



## **COLLEGE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING, LLC**

### **CFO COORDINATORS ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING**

**San Francisco, June 5-6, 2011**

#### **Summary Report**

The annual summer meeting of the College Football Officiating (CFO) Coordinators was held June 5-6, 2011, in San Francisco. Jim Blackwood (Western Athletic Conference) worked with the PAC-10 Office and Mike Pereira who was the PAC-10 interim coordinator in organizing the meeting arrangements. Jennifer Carey-Ruiz from the PAC-10 office was enormously helpful in attending to the many details during the meeting, and the coordinators express their appreciation.

The Division I coordinators in attendance were joined by:

Ty Halpin (NCAA), CFO Administrator

Claire Roberts (Arbiter Sports)

Dave Yeast (Arbiter Sports)

Charlie Kalis, substituting for Jim Maconaghy (Colonial Athletic Association)

#### **New Coordinators**

National Coordinator Rogers Redding welcomed two new coordinators: **Jack Childress (Southern Conference)** and **Tony Corrente (PAC-10 Conference)** to the meeting.

#### **Tribute to Dave Parry**

Jim Blackwood and Gerald Austin (Conference USA) led the group in a brief tribute to Dave Parry, the former national coordinator who passed away on May 16 of this year. The coordinators had an opportunity to express remembrances of him. Redding noted that the annual CFO National Training Video includes a tribute and a dedication to Parry.

## **NCAA Updates**

Ty Halpin provided updates on a number of areas where the NCAA supports the CFO and the conferences. He pointed out the new “look and feel” of the rule book, which is larger, spiral bound, and features a number of organizational changes. He also pointed out that this is the second round of the new two-year rules change process. Halpin emphasized the NCAA’s key principles that serve as the framework to guide the rules process: player safety, sportsmanship, image of the game and the role of athletics in higher education.

## **Rules Discussion**

Redding led in a discussion of the rules changes with particular emphasis on blocking below the waist and the 10-second runoff rule. He also called attention to a number of key editorial changes, particularly in Rules 1, 7, and 9. These changes have been made to render the book more readable and to assist in locating particular rules.

The changes to the rules governing blocking below the waist continue to generate discussion as the teams and officials began to adjust to the new rules in spring games and practices. Redding discussed the clarification of the meaning of “adjacent sideline” which is now by interpretation the sideline to the outside of a player at the snap. Restrictions on a player in motion at the snap remain as originally written, whether he is moving laterally or running in place.

Discussion also centered on the rule changes that make unsportsmanlike conduct a “common foul” (i.e., either live-ball or dead-ball as the situation dictates) and that include an automatic first down for such fouls when committed by the defense.

## **CFO National Training Video**

At several points of the meeting the coordinators viewed the CFO National Training Video. The 100-play video is an annual production of the NCAA and the CFO which features play selected from last season’s bowl games. The video is posted to the CFO/Arbiter Central Hub, the web site for all college football officials who are CFO members, so that all officials will see the same plays and receive the same interpretations.

## **Technology Committee**

Committee chair Walt Anderson (Big 12) joined by Claire Roberts and Dave Yeast (Arbiter Sports) briefed the group on the Technology Committee’s work last year and discussed plans for 2011. The calendar of items to be posted to the CFO/Arbiter web site throughout the 2011 season had been previously circulated and was approved by the group. Several coordinators will create training videos on topics of interest. Redding will also continue the practice of posting bi-weekly Game Review Videos (Accountability Videos) to show plays from games around the country as training opportunities for officials. Added this year will be two videos that specifically are geared toward Instant Replay. The practice posting of bi-weekly rules tests and occasional play interpretations will also continue.

The coordinators believe that the CFO/Arbiter web site continues to be a powerful tool for helping officials to achieve the national consistency that is a major CFO objective, and all make note of the good work of the folks at Arbiter. Redding expressed appreciation to the committee, to Arbiter and to all the coordinators for the good spirit of cooperation in making the web site so successful.

### **Instant Replay Committee**

Committee chair Bill Carollo (Big 10/Mid-American) reported on several items. The annual National Instant Replay Clinic will be in Chicago on June 18. An outstanding one-day agenda is planned with Dean Blandino, widely recognized as a lead expert on replay, the main presenter. This year the CFO and NCAA produced a separate national training video for instant replay, rather than having replay as a segment of the standard national training video. Also the CFO and NCAA created an Instant Replay Casebook, which includes Rule 12-Instant Replay and the replay Approved Rulings from the NCAA rule book as well as some 100 play situations specifically to address instant replay issues. Instant replay will also have a more robust presence on the CFO/Arbiter web site in the form of training videos, play situations and other training tools.

