

CENTRAL VIRGINIA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

HOW TO BECOME A FOOTBALL OFFICIAL

Qualifications

To become an official requires a minimum of perquisites. You must be a high school graduate, or equivalent, in adequate physical condition, and possess a sincere interest in scholastic athletics.

Physical Condition

We urge each individual to have a complete medical exam to insure that they are able to function safely and proficiently on the field. We also recommend all officials participate in a physical fitness program that will insure that the individual is prepared for the early season heat and humidity and the physical effort required to officiate.

Expenses and Fees

First year expenses for uniforms will be between \$150.00 and \$250.00 and there is a fee for the training program of approximately \$65.00. Game fees earned are paid at the end of the football season by the CVFOA after payment is received from the contracted schools.

Time Commitment

Individuals must be prepared to commit 2-3 nights per week during the period July through November for meetings and game assignments. There is usually a training meeting on Tuesday, junior varsity games on Wednesday and Thursday, varsity games on Friday and sometimes Saturday afternoon. Although you are not required to be available all of these times every week, the season is short, less than 3 months, and the greater the availability, the greater the experience.

Sign-up

In the central Virginia and Richmond metro area, the first step is to contact the Commissioner of the Central Virginia Football Officials Association, CVFOA, or the Vice President of Training and Recruitment at the e-mail addresses noted on this site. They will provide you with the information regarding the site, date and time of the first training class meeting. At the first meeting, you will complete the Virginia High School League application and the CVFOA application. Payment for the training program is required prior to receipt of the training materials including rules book.

Qualifying as an Official

The Virginia High School League is the governing body for scholastic athletics in the Commonwealth and requires all officials to attend a state presentation rules clinic each year and to pass a rules examination each year. These are both scheduled in the August-September time frame and are mandatory to be assigned as an on-the-field official.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Insurance

Officials are provided with accident and liability insurance as part of the registration fee.

Training Program

The CVFOA provides a two-year training program consisting of classroom work each week and on-field assignments at the junior varsity level. Each new official is provided with an experienced mentor or "big brother" to provide feedback and act as a resource during the training program. New officials will also be assigned as game observers with varsity game crews and will be able to see how the crew prepares and officiates the game. The observer will participate in the crew's pre-game meeting, be on the sideline during the game, assist in the preparation of the game report, and join the crew for the post- game review.

First Year Officiating Assignments

Typically officials will be assigned a number of junior varsity games as on-the-field officials in a variety of positions, except referee. Some officials will be assigned as Clock Operators for varsity games as well. The number and type of assignments is dependent on the availability of the official and the individual's progress in learning the rules and the officiating mechanics.

Advancement within the CVFOA

The experienced members of his crew during each game assignment evaluate each new official. The feedback from these evaluations determines the type and number of future assignments. At the end of each year, the cumulative results of these evaluations will be the basis for advancing into probationary and full membership within the CVFOA.