

## Frequently Asked Questions for Football Officials



### **Q: What is the Metrolina Football Officials Association (MFOA)?**

**A:** The MFOA is an organization of football officials which provide football officiating services primarily to the following leagues and/or conferences:

- North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) in the Metrolina area (JV/Varsity).
- North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) in the Metrolina area (Middle School/JV/Varsity).
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Middle Schools
- Cabarrus County Middle Schools
- Pop Warner League in the Metrolina area
- Carolina Midget Football League (Union County Area)

The MFOA helps in recruitment and training of football officials from across the area and ensuring that the officiating needs of the schools and youth football are met.

### **Q: Who can become an official?**

**A:** Any person who has reached his/her 18th birthday and is not currently in high school and can fulfill the NCHSAA requirements.

### **Q: Why become an official?**

**A:** Football officiating is one of the greatest avocations you could ever begin. You will develop many friendships that will last a lifetime. The cross-section of the public who are football officials is vast. This cross-section means EVERYONE fits in.

Our avocation also gives you a chance to stay in touch with the game and although no one will ever get rich from officiating locally, it does put a few extra dollars in your pocket.

### **Q: When does registration begin and end for the MFOA?**

Registration with the MFOA usually begins around the beginning of March and will end on **June 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is a firm deadline for all applications to be received by the Regional Supervisor. After this date has passed, registration will officially close.

### **Q: I've never officiated before, but would like to become an official. What steps do I take to become a football official?**

**A:** The MFOA is always seeking new officials to join their membership. To start your football officiating career, please review the remainder of our FAQ page for any questions you might have. Then follow the easy registration steps for becoming a new official once registration opens.



**Q: I have officiated football (prior experience) in another area, but will be moving to the Metrolina area. How can I transfer my membership?**

**A:** The MFOA accepts transfers from any other state or other local associations. To begin your football officiating career with our association, please review the remainder of our FAQ page for any questions you might. Then follow the easy registration steps once registration opens. Register as an Official with Prior Experience and then have your credentials from your previous association sent to our office or to the NCHSAA.

**Q: Do I have to register with the NCHSAA as a football official?**

**A:** Yes, all officials who desire to officiate football for the MFOA must register with the NCHSAA.

**Q: How much does it cost to become an official?**

**A:** Below is a partial list of the fees/expenses:

- North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Registration Fee: You must register with the NCHSAA for every sport you would like to officiate. To register, please visit [www.nchsaa.org](http://www.nchsaa.org) and select the officiating tab. Football registration typically begins in mid-May and end Mid-June. Please monitor your registration and do not miss the deadline.
- A registration fee paid to the Regional Supervisor in the amount of the following:
  - New Official registration is \$25.00.
  - Returning Official/Prior Experience Officials pay \$80.00 through April 30<sup>th</sup>; \$90.00 May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 15<sup>th</sup> and \$100.00 after June 15<sup>th</sup>, if paying by credit card or PayPal.

If writing a check or money order, the registration fee is \$95.00 until June 15<sup>th</sup> (after this, fee is \$100.) **ALL** officials must pay this fee during their registration process.

- Uniforms: Most stores that carry official's equipment will sell a starter package or something similar. See [www.honigs.com](http://www.honigs.com) for an example of the cost associated with uniform purchase.
- MFOA Association Dues/Assessment – 2020 dues/assessment are \$20.00.

Optional items included but not limited to are: insurance, camps/clinics, additional cold weather gear, etc.

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### **Q: Do I have to take a test to be able to officiate?**

**A:** The NCHSAA mandates that each official who plans to officiate any public school game whose school is a member of NCHSAA must pass a test administered electronically by the National Federation of High School Associations. A passing grade on the test is at least 75%. Officials must score 80% or better on the test in order to be eligible to officiate playoff games in the state tournament.

The exams are typically administered online around mid-August. Check the NCHSAA website for the exact dates. You will need to log on to [exams.nfhs.org](http://exams.nfhs.org) in order to take the test online.

### **Q: What if I still have questions?**

**A:** Call our office (704) 900-2743 and we will gladly answer any question you may have.

### **Q: How many clinics am I required to attend?**

**A:** Officials are required to attend six (6) local clinics in order to receive full NCHSAA credit (though officials are encouraged to attend as many clinics as possible). A list of clinic meeting times, dates, and locations can be found on our website.

### **Q: How many scrimmages am I required to work?**

**A:** Officials are required to work three (3) scrimmages in order to receive full credit with the NCHSAA (though officials are encouraged to work as many scrimmages as possible).

### **Q: How much are the game fees?**

**A:** Football officiating fees (as of 2/10/20):

Varsity = \$94.50

Alternate Varsity (Clock) = \$80.00

JV (5-man) = \$69.50

JV (4-man) = \$74.50

Rounds 1 & 2 = \$94.50

Rounds 3 & 4 = \$105.00

State Finals/Championship = \$110.00

Middle School = \$65.00

Pop Warner = \$65.00 (Tiny Mites = \$32.50)

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### **Q: How many assignments a week should I expect to work?**

**A:** The Regional Supervisor for the MFOA has sole authority over every official's game assignments. You must keep your availability (date(s) and hours that you cannot work) updated in the Arbiter System. This is called "closing out" your dates/hours. You will be required to keep your close outs current from **July 15<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Your assignments will be based on your availability, ability, dependability and need of the Regional Supervisor. There are no guarantees or promises of any set number of assignments or field position for any official.

Varsity games are typically held on Friday nights; Junior Varsity games are typically held on Thursday nights; Middle School games are typically held on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons; and Youth games are typically held on Saturdays. All levels of games can be scheduled or move to other days of the week.

### **Q: How far will I have to travel to officiate?**

**A:** For regular season games, the MFOA provides officiating services for schools in Gaston County to our west, Rowan County to our north, Anson County to our east and bordered to our south by the state line. The MFOA has the shortest travel of the other associations across the state.

### **Q: What times do the football games begin?**

**A:** Game times typically begin on:

- Wednesday – 4:45pm
- Thursday – 6:00pm
- Friday – 7:00pm or 7:30pm
- Saturday – All day beginning at 9:00am / Last games begin at 7:00pm

All officials are required to be dressed and on the field thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff time for all games at the JV level and below. For varsity games, officials are required to be fully dressed and prepared for the pregame conference to begin one hour and fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff time.