

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in becoming a certified high school football official in the State of New Hampshire. The name of our organization is the New Hampshire Football Officials Association (NHFOA). Our organization services football games that are New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) sponsored contests.

If you have not done so already, please forward your apprentice application (see enclosed) to Apprentice Chairman Glenn Colburn at 16 Lorisa Lane Milford, NH. Dues in the amount of \$38.00 are payable by September 1, 2009; however, rule books will not be handed out to first year apprentices until your dues have been paid. Checks should be made payable to the NHFOA and mailed to Paul Page, P.O. Box 482, Dover, NH, 03820 or given directly to Glenn Colburn.

The NHFOA has a formal apprentice program consisting of two years of training, leading up to becoming a patched member of the Association (Pending a passing grade on a final field evaluation) by the third year of officiating. The meeting schedule for apprentices will correspond with the general membership schedule. A separate Apprentice meeting schedule will be provided to all Apprentices at the meeting on July 29th or August 11th (see enclosed). The first meeting will be located at Pinkerton Academy in Derry on July 29, 2009 at 7pm. If you cannot make that initial meeting, there will be a makeup meeting on August 11, 2009 at Public Service of New Hampshire in downtown Manchester, NH at 7pm. Our association has state and local meetings (see enclosed schedule). The state meetings consist of the initial meeting (July 29th) and the first Wednesday of September, October and November. For local meeting purposes, the state is divided into (5) five meeting areas.

The location and local coordinators are as follows:

Manchester, NH – Dave Dickson (603) 627-9773 (Wednesday nights)
Nashua, NH – Phil McCarthy (603-672-1197) (Tuesday nights)
Keene, NH - Rick Zecha (603) 358-6869 (Tuesday nights)
Plymouth, NH - Jim Presher (603) 528-6472 (Tuesday nights)
Dover, NH – Jay Kelly (603) 770-5442 (Tuesday nights)

The Apprentice Chair for 2009 will be Glenn Colburn, 16 Lorisa Lane, Milford, NH, 03055, telephone number 603-672-6547. The Manchester meetings (Memorial High School / Wed. Nights) have separate instruction for apprentices (by Glenn Colburn) separate from the general membership meeting. The other four local meeting sites will not have separate apprentice instruction. Apprentices are not required to attend the Manchester meetings but are encouraged to attend if possible. For local meetings, apprentices will be under the direction of their local coordinator.

Additional information on the curriculum for the program will be handed out at the initial meeting. The NHIAA games, varsity games and most sub-varsity games are assigned by the NHFOA Commissioner, Billy Makarawicz, 105 Pelham Road Hudson, NH 03051. Some schools obtain their own officials for subvarsity games. For the most part, you will be officiating sub-varsity for the duration of your apprenticeship. Sub-varsity games are usually played as follows: **Junior Varsity (JV)** -normally played Mondays at 4pm. There are some (JV) games that are played on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings, but these are minimal. **Freshman** -normally played Thursdays at 4pm.

You are encouraged to officiate youth league Pop-Warner games, but these assignments are not affiliated with the NHFOA organization. The contacts for those assignments will be given out at the initial meeting.

Assignments are made depending on your availability and ability. It is important that the enclosed availability form be filled out and forwarded to Commissioner Makarawicz so that it can be entered into the computer assigning system (Arbiter). Please include hours of availability for each day; remember to be very specific since the assignments are done by the availability form. Please call me with any questions on the completion of this form. The sooner your availability form is submitted, the better chance you have of being assigned games. Getting games to officiate should not be a problem even if you join the program late. Most sub-varsity games are assigned with three officials. The game goes much better with four officials. If you make it known to the officials in your area (mentor, local coordinator, board member), they will work with you to get you into games as the fourth official in games they are officiating.

The basic requirements for all apprentices are as follows:

- All apprentices shall attend a minimum of 80% of state and local meetings (usually 8)
- An apprentice shall complete (1) year of officiating experience in organized competition prior to taking a written exam. This shall be in high school freshman or junior varsity scholastic football competition in New Hampshire as assigned by the Commissioner.
- A minimum of (10) games shall be officiated in the year in which the examination will be taken.
- All apprentices will receive a grade of 80% or more on the written exam.
- All second year (Provisional) apprentices will be evaluated on the field during an actual game by an evaluator assigned by the Commissioner and will not move on to certification (Patched) status if they don't pass their field evaluation.

Other information concerning the NHFOA can be obtained by visiting our website at www.nhfoa.org.

Please note email is extremely important since it is our main source of communication. If you are interested in obtaining rule books prior to the first meeting, please advise and we will try to accommodate your request.

Again, I would like to welcome you to the NHFOA; officiating high school football is rewarding and, as an organization, we have a good time doing so. If you believe in the value of high school football, officiating is a way to be involved with the process along with the coaches and players. Please keep in mind that the coaches and players will be working very hard to prepare for the upcoming season and, as officials, we must do the same. Becoming a certified high school football official requires a time commitment to attend the required number of meetings, officiate the required number of sub-varsity games and rules/mechanics study.

Yours in football,
Glenn Colburn

Phil McCarthy, Coordinator
Billy Makarawicz, Commissioner Rick Zecha, Coordinator
Glenn Colburn, Apprentice Chair Jim Presher, Coordinator
Steve Hall, Interpreter Dave Dickson, Coordinator
Mike Murphy, Coordinator