

**BYLAWS  
SOUTH GEORGIA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION  
A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION**

**ARTICLE ONE  
INTRODUCTION**

**DEFINITION OF BYLAWS**

These bylaws constitute the code of rules adopted by the South Georgia Football Officials Association, Inc for regulation and management of the corporation's affairs.

**ORGANIZATION NAME**

Organized under the Georgia High School Association jurisdiction, this association shall be known as South Georgia Football Officials Association, Inc (SGFOA). The association and members shall be subject to the rules and authority of the GHSA.

**PURPOSE**

This corporation will have the purposes stated in the Articles of Incorporation and such powers as are now or may be granted hereafter by law. The primary purpose of this corporation is as follows, to wit:

- a. To promote the welfare of the game of football, its players and officials;
- b. To maintain the highest standards and ethics of football officiating;
- c. To encourage the spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship;
- d. To recruit and train new officials and continue the development of veteran officials.

**ARTICLE TWO  
MEMBERSHIP**

**DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP**

The members of this Corporation are those persons having membership rights per the provisions of these Bylaws.

This Corporation's membership shall be open to all persons regardless of race, sex, or sexual orientation. Members must be at least 18 years of age and wishing to affiliate themselves with an organized athletic official's group serving the state of Georgia and meeting further requirements as set forth by the Georgia High School Association (GHSA).

Applicants for membership must demonstrate their willingness and ability to meet the Bylaws' requirements and comply with the provisions thereof.

Final authority for the determination of eligibility to membership will in all cases rest with the Board of Directors.

Members are expected to attend association meetings, attend any scheduled SGFOA training camps, pass the GHSA online clinic and rules examination, register with GHSA, pay designated association dues, and pass a background check before they can be assigned to work a varsity football contest.

Members are independent contractors and must pay any state and federal tax for which they are indebted. However, in the best interest of the Corporation and its membership, centralized scheduling will be accomplished under the direction of the Assignment Secretary.

Members will be assigned games based on their ability and rules knowledge. Regular season games will be assigned by the Assignment Secretary. Playoff games will be assigned by a Playoff Committee consisting of the Assignment Secretary and 3 current board members.

## **DUES**

All SGFOA registration must be completed per SGFOA requirements. This includes paying the registration fee to be a member of the GHSA. The Board of Directors will determine the annual dues payable to the Association by the members. The state registration fee and the Corporation's annual dues must be paid before working a contest.

## **RULES**

All members are expected to attend all meetings except when they have an acceptable excuse. Members not regularly attending, unless excused, will not be regularly assigned games.

Failure of a member to attend a regular meeting of the Association may result in a monetary fine as determined by the Board of Directors. This fine may be paid by the member or deducted from any monies earned to officiate a contest.

All members are expected to work games assigned. If they fail to make assigned games, they shall be fined game pay, unless excused by the Board of Directors, and provided with a replacement, unless they cannot make a game due to unforeseen emergency or other reasons ruled on by the Board of Directors.

All members will adhere to the guidelines for ethical standards as established by the National Federation Interscholastic Officials Association.

Officials who wish to report any complaints shall appear before the Board of Directors or their designated representatives before any further action. A complaint is not limited to a complaint with South Georgia Football Officials Association, Inc., but any GHSA or NFHS entity. If a member fails to use the proper protocol of reporting a complaint, said member would face possible suspension or expulsion as decided by the officers and the Board of Directors.

## **DRESS CODE**

Members must always wear the prescribed game uniform as outlined by the GHSA and the SGFOA Board of Directors. Members will also wear the prescribed travel attire to and from all varsity game sites. Punishment for not wearing the prescribed uniform will be determined by the Ethics committee. It can be fines, suspension of games, or membership termination.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

All members are accountable for their social media accounts. Members are expected to not use social media to discuss any matters concerning SGFOA, GHSA, or any other official at any level. The use of social media to discuss any aspect of games, coaches, teams, players, or officials is strictly prohibited.

## **ALCOHOL/DRUG USAGE**

Alcohol or illegal drug consumption by any official, before any football contest, is strictly prohibited. If any official is found to have consumed alcohol before a football contest, the official may face immediate termination or suspension of membership upon a vote by the officers and the Board of Directors.

## **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this Corporation will terminate with the occurrence of any of the following events, and for no other reason.

1. Written resignation of the member.
2. The death of the member.
3. The failure of the member to pay his/her dues by the due date.
4. For cause inconsistent with membership, but only after due notice and hearing on the issues as stated in Discipline of Members section.
5. Violation of SGFOA Code of Ethics.

## **DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERSHIP**

For failure to comply with established authority, rules or regulations of the Association; or delinquency in payment of authorized charges; or for any other conduct, conclusively demonstrated to be contrary to the best interest of football, a member may be fined, suspended for not more than one year or expelled.

Any member who has been suspended or expelled by the Board of Directors may appeal such suspension or expulsion to the active membership.

A member charged with an offense shall have the right to be heard in person, along with any representative(s) of his choice, or by a written statement made by him or his designated representative(s) in his defense. Such hearing shall always precede fines, suspensions, or expulsions. The member charged shall be fully informed in writing of the charge(s) against him and shall be notified of the date, time, and place of the hearing.

# **ARTICLE THREE DIRECTORS**

## **DEFINITION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors is that group of persons vested with the management of the business affairs of this Corporation, subject to the law, the Articles of Incorporation, and these Bylaws. The officers of the Corporation shall also serve as officers on the Board of Directors.

