

CONSTITUTION
OF
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FOOTBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION, INC
(SDCFOA)

ARTICLE I: **NAME**

This organization shall be known as the San Diego County Football Officials Association SDCFOA and shall be referred to in the Constitution and the By Laws hereafter as the Association.

ARTICLE II: **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Association shall be to provide quality football officiating service, to maintain and strive to improve the service through an education and training program; to promote fair play and sportsmanship among people involved in football contests; and to encourage good fellowship among members of the Association and others interested in football.

ARTICLE III: **MEMBERSHIP**

A. **Eligibility**

1. Membership shall be available to any person, 18 years or older by August 1st of the application year, interested in football officiating provided he/she fulfills the requirements of membership and has complied with the ethical standards of the Association.
2. Membership in this association shall be based on qualifications stated herein and in no way shall factors of religion, age, sexual orientation, race, creed, color, national origin, or sex be considered in such qualification.
3. Membership shall be for the period of one year commencing June 1 ending May 31.
4. When background checks are required by CIF, all members will be required to submit to a background check for membership eligibility.

B. **Membership Classifications:**

1. **Probationary:** Application for membership shall be made in accordance with procedures and requirements as outlined by the Board of Directors. On approval by the Instructional Chair, **and payment of established dues** the applicant becomes a Probationary member, with neither office-holding nor voting privileges. **Member continues in Probationary classification until changed by Board direction, i.e. becomes certified**

2. **Transfer:** Application for membership shall be made in accordance with procedures and requirements as outlined by the Board of Directors. Transfer membership **classification** will be acknowledged by the Instructional Chairman upon receipt of a letter of recommendation from another recognized and accredited Football Officials Association, **and payment of established dues**. The applicant becomes a Probationary member, for a minimum of one year, with neither office-holding nor voting privileges. **Member continues in Probationary classification until changed by Board direction, i.e. becomes**
3. **Certified:** A Probationary member may be granted Certified membership by three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Directors provided: (a) the Official has served at least one year as a probationary member **in good standing** (b) the Official has met all the requirements stipulated by said Board of Directors, and (c) the Official has the joint recommendation of the Instructional and Rating Chairpersons. A Transfer member may be granted Certified membership by three-fourths majority vote of the Board of Directors provided: (a) the Official has served at least one year as a Probationary member **in good standing**, (b) the Official has met all the requirements stipulated by said Board of Directors, and/or (c) the Official has the joint recommendation of the Instructional and Rating Chairpersons.
4. **Certified members retain their classification if they continue to pay established dues and meet the minimum requirements for the year to be certified by current CIFSDS requirements (e.g. Attend meetings, scrimmages and assigned youth and high school games). Certified classification can be removed by the Board at any time. If a member's certified classification is changed (e.g. changed to Probationary for failing to meet minimum requirements, performance, or other mitigating factors determined by the Board) the classification change shall be provided to the member via email or letter, and the member shall be permitted an opportunity within the current year or before the next assigning year begins, to appear before the Board for reconsideration.**
5. **Associate:** Associate Members may be previously Certified members but are non-officiating members. A Certified member can request Associate membership in order to take a leave of absence from officiating. Requests for Associate membership must be made to the Board of Directors by email or letter. An Associate member shall pay dues in an amount determined by the Board of Directors but may neither hold office nor vote for an elected or appointed office. Associate Members may be restored to officiating **classification** by email or letter request to the Board of Directors. Said Board shall determine the **classification**, Probationary, **Transfer** or Certified, when the Association member resumes officiating **and makes payment of established dues for the new classification**.
6. **Alumni:** Alumni members are those people who have been so identified by the Board of Directors because of their service to the Association. Included are those people who wish membership in the Association, but do not elect to participate in the activities of the Association. Alumni membership may be granted to a Certified member who is an active official at the collegiate or professional level but not able to accept assignments from the Association. An Alumni member shall pay dues in an amount determined by the Board of Directors, and he/she shall not be eligible to hold an elected or appointed office nor vote.

ARTICLE IV: GOVERNING BODY

A. Board of Directors

1. A Board of Directors consisting of twelve Certified members shall be the governing body of the Association and shall be referred to in the Constitution and By Laws as the Board.
2. One-third of the Board shall be elected each year on a rotational basis. Should the President of the Association, whose term as President and as a Board member end concurrently, their Board term will be extended one year with all rights and privileges of Board membership. Thus, in such cases, there would be thirteen Board members.

B. Board Powers and Duties:

The Board shall:

- a. Control and be responsible for all property and funds of the Association.
- b. Fix membership dues and assessments.
- c. Determine requirements of membership.
- d. Determine qualifications and policies for assigning officials.
- e. Evaluate officials annually on criteria to be determined by the Board
- f. Initiate education and training programs.
- g. Have the authority to interpret and execute the various provisions of this Constitution and By Laws and other matters related to the Association not specifically provided for in this Constitution or in the By Laws.
- h. Set the time, date, and place of all elections.
- i. Have the authority to remove from office an Appointed Officer by a majority vote of the Board.
- j. Have the authority to approve and modify the Association's Code of Ethics and the Mission Statement.

ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

A. Procedures for Nominating Directors:

1. Per Article VIII, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The purpose of the Nominating Committee will be to secure and compile a list of qualified Certified Members to be considered for positions on the Association's Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall convene prior to October 1st of each year to develop a slate of twelve nominees for the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall assure that the twelve nominees are certified members in good standing and are willing to accept the position of Board of Director member if elected. The Nominating Committee will then solicit the general membership for additional nominees and assure that they are certified and in good standing. The slate shall not include:
 - Current Nominating Committee members.
 - Current Board of Director members whose term will continue in the next year.
 - Those Board of Director members who have served two consecutive terms.
 - Officers of the Association and their subordinates.
2. The slate will then be presented to the Executive Secretary who will distribute the slate to the Membership to vote for eight nominees.

3. The eight members so determined shall be considered nominees for the Board. Ties shall be broken by lot by the President, the name or names losing being placed next in order on the list of nominees.
4. All returned ballots shall be retained by the Executive Secretary and shall be available to the Board at the next Board meeting.

B. Election of Directors:

1. At a previously publicized general meeting, the Executive Secretary shall deliver a nomination ballot to each Certified member present.
2. This ballot shall list the eight nominated Director candidates in alphabetical order and shall direct that four of the nominees be selected. Any ballot carrying more than the designated four names shall be declared invalid. The four nominees receiving the greater number of votes shall be elected to the Board. Ties shall be broken by lot by the President.
3. The Executive Secretary shall maintain a record of the election results and all returned ballots shall be retained and shall be available to the Board at the next Board meeting.
4. Elected Board members shall serve a term of office of three years. A member of the Board may not serve more than two terms in succession.
5. In the event of vacancies on the Board of Directors, the nominee receiving the next highest number of votes in the Board election **so long as that member received at least 50% of the votes cast**, shall be appointed to the unexpired term of the resigned/removed Board of Directors member **so long as the unexpired term is one full board year (February – December) or more. If the nominee with the next highest number of votes does not receive at least 50% of the votes cast, there shall be a runoff election. In the event of a tie in the runoff election the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin.** The same procedure shall be followed in the event of subsequent vacancies. **If there is a vacancy on the Board of Directors and the unexpired term of the resigned/removed Board of Directors member is less than one year, the Board shall by majority vote appoint a member to the Board to serve for the unexpired term.**
6. The new Board shall meet after the election with the incoming President as Chair and elect a President-Elect not later than the first Board meeting of the new office year.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

A. President:

1. The President shall be the presiding officer at Association meetings and shall be the Chair of the Board.
2. The duties and powers of the President shall be the same as are usually attached to such office and other duties as this Constitution, the By Laws, or the Board directs.

B. President-Elect:

1. The President-Elect will succeed the President when his term expires.
2. In the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President. The duties and powers of the President-Elect shall be the same as are usually attached to such offices and other duties as this Constitution, the By Laws, or the Board directs.

C. Past President:

1. The Past President will act as a resource person to the President, the President-Elect and the Board. In the absence of the President and the President-Elect, the Past President shall assume the duties of the President.
2. If the President, President-Elect and the Past President are absent, the Board shall elect a President Pro Tem from those directors present.

ARTICLE VII: ASSOCIATION APPOINTED OFFICERS

- A.** The Board shall have the authority to appoint officers as needed for an annual term subject to reappointment at the discretion of the Board as needed for conducting Association business. The Board shall outline yearly the duties and responsibilities of these officers and these officers shall be responsible to the Board for their performance in such duties and responsibilities.
- B.** When vacancies occur, positions shall be advertised at a time, place and method as determined by the President. The Board shall consider interested applicants and ensuing appointments shall be for a period of one year subject to reappointment as provided above.
- C.** In the event that an Association appointed officer is unable to complete their term of office or is removed by the Board, the President shall designate an interim officer to complete the term with concurrence of the majority of the Board. If the Board does not approve the interim officer appointment, then normal procedures for filling the position shall be followed.
- D.** Compensation for the services of said officers shall be determined on a yearly basis by the Board.
- E.** Appointed officers may, with Board approval, appoint subordinates to assist them in their duties. Appointed officers and their subordinates will serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Board and cannot serve as an elected Board member while occupying any appointed officer position.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

- A.** The President with Board approval shall appoint Committee Chairpersons and members. Committees shall perform such duties and responsibilities as outlined by the Board and shall be responsible to the Board for their performance in such duties and responsibilities. Committees shall serve during the term of the President that appointed them.
- B.** The standing Association committees are: Crew Chief Selection, Mechanics, Mediation, Recruiting and Nominating.

**ARTICLE IX: RATIFICATION AND AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION
AND BY LAWS**

- A.** This Constitution and the By Laws shall be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Certified members of the Association of said membership.
- B.** All Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws will be approved by a simple majority vote of the Board prior to being presented to the membership for a vote.
- C.** The proposed amended Constitution and/or By Laws shall have been distributed in a method as determined by the Board to the membership and noted in the records of said Certified membership meeting at least seven days before a date is set for voting.
- D.** This Constitution and the By Laws shall be amended by following the same procedures as formulated in said ratification of the Constitution.

ARTICLE X: LIABILITY

No member, Director or Officer of the Board shall have authority to bind or obligate the Association unless specifically authorized by the Board.

1. Existence:

This Association shall continue in perpetuity unless terminated by a vote of two-thirds of the Certified members.

2. Assets on Dissolution:

Upon dissolution, any assets of the Association shall be liquidated after paying expenses of termination of its affairs, to include prorated salaries of appointed officers and outstanding debts. Any balance shall be distributed to a charity so designated at the last official meeting held.

Approved: July 8, 2026