### **Panel Presentation: Coordinator's Role and Best Practices**

Doug Rhoads (Atlantic Coast), Harold Mitchell (Southwestern Athletic) and Austin made presentations and led discussions regarding the role of the coordinator in the officiating programs for their conferences. This enabled the group to share ideas about the "nuts and bolts" of a coordinator's work: assignments, scheduling, attending games, viewing games on television during the season, interacting with coaches, representing the program to the media, as well as the training, evaluation and other personnel matters with officials. This proved to be a very helpful portion of the meeting as coordinators were able to gain an understanding of the issues and challenges for different conferences. Mitchell and Byron Boston (Southland) took the lead in discussing the need for all coordinators to have more focus on recruiting, training and giving opportunities to minority officials.

### **Mechanics Committee**

Committee chair Steve Shaw (Southeastern) reported on the committee's work in updating the CFO mechanics manual for the 2011 season. The committee will also be engaged in an in-depth examination of the manual to insure that the material is current and that it becomes a more important vehicle for officials to be more consistent nationally in the mechanics of officiating the game.

*Umpire Position* An important part of the mechanics discussion centered on the location of the umpire. The NFL moved the umpire to the offensive backfield starting in the 2010 season. NCAA officials experimented with this mechanic during the spring practice season. While the NFL has given umpire safety as the primary reason for this change, the coordinators reported that injuries to college umpires have not occurred more than injuries to other officials. The consensus remains that moving the umpire to the offensive backfield would result in his being less effective in the important role of

working with the offensive and defensive linemen. Regarding the extent to which the umpire impacts plays, there is general agreement that this can be managed by adjustments to current umpire mechanics.

The unanimous recommendation of the coordinators is that the umpire in college football remain in the present position behind the defensive line.

### **Officiating Philosophies**

Ken Rivera (Mountain West) led a discussion that focused on the officiating philosophies adopted five years ago. In many cases the rules changes in recent years reflect these philosophies. The review of the mechanics manual mentioned earlier will include continuous monitoring of the philosophies.

### **Interpretation of Ball Carrier Out of Bounds**

The coordinators engaged in a discussion of the location of the succeeding spot if a ball carrier runs out of bounds when he leaps or takes a long stride in crossing the sideline. The operative rule is Rule 4-2-4-d wherein the exception defines the point where the ball crosses the sideline as the forward progress spot if the ball carrier is airborne. After reviewing video and examining the rules in light of practice of long standing, it was agreed that for purposes of the exception to 4-2-4-d the ball carrier who crosses the sideline in stride is by interpretation an airborne player. This means that the forward progress point is the spot where the ball crosses the sideline.

### **Helmets Coming Off**

At its annual meeting earlier in the year the rules committee discussed the concern about players' helmets coming off quite easily. To understand the size of the problem, each crew will record the number of times helmets come off during each game (other than as result of being pulled off by the opponent). The national coordinator will obtain these statistics from each coordinator on a regular basis.

### **Interconference Movement of Officials**

The group engaged in a discussion regarding the movement of officials from one conference to another. As conference alignments continue to change and conference footprints overlap there will always be circumstances where officials may want to move from one conference to another, for personal and/or professional reasons. The coordinators readily reached a "gentlemen's agreement" that (1) officials should never be discouraged from or disadvantaged by their desire to move from one conference to another and (2) that the coordinators will work cooperatively to keep each other informed about such movement of officials.

### **CFO Issues: General Discussion**

*Consistency in Mechanics* Redding led a discussion of the need for continuous improvement in consistency in mechanics across all conferences. The sense of the meeting is that we have made good progress, due mainly to the cooperative spirit of the

coordinators in working together and the strides in making the CFO/Arbiter web site such a powerful training and communication tool.

*Background Checks* Redding informed the coordinators that he would be discussing background checks with the Board of Managers at the Washington meeting on June 22.

*Strategic Plan* Redding shared with the group that he is committed to creating a strategic plan for the CFO and that he would be seeking the guidance of the coordinators as the plan is developed.

### **Standing Committees**

There was some realignment of the standing committees, which currently are (chairs are named first):

TECHNOLOGY: Jim Jackson (Ohio Valley), Doug Rhoads (Atlantic Coast), Doug Toole (Big Sky)

EDITORIAL\*: Rogers Redding, Jim Jackson (Ohio Valley), Don Lucas (Sun Belt)

INSTANT REPLAY: Bill Carollo (Big 10/Mid-American), Jim Blackwood (Western Athletic), Walt Anderson (Big 12)

PROGRAM: Ken Rivera (Mountain West), Gerald Austin (Conference-USA), Jim Maconaghy (Colonial Athletic), Harold Mitchell (Southwestern Athletic)

MECHANICS: Steve Shaw (Southeastern), Terry MacAulay (Big East), Ken Rivera (Mountain West), Don Lucas (Sun Belt)

\*This is a subcommittee of the NCAA rules committee.

### **Future Meetings**

#### **2012 Winter Meeting**

Date: January 29-31, 2012

Site: Birmingham

Host Conference: SEC

#### **2012 Summer Meeting**

Date: June 3-5, 2012

Host Conferences: Big 12, C-USA

Site: San Antonio, TX

**--Rogers Redding  
CFO National Coordinator**