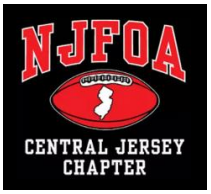
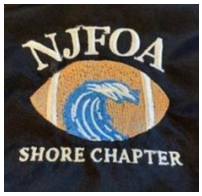
NEW JERSEY FOOTBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

Constitution and Bylaws



Central Jersey

North Jersey



Shore

South

NEW JERSEY FOOTBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

Constitution and Bylaws

ARTICLE I Name:

1. The Association shall be known as the "NEW JERSEY FOOTBALL OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED".

2. The membership of the Association shall consist of the members of the four (4) constituent Chapters—Central, North, Shore and South.

3. Each Chapter shall determine upon and be governed by its own Chapter Bylaws, provided that such Bylaws shall not contravene the Bylaws of this Association.

4. The Secretary of each Chapter shall file a copy of its Bylaws and/or Regulations with the Secretary of this Association and shall further notify him in writing of any changes.

ARTICLE II Purpose:

1. The purpose of this Association shall be to promote the welfare of the American game of Football, its players and officials including:

    a. to improve the standard of officiating;

    b. to train and properly qualify capable officials;

    c. to encourage the spirit of fair play and good sportsmanship; and,

    d. to cooperate with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. ("NJSIAA") in activities and endeavors which concern both organizations.

ARTICLE III Membership:

1. Any person of good moral character who is a resident of the state of New Jersey, and at least eighteen (18) years of age, is eligible to apply for membership to one of the Chapters of the Association.

2. Applicants shall meet the requirements of the Association of the Membership Committee of the Chapter to which they apply.

3. Active members of the Association pledge themselves to be bound by its rulings. Any member who violates any such rulings shall be subject to disciplinary action. Such cases shall be heard and decided by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors of the Chapter involved, in accordance with the Bylaws thereof. Each active member, after paying dues of not less than [$5.00] shall:

a. receive a copy of the annual National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Football Rules Book;

b. receive an NJSIAA membership card; and,

c. become a duly registered NJSIAA Official.

The total dues required to be paid under this section shall be determined by each Chapter.

4.

a. An inactive member is a former active member who, for the ensuing year, will not be able to officiate. Any active member desiring inactive status must make application in writing to the Executive Committee of the Chapter to which he belongs. Application shall be made to the Chapter Secretary and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee. Approved inactive members shall be listed in the Chapter roster.

b. Inactive members are not registered with the NJSIAA and shall not officiate varsity or sub-varsity football games.

c. An inactive member seeking active status after two (2) or more years of inactive membership shall apply in writing by April 1st of the given year to the Executive Committee through the Secretary for activation in that year. The applicant shall be certified as an active member to the Executive Committee of his chapter, provided he has successfully passed a written examination administered at a time and place as specified in the affiliated Chapter's Bylaws, but in no case later than April 15th of a given year.

5.

a. Any person who has performed some meritorious service for the game of football, the Association, or who has been an active member of the Association for twenty (20) years or more prior to retiring from active serve as an official, may be elected as an Honorary Life Member.

b. An Honorary Life Member shall pay no membership dues and be entitled to all privileges of the Chapter except those of voting, holding office and committee assignments.

6. Members of recognized football officials' organizations in other states who establish a residence New Jersey and apply for membership in the Association by transfer, shall first be required to satisfy the examination and other membership requirements of the Chapter to which he applies so as to demonstrate his knowledge of the rules and other qualifications as an official. However, no such transfer shall be accepted unless:

a. the applicant was an active member in good standing in the other organization as of the date of his request;

b. such other organization admits members only by Examination; and,

c. such other organization grants reciprocal privileges of membership admission to members of this organization should they establish residence in such organization's geographical area.

7. A certified official in good standing from a neighboring state may qualify himself to officiate in New Jersey in any game played between two (2) interstate schools by registering through a Chapter or District Secretary. This registration must be renewed each year.

8. All officials who are members of this Association shall be subject to rigorous standards with respect to eligibility to become or continue to be members. Any member who has been CHARGED, INDICTED, or CONVICTED of any offense involving MORAL TURPITIDE, including, but not limited to: DISHONESTY, GAMBLING, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, SEXUAL OFFENSES, or ANY CRIME OF THE THIRD (3rd) DEGREE or greater under the laws of this state, or another state of the United States of America, which crime if in this state would be an equivalent offense or crime, shall be disqualified from membership in this Association.

9. No member shall:

a. fail to pay dues on time;

b. fail to attend required meetings;

c. be in breach of contractual obligations to officiate;

d. engage in conduct which has been established to be in conflict with the stated purpose of this Association;

e. fail to obtain a passing grade of [85%] or better on the NFHS Rules Examination (Part 1) and be permitted to work at any varsity-level assignments. A member who does not obtain an [85%] or better must meet additional requirements set by their individual Chapter; and,

f. fail to comply with any other regulation herein.

10.

a. Charges in writing shall be made to the Chapter Secretary whose member is involved. Such charges may be made by active, inactive or non-members of the Chapter.

b. Each Chapter shall establish an Ethics Committee whose membership includes representation from all geographic areas of the Chapter.

c. Each Chapter shall enact into, and make a part of, its Constitution and Bylaws the following provisions regarding charges against its members:

i. charges made by a member of the Association shall be referred to the Executive Committee of the Chapter involved;

ii. charges or complaints received from non-members of the Association concerning the conduct of a member shall be referred to the Ethics Committee of the Chapter involved for further investigation. After such informal investigation, the Chairperson of the Ethics Committee will submit a report. Such report shall constitute the basis for submitting charges to the Executive Committee of the Chapter involved, or a recommendation that the complaint should not result in the prosecution of formal charges;

iii. the Secretary of the Chapter involved shall inform his Executive Committee of the charges promptly. The Executive Committee shall then set a hearing date not less than twenty (20) days, but not more than thirty-five (35) days, from the date of notification to the member charged. Upon written request to the Executive Committee, the hearing may be continued to a later date, but in no case shall the rescheduled hearing date be more than ninety (90) days from the date of notification to the member charged. The vote required for Executive Committee action shall be two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Executive Committee hearing the matter; and,

iv. the Chapter Secretary shall notify the charged member by U.S. Mail (Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested) of the date, time and place of the hearing, the nature of the charges, and the name of the member or non-member so charging him. He will be informed that he may bring witnesses, present evidence, and be represented by counsel if he so desires. He will have the right to cross examine.

11. A Chapter may impose sanctions pursuant to Ethics Committee proceedings in accordance with Chapter Bylaws.

12. A member who has been suspended or expelled by action of a Chapter may appeal such decision to the Board of Directors, provided all appeals (if any) at the Chapter level have been exhausted. The decision of the Board of Directors shall be final.

ARTICLE IV Officers:

1. The officers of this Association shall be: President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

2. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

    a. No President or Vice-President shall succeed himself in Office.

    b. The President and Vice-President shall serve a term of one (1) year each. The President and Vice-President shall be members of different Chapters.

    c. The Secretary-Treasury shall serve a term of three (3) years and may succeed himself in Office.

ARTICLE V Board of Directors:

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of ten (10) members, selected from each Chapter as follows: The Chapter that has the largest enrollment in terms of registered officials will have a proportionate vote equal to, but not more than, the total of the other Chapters. The second and third largest Chapter in terms of enrollment will each have two (2) representatives, and the smