

## **2018 Candidate Statement Shaun Bean**

I have just completed my 17<sup>th</sup> season as a certified high school football official. Being a member of the NHFOA is one of the things in my life that I hold in high regard. Family, work, and the NHFOA. I am proud to be a member and am prouder that I am a brother official to all of you.

I believe that everyone that I have come into contact with in our shared roles of football officials knows exactly how passionate I am about it. I like to have fun and have a great time on the field and hope this comes across when we work together. Regardless if you agree with what I say or how I present, you know that I will always have your back in all regards, that I will not criticize, and I will work very hard to find solutions.

I have been the apprentice chairman for the last five seasons. I have heard a lot about the direction that we are going over this time. There was a period when we were certifying 8-15 officials a year. You may be a member of one of these groups, and I know that you are all quality officials. During this wave there was a lot discussion on where we were headed if this pattern continued. We were getting close to 150-170 officials that couldn't seem to get a self-assign game and many quality officials were sitting home on Fridays and Saturdays because there were not enough slots to go around. I purposefully attempted to keep incoming groups at 4-8 with executive council guidance to keep that number from climbing higher and higher. That is changing we and are making a push to increase in number while lowering our average age. I will work to find a balance and be a tireless advocate for retaining and recruiting our next group of brother and sister officials. I have a lot of ideas and can't wait to get started.

Another thing that I will want to hold discussion on is how we can decrease the time commitment that we are all facing when it comes to meeting the requirements for membership. I am currently working on two M.Eds. I will never set foot inside of a college classroom. There is a lot that we can do with blended (a combination of classroom and online) learning. You saw an example of what I am talking about if you watch John Reardon's "How to" video on completing your mid-season ratings.

One thing that I will not stand for is a lowering of our standards. I am a member of several other officiating, coaching, and teaching organizations. As I mentioned earlier, I hold my membership in the NHFOA above my membership in all of the others. Why? It is because of how hard we work and the respect that we have around the state as THE BEST officiating organization in it. I believe this to be the case and am able to stretch it to meaning that we are one of the best in the nation! To lower the standards and expectations of our members would be a horrible move. I still wear my tie out of the locker room after every game (regardless of the temperature) and refused to wear the commemorative polo shirt simply for this reason. We are the NHFOA and we are the BEST! I do not want to come off that pedestal for one second. It's much easier to stay at the top than it is to get back there.

I am asking for your support so that I can better support all of us.

Your brother,

Shaun Bean