The number of Directors shall be ten. The Directors are to be elected by the active members of the Corporation. The Board of Directors will consist of a President, Vice President, Immediate-Past President, Recording Secretary, Financial Treasurer, along with four representatives, one for each of the four major groups of officials on a Varsity Crew (Referee, Umpire, Short Wing, Deep Wing). The 10<sup>th</sup> member of the

board is the Varsity Assignor. He is elected annually by the board of directors, however, he is a non-voting member of the board.

### **TERMS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The President, Vice-President, and Immediate-Past President will serve for one-year terms. The membership will vote on the Vice-President only. The Current Vice-President ascends to the President role for one season after spending a year as vice-president. The current President ascends to the Immediate Past President position for one season. The current Immediate Past President will rotate off the Board of Directors.

Each year at a specific date, as set aside on the SGFOA Calendar, a vote of the membership will take place to elect a new Vice President. As selected by the Board of Directors, a nominating committee will put up the names of at least 2 members, who are in good standing with the association, who are eligible to be elected to the Vice President job. A simple majority vote of the membership at the prescribed meeting will determine the Vice President's winner.

The membership will also vote annually to fill the role of Secretary and Treasurer for the association. These 2 positions can serve multiple consecutive years, but must be re-elected each year.

The Board of Directors will convene and determine, by vote, the role of Varsity Assignor. This position will be a one-year term. There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms this member may serve.

The Four Representative board members will be determined yearly by a vote of the members representing those positions. Each Representative will serve for two years. The Referee & Short Wing Representatives will be voted on in the odd number of years to start the following season. The Umpire & Deep Wing Representatives will be voted on in an even number of years to start the next season. After serving a two-year term, that member is barred from holding office for two years at the same position in the association. They may, however, hold other positions within the association.

All elections shall be held no later than the last regular meeting of the Association during the season.

An appointment by the Board shall fill vacancies in any office.

All officers and board members shall be active on-field varsity football contest officials.

## **ARTICLE FOUR OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT**

The President shall preside at all meetings and shall be responsible for the appointment of any special committee he deems necessary. He shall appoint a representative(s) to conduct weekly meetings, interpret the rules uniformly, and perform other assignments. He may delegate his duties to the Vice President or to the Secretary.

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

The Vice President shall act as training director for the Association. He is to set the training agenda with advice from the President and create a yearly training committee, which will have representation from all position groups. He shall act as an alternate for the President. He shall execute all duties of the

President's office when the President is absent or incapacitated. He shall perform duties assigned by the President.

#### **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

The Past President shall serve on the Board for 1 year following his year as President. He will be an advisor to the current President and serve on any committees assigned by the president or execute any duties assigned by the President.

#### **SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors. He shall notify the Board of Directors of any special called meetings. He shall oversee elections that can include counting votes by the members and counting ballots during Officers and Board Members' elections.

#### **TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall write and sign all checks for the Association. He will deposit money received or on behalf of the Association in a bank account in the Corporation's name. He will set up and keep accurate financial records, acceptable to the Board, and retain such records as deemed necessary according to accepted financial accounting principles. He will make an annual financial report to the Association and furnish copies to the President and Board of Directors.

#### **VARSITY ASSIGNOR**

The Varsity Assignor shall be paid for his services and shall perform the following duties:

1. Handle all contracts with the approval of the Board of Directors
2. Assign officials to games as necessary or requested by the Board of Directors
3. Attend Board meetings and present problems pertaining to the assignment of officials to games or other difficulties deemed appropriate for Board action.
4. Prepare for the Treasurer a report to include where games are played and the officials who worked the games, the amount due to each official, and the amount of travel paid to the driver.
5. Will work with a playoff committee to assign varsity playoff contests

### **ARTICLE FIVE COMMITTEES**

The Board of Directors may appoint Committees consisting of various members of the Association for any purpose deemed necessary for the Association's operation. The committee members and chairpersons will be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE SIX OPERATIONS**

#### **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the calendar year.

## **EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS**

Except as otherwise provided by law, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for payment of money, and other evidence of indebtedness of this Corporation shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President or Assignment Secretary. Contracts, leases, and other instruments executed in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation shall be signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary or Assignment Secretary. They shall have attached copies of the resolution of the Board of Directors authorizing the same.

## **INSPECTION OF BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS**

All books and records of this Corporation may be inspected by any member, or his agent or attorney, for any purpose at any reasonable time on written demand stating such purpose under oath.

## **NONPROFIT OPERATIONS-COMPENSATION**

This Corporation shall not have or issue shares of stock. No dividend shall be paid, and no part of this Corporation's income shall be distributed to its Members, Directors or Officers. The Corporation may, upon approval of the Board of Directors, pay compensation, in reasonable amounts, to its Members, Officers, and Directors, for services, rendered.

## **LOANS**

This Corporation shall make no loans to any of its Directors, Officers, or Members.

## **CORPORATE ASSETS**

No member or Incorporated may have any vested right or interest in or to the Corporation's assets.

Upon dissolution, any remaining corporate assets shall be distributed to only charitable or educational organizations meeting the majority of the Corporation's approval after payment of all corporate liabilities.

# **ARTICLE SEVEN AMENDMENTS**

## **AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION**

The power to alter or amend these Articles is vested in the Regular Members of the Corporation. Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors or upon written, signed request of thirty-three (33%) of the active membership, to be voted on at a regular meeting. Notice of the proposed amendment must be made available in writing to the membership at least thirty (30) days before such meeting. The notice shall contain a copy of the proposed amendment. A three-fourths vote must approve an alteration or amendment of the Articles of the Active Members present.

## **MODIFICATION OF THE BYLAWS**

The power to alter or amend the Bylaws is vested in the Regular Members. An alteration or amendment of the Bylaws must be approved by a majority of the Regular Members.