



**Mid-Florida Officials Association  
2014 New Official Orientation for Football**

<b>X</b>	<b>Things to Do:</b>	<b>Where/How:</b>
	Register with the FHSAA Deadline is August 5, 2014	Go online to ( <a href="https://officials.fhsaa.org/">https://officials.fhsaa.org/</a> ) Locate "Click here to register as a brand new official" FHSAA Fees \$17 + \$27 = \$44
	Register with the MFOA	Download and return forms ( <a href="http://www.mfoa.us">www.mfoa.us</a> ) Membership Dues are waived for brand new officials Booking Fee = \$30
	Comply with the Jessica Lundsford Act by obtaining a State Contractor Badge	See county specific instructions at <a href="http://www.mfoa.us">www.mfoa.us</a> . Ask a current MFOA member to help you. There is a fee, and it may vary from county to county. Below is an example. Fingerprinting, \$76.50 + State Badge, \$10 = \$86.50
	Obtain Study Materials. STUDY, STUDY, STUDY!	Once you are registered with the FHSAA, the MFOA will provide the books you need. Rules book, Case book, Officials Manual (Mechanics)
	Attend local study sessions (Starting July 14 to August 11, each Monday beginning at 6 PM)	See below for locations. Study sessions are geared toward a more in-depth look at the rules. It does not replace your personal study.
	Purchase Uniform and Gear	See information below.
	Sign on to Arbiter Sports	This is the online program we use for assigning officials to games <a href="https://www.arbitersports.com">https://www.arbitersports.com</a> . Send your name and email address to <a href="mailto:wadeclynton@hotmail.com">wadeclynton@hotmail.com</a> to get the ability to log on.
	Participate in Scrimmages (These will be announced and posted)	All 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , and 3 <sup>rd</sup> year officials MUST participate in at least 2 scrimmages before being booked.
	Attend the Field Clinic	August 15 and August 16 at The Villages High School. Your directors will have more information.
	Take the Rules Exam (Exam window is August 11 to August 20)	Once you have registered with the FHSAA, you will be able to log on ( <a href="https://officials.fhsaa.org/">https://officials.fhsaa.org/</a> ) to take the exam.
	Watch for game assignment in your email	Log in to <a href="https://www.arbitersports.com">https://www.arbitersports.com</a> to accept your assignments. Be sure to check in with your Referee at least 48 hours before the game. See information below.

**Study Session Locations and Area Directors**

These are the locations of the local study sessions. Also, email addresses for your area directors who can help you as you get started.

South (Citrus Co.) – Kevin Townsend, Director ([ktsell1@embarqmail.com](mailto:ktsell1@embarqmail.com))  
Coldwell Bankers  
314 W. Main St. – Inverness

Central (Ocala) - Ted Bedford, Director ([tjbedford@email.com](mailto:tjbedford@email.com))  
Emergency Operations Center - MCSO  
692 NW 30th Ave - Ocala

North (Gainesville) - Carl Dill, Director ([cdill777@cox.net](mailto:cdill777@cox.net))  
SiVance (Administration Building)  
4044 Northeast 54th Ave. - Gainesville, 32609 [Off Waldo Road]

### **Uniform and Gear for Football Officials**

Looking the part in a clean, neat uniform goes a long way for an official. If you look sloppy, others may assume that you also officiate sloppily. See the NFHS Football Officials Manual. Here is what you will need:

<b>X</b>	<b>Uniform Components</b>
	Black and white short sleeved shirt. (Referee may call for long sleeves in cold weather.) FHSAA emblem goes on the shirt pocket. An American Flag with a white border. goes on the left sleeve, 2 inches from the cuff on a short-sleeve shirt. <b>Do not wear the FHSAA emblem for any non-FHSAA games (Semi-Pro, Youth, etc.)</b>
	Black coaches shorts for Sub-varsity games
	Pants for Varsity. Black pants with 1 1/4" white stripe (even as a clock operator)
	Black leather belt, at least 1 1/4" inches wide
	Socks – Black socks
	Sized/Fitted Black cap with white piping. Adjustable hats are not permitted.
	Black football shoes with black shoe strings (no white showing)

<b>X</b>	<b>Gear Components</b>
	Flags - gold/yellow (weighted in the center)
	Bean bags – 1 white and 1 blue
	Whistle - finger whistle or whistle on a lanyard
	Down indicator - carry at least 1
	Game card with pencil
	Timing device (watch) for Back Judges (25 sec and 60 sec) and ECOs - A device with a countdown timer is preferred. Line Judge should have a watch for 4-officials.
	Linesman's disk for measurements- All wing officials.
	Towel - Umpire should have a solid black towel looks better with black shorts and pants. A solid white towel is acceptable.

Online Sources for Purchasing Gear:

<http://www.honigs.com/fhsaa>

<http://www.gerrydavis.com/mm5/category/FHSAA>

### **What to Expect Your First Year**

If you take care of everything above, you will get games. Yes, you may spend ~\$300 to get started, but you should make more than that during the season, especially if you work youth league games such as Marion County Youth Football League (MCYFL). [Pay scale: On-field Sub-varsity = \$51, On-field Varsity = \$65, ECO = \$34, Travel is variable, MCYFL = \$40 per game (usually 2 games per Saturday)]

Probably all of your game assignments will be at the sub-varsity (middle school, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, JV) level. It is rare for a first-year official to get a varsity game, but it does happen. You will very likely be assigned to varsity games as an ECO (electronic clock operator). You should take the assignments, as you will be exposed to experienced officials and 5-official mechanics. For sub-varsity games, we use 4-officials on the field. See your Football Officials Manual to study the mechanics.

### **Checking in with the Referee**

When you are assigned to a game, it is mandatory that you check-in with the referee assigned to the game at least 48 hours prior to the game. This may be done by phone, email, or on the Arbiter. There are several things you should get from the referee: Obtain directions to the game field or meeting place, discuss parking accommodations, confirm uniform, discuss dressing accommodations confirm, arrival time, confirm your position (study the mechanics), and inquire about special instructions.

Contact your area director with any specific questions. Have a great first season!