

Constitution of the Delta Area Officials Association

Article I- Name

The name of this organization shall be the Delta Area Football Officials Association, hereinafter termed the Association.

Article II - Affiliation

- A. The Association -will be affiliated with the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.
- B. The Association will be subject to the rules of the MHSAA as presented in the MHSAA Handbook.

Article III- Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to serve the schools that are assigned to the MHSAA with qualified officials; to promote better officiating through training and supervising the members of the Association, to create and maintain a relationship between the schools, school officials, and assist in creating a wholesome condition for the participants in the athletic program.

Article IV- Officers, Committees, and Duties

The officers and their duties are as follows:

President- the President shall preside at all sessions of the Board of Directors and membership-at-large, and shall represent the Association in accordance with the policies of the Association.

Vice President - The Vice-President shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President and serve as a member of the Board of Directors

Secretary and Assistant Secretary must be approved by the MHSAA. The Secretary and Assistant Secretary must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a certified official for five (5) consecutive years
2. Be a member of the local association for five (5) consecutive years
3. Be accessible to schools and officials
4. Attend MHSAA training sessions and meetings
5. Possess organizational skills

Assistant Secretary - The Assistant Secretary shall serve on the Board of Directors. He shall assist the secretary in the above duties. Other duties of this officer are as follows:

1. Serve as Vice-Chairman of the Assignment Committee
2. Assume the duties of the Secretary- his absence

Board Members - In addition to the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary, the Board of Directors shall be made up of at least four (4) additional members, representing different areas the Association serves as follows: one from Cleveland; one from Clarksdale; one from Greenville; and one from Greenwood. These officers shall be elected by their local area.

Assignment Committee- The board shall constitute the assignment committee. Varsity games will be assigned by the Assigning Secretary. All other games will be assigned by members of the assignment committee, (Area Representative). The assignment committee will approve all assignments and their decision will be final.

In order to hold an office in the association, a member must be a certified official and must be a member of the association at least five (5) years. Only members in good standing are allowed to vote. The time of the elections will be set by the Board of Directors.

Prior to June 1, voting will be by secret ballot. The membership must be notified at least 14 days prior to the election

Article V- Membership

Only persons residing within or near the boundaries of the Association determined to be qualified and duly approved by the Board of Directors will be accepted or continued as members. New officials will be on probation for a period of one year. The Association at its first meeting of each year will elect, by majority vote, a Screening Committee composed of certified officials only to control the admission of new applicants and to review their progress during their probationary period. This Committee shall fully interrogate the new applicant on the year of probation. The Screening Committee will report their findings and

recommendations to the Board of Directors. If the committee approves, the applicant's name will be presented at the next business meeting of the Association. In order to become a member, the applicant will then have to secure a majority vote of those members in attendance. The Screening Committee will include the Secretary- elected by the Association, the Assistant Secretary, and four (4) certified members. The Association at its first business meeting will set a maximum number of officials that can be members of the Association in the district during the succeeding years. The maximum number of officials that can hold membership in the association will be 125 as determined by a majority vote of the membership in attendance at the annual business meeting. All probationary members must be recommended and approved by the screening committee before they can be voted into membership of the association. By majority vote of the membership present, the association reserves the right not to approve a probationary member for full membership. All members officiate as an independent contractor

Article VI - Meetings

A minimum of five (5) meetings for membership-at-large shall be held each year; date, time, and place to be determined by the Secretary. Two additional meetings will be held for recognized officials. Special meetings will be called by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. The last meeting shall be the annual business meeting of the Association and the other meetings shall be devoted to clinics on rules and mechanics. The Association will arrange its own compulsory meetings and prescribe such penalties as it deems necessary for members failing to attend these meetings.

Article VII - Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be made only at the annual business meeting. Proposals for change in the Constitution shall be submitted to the Board of Directors one month in advance of the announced date of the business meeting. A two-thirds vote of the membership in attendance shall be necessary for the adoption of any proposed amendment to the Constitution. A majority vote of the membership in attendance shall be necessary for the adoption of any proposed changes in or amendments to the By-Laws. The Secretary-Treasurer shall provide each member official with a copy of the amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws within 30 days from the date of the annual business meeting where such amendments were adopted.

By-Laws of the Delta Area ALL SPORT Officials Association

Section I - Compensation of Elected Officials:

The District Secretary shall collect dues annually from all Association members. He will retain these dues after expenses, as set forth in the Constitution.

Section 2 - Dues:

The dues for officials shall be \$65.00 as set annually by the Board of Directors. Dues of continuing members must be paid to the Secretary by date set forth or membership will be cancelled. A deadline will be set each year for the paying of dues. Any payment of dues after the deadline set for the payment of dues will be assessed an additional fee set by the Board of Directors

Section 3- Crews:

The referee will serve as the crew chief. Crew chief must call the school on or before the day of the game and all others call the crew chief. All crews must be diverse and represent the makeup of the association. All members in good standing must pay dues prior to June 10th, or the first annual meeting. If a member request to be moved from a crew, or fail to pay dues prior to the deadline date, they will be placed on crews based on availability after considering all extenuating circumstances. The board of director's will approve the final outlook of all crews.

Section 3 - Assignment of Games:

All Varsity games will be assigned by the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary. In making game assignments, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary will give consideration to official's ranking, the amount of travel involved, the importance of the ball game to be played, the training of the new officials and other factors that they deem appropriate. A school's "scratch" privileges submitted at the beginning of the year shall not be violated (home and away games). All officials will be notified by the Arbiter of their assignments and shall immediately confirm these assignments (within 2 days), or appropriate action will be taken including the rescheduling of all games not accepted. Schools shall be notified of assigned officials at least two weeks prior to the game.

The officials will be assigned by crews according to the following procedure:

- a. Official's ranking
- b. Game ranking
 1. division games
 2. rivals

3. regular season contest

- c. Officials will not be assigned to work back-to-back games with a school or site.
- d. Automatic scratches (officials with any close ties to a school such as employed, children attend, relatives work or participate at a school) will be honored.
- e. Cancellation, rescheduling and other changes in games by the member schools. The assigning secretary must be notified at least 48 hours in advance of any changes in the schedule. If the school cancels a games less than 48 hours, the school will pay the officials as if he would have worked the games unless cancelled due to providential hindrance.

No official shall be permitted to working more than two games for any one school. Upon acceptance of a game at any school, no exchange of games may be made between officials. Any official failing to report for a game-to which he has been assigned shall be fined the game fee he would have-received. This fine shall be paid through the Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary to the school to which he was assigned and failed to report. Failure to pay such fine before his next regular scheduled game will result in cancellation. Of the remainder of his schedule. Any unusual situation that occurs in a game will be reported by the entire crew in writing to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary no later than the next working day. The referee will initiate this report. These reports shall be made in full, including the entire proceedings and any action by a participant, a coach, or game official which is considered to be an unusual nature. Unusual situations so reported shall be investigated by the Secretary, Assistant Secretary and the Board of Directors. If it is determined that the situation arose as a result of actions on the part of an official, such officials will be reprimanded and corrective action initiated at once. If any member official is associated in any official capacity with a member school, that official will not be permitted to officiate any games in which that school participated.

Section 4- Cancellation of Games: Cancellation of any game by an official, after having accepted the game, must be made to the Secretary or Assistant Secretary at least forty-eight (48) hours before game time, except in the instances of illness or death in the immediate family, or upon direction of the regular employer of the official. Any substitution made due to the cancellation must be made by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

Section 5 - Conduct of Officials: Each official should be dressed in a complete official's uniform as described in the National Federation Officials Manual. An official may be dismissed from the association under the following conditions: The Board of Directors shall be the governing body in-so-far as the expulsion from the Association is concerned. An official shall be expelled if it is proven that he has solicited games from any school official, has consumed alcoholic beverages or drugs on the day of the game in which he works, criticizes other officials before coaches, players or spectators, and/or does any other act that is considered detrimental to the Association. The Board of Directors shall conduct an open hearing at the request of the official accused of such detrimental conduct and he shall be permitted to present witnesses in his defense. A majority vote of the Board of Directors will be necessary for expulsion of any member official. No member shall knowingly officiate in a regularly scheduled varsity game with an official who is not a bonfire member of an official's association. PENALTY: EXPULSION FROM THE ASSOCIATION.

Section 6 - Removal of officials for previously assigned games by secretaries or schools: No official assigned to any game may be removed within seventy-two (72) hours of game time and assigned to another game. Any school attempting to remove an official from any game previously assigned and accepted by the school shall not be assigned another official unless the school pays the prevailing game fee to the official being removed. If the Secretary or Assistant Secretary removes an official from a game to which he has been assigned without collecting the game fee, they shall be subject to a fine in the amount of the game fee which the official would have received, this fine being paid to the member official who was removed. No official will be allowed to work a regularly scheduled game free of charge, unless it is a **Charity Game** and prior approval has been given by the Secretaries. All officials will be expected to be physically fit, to be able to cover his position completely.

Section 7 - Charges against members:

The Board of Directors shall hear all charges made against any officer or member of the Association, and the decision of this committee will be final.

Section 8 - The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all business sessions of the association and of the governing board.

Section 9 - Compulsory Meetings:

Any member official, who fails to attend a designated compulsory meeting, without having been excused by the Secretary, shall without notice pay to the Secretary a fine established by the Board of Directors or he shall be removed from his next game or games until such fine has been paid. All members of the Association will be required to attend all meetings as scheduled by the Supervisor of Officials and the Secretary.

Excused absences will be accepted as follows:

- a. job requirements
- b. sickness
- c. death within the immediate family
- d. team coaches

Members needing to be excused from compulsory meetings must contact the Secretary in advance of the meeting.

The Secretary and/or Assistant Secretary shall have authority to excuse a member for a valid reason. This request must be in writing.

Section 10 - The Screening Committee may be called upon to study the qualification and ability of its members at time in order to recommend to the Governing Board the moving of a member or probationary member to another level if it is deemed necessary.