and carry ball onto field and place ball as instructed by game official. **Balls shall not be passed or relayed to game officials.** Ball personnel are responsible for cleaning balls before and during contest per manufacturer instruction.
- iv. Medical personnel shall be masked when entering onto playing field.
- v. Team managers and equipment personnel shall be masked when entering field during a time-out, **and game officials shall be masked.**

3. Players Pregame and Postgame Ceremony (school staff responsibility)

- a. Suspend pregame protocol of shaking during introductions.
- b. Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.

4. Personal Responsibilities

a. TRAINING

- i. Attend online meetings to review the rules for the coming year.
- ii. Start physical training using online video or complete skills alone. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should be cleared by your medical provider prior to initiating an exercise program.

b. GAME CONTRACTING & ADVANCE OF GAME

- i. Confirm officiating contract with athletic director or representative
- ii. Communicate in writing with school athletic administrator about school/team contest and COVID-19 expectations.

c. GAME DAY

- i. **Officials, if you do not feel well and COVID-19 symptoms are present, notify Commissioner, host school, crew members and stay at home.**
 - 1. Take temperature in the morning and then again prior to leaving home/work for a game. A 100.4 or higher temperature is automatic cancellation and need to notify as afore mentioned.
 - a. **Before arriving at game site accurately complete the NHFOA Game Day COVID-19 Screener form.**
 - b. Do not "tough it out" if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

- c. If you need to leave the game due to illness inform your crewmates and take refuge in your vehicle with minimal interaction with others at the site. Your crewmates will adjust and continue. Maintain social distance and mask up.
- d. Notify game administrator before departure from site if temperature is elevated to 100.4 or higher and follow NHHHS procedure.
- ii. "Vulnerable individuals" are defined by CDC as people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Officials fitting this description may wish to seek medical advice prior to officiating.
- iii. Game administration shall reserve 5 contiguous parking as close to field as possible and secure area for officials to conduct pre-game conference.
- iv. Officials are encouraged to conduct remote conference call two days prior to game day and complete pre-game conference upon arrival. The crew will confirm travel plans and both pre- and post-game conference locations.
- v. Upon arrival at site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands as frequently as possible. Hand sanitizer in pocket is encouraged.
- vi. Individual travel is encouraged but is personal decision of game officials.
- vii. Game administration shall provide appropriate and secure location for officials for pregame conference, shelter in case of lightening, foul weather, game delays and access to bathroom.
- viii. Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel, and equipment.
- ix. Towels are not to be worn or kept on person or on field by game officials.
- x. Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while conducting conferences or when in the locker room, meeting room or on the field.
- xi. Bring your own beverages and store in your own sideline bag.**
- xii. Multiple washable bean bags, especially umpire, on person & in bag

5. Field Markings & Restrictions

a. 45 Yard Lines

- i. During pre-game warm ups and second half warm up teams will respect 45 yard line to 45 yard line for use as buffer between teams and as an

area used for conferences with coaches, line-to-gain crew, ball personnel, clock operator, and coin toss.

- ii. Players will utilize respective 45-yard line to end line for warmups. Otherwise players are to be in team box.

b. Following Coin Toss

- i. Teams shall not rush captains onto field as many teams have traditionally done in past. Wing officials will position selves at 9-yard mark but shall not attempt to physically restrain players from rushing or entering field.

c. Team Box

- i. Markings of team box shall start at 10 yard line and continue to opposite 10 yard line, a COVID-19 exception for 2020. The front of the team box parallel to the side out of bounds line shall be 4 yards (12') from the sideline and shall contain two marked 6' belts.
- ii. The first 2-yard (6') belt is to remain clear of all team personnel including coaches. This is the wing officials work area and an area to maintain distancing from and by field officials.
- iii. **The second 6' line is a restraining line used by coaches (maximum 3), including person designated to communicate with Referee on penalty decisions, as well as for ball personnel and line-to-gain crew.**
- iv. Substitutes (players) are to remain 12' off field and in team box.
- v. Statisticians and managers are to remain 12' off field and in team box.

6. Handling and Spotting Ball

a. Handling Ball

- i. Offensive team / kicking team is responsible for **carrying** ball onto field.
- ii. The kicker of free kicks is responsible for carrying ball onto field. The kicker will set the ball when kicking from a tee.
- iii. The Back Judge (masked) will stand in front of tee, allowing kicker to set ball, while giving kicker and kicking team instructions.

b. Spotting Ball

- i. **The center (snapper) shall place ball on Umpire's toe or bean bag (white or orange) "spot".**

- ii. The Umpire shall mark spot, preferably using beanbag to be retrieved following each play.
- iii. The same procedure will be used on penalty administration. The bean bag will be used by umpire in place of ball to mark spot. The center will place ball on the bean bag spot.
- iv. **Following end of all plays, ball carriers and receivers will return ball to center in huddle or “no huddle” offense to center at LOS.**
- v. After ball is spotted and marked ready for play the Umpire shall take a position **10 yards** behind the defensive LOS. The Umpire, as always must determine when the ball is ready for play.
- vi. Between periods bean bags shall be used to mark spot and offensive center will place ball at spot of beanbag.
- vii. Masked line-to-gain crew and masked Linesman shall relocate in chains using prescribed mechanics.
- viii. At the end of the period and half the Referee shall signal completion of the period/game by raising empty hand.
- ix. At the completion of the first and third quarters the center will place the ball on the bean bag as instructed by Umpire.
- x. At the completion of penalty administration, the center will place ball on the bean bag as instructed by Umpire.

NOTE FROM COMMISSIONER: It is the expectation that every member of NHFOA will abide by the above protocol. Every member of NHFOA shares in responsibility with players, coaches, and administration to maximize safety on and off the field and to do all possible to allow football to be played in New Hampshire. There can be no unapproved deviation. Consistency and uniformity are paramount. ***Together we can do our part to help athletes make it through this global challenge to humankind.***