**SAN DIEGO COUNTY FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION - THE WEEKLY BULL FOR FLAG FOOTBALL – October 13, 2025**

**Blocking Downfield vs Blocking in the Backfield** - There is no difference between blocking in the backfield vs downfield.  When sliding, the blocker is most likely providing a "screen" between the defender and the runner/passer.  Assuming both the blocker and the defender are moving, the official must judge who initiated any contact should it occur.  Most commonly the defender picks a side and begins to go around the sliding blocker who then must stop in order to not initiate contact with the defender.  If the defender makes a play through the sliding blocker then the foul is illegal contact by the defender for not attempting to go around the blocker.  Easy to describe and understand.  Difficult to officiate at speed.

**Game Time** – Officials are to work with the head coaches regarding the start time for games.  The normal start time is the tame listed on Arbiter.  Coaches are aware of that start time and many times plan their pregame accordingly.  If an official hurries the head coach, then it can throw off the team’s preparation, and makes the officiating crew appear to be in a hurry to get the game over with.  Not good.  But, if both coaches appear to be ready to play, then asking if they would like to start earlier is totally acceptable.