PRESS RELEASE



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**San Diego Football Association Recruiting College Students to Become Referees for Fall Season**

PART-TIME GIG OFFERS FLEXIBILITY WITH WEEKEND GAMES AND OPPORTUNITY TO EARN EXTRA CASH PLUS GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE IN A FUN ATMOSPHERE

SAN DIEGO – With the average age of San Diego-area football officials in the mid-50s, the San Diego County Football Officials Association (SDCFOA) is recruiting college students – both men and women – to officiate football for the fall season.

The need for more sports officials has reached a crisis level nationwide. Earlier this year, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) released the results of a [survey](https://www.nfhs.org/articles/with-loss-of-50-000-officials-nfhs-organizes-consortium-to-find-solutions/) that showed there has been a loss of over 50,000 sports officials across the country since 2018-2019 – the last full school year unaffected by the pandemic.

One of the biggest contributing factors for the decline is older officials retiring. As more retire, there are fewer new recruits joining to replace them.

The SDCFOA mirrors the national trend and is seeking young men and women to sign up for the coming fall season to officiate football from youth to high school varsity.

**“Football officiating is a great opportunity for college students to have a flexible job that allows you to work outdoors, build your resume and earn extra cash in a professional and welcoming environment,” said Terry Bernard, President of the SDCFOA. “We have a several homegrown officials who started off in their 20s and eventually worked their way into lifelong careers as college and NFL referees. Now we’re looking for the next generation to fill their shoes and help support San Diego’s football community.”**

The SDCFOA is open to those who are at least 18 years old and includes a thorough instructional program that will get new officials ready to make on-the-field calls in a matter of weeks. Football officiating is a great opportunity to mentor young athletes, gain a deeper understanding of the game and earn some extra cash.

New officials can earn $66 or more per game, and up to $2,500 per season, depending on one’s availability and which level of games are assigned. Officiating can be a flexible part-time job for college students, gig workers or anyone willing to learn new skills.

With the ongoing recruitment issues, the SDCFOA has bolstered recruiting efforts to attract a diverse pool of new officials and offers financial assistance to qualifying recruits to help pay for equipment.

Those interested in becoming a football official can learn more at [sdcfoa.org](https://www.sdcfoa.org/) or contact the recruitment chair at [recruiting@sdcfoa.org](mailto:recruiting@sdcfoa.org) or (619) 431-0459. They are also encouraged to attend SDCFOA’s first meeting of the 2022 season at 7 p.m. on July 6, 2022, at Mira Mesa High School located at 10510 Marauder Way, San Diego, CA.

Football officials come from all walks of life, but they share a passion for America’s most popular sport. SDCFOA members include teachers, real estate agents, lawyers, chefs, police officers, architects, engineers, ride-share drivers, restaurant owners, and former NFL players, among many other professions, as well as students.

With roots dating back to 1915, the SDCFOA is known for having one of the best, if not the best, instructional program in the country.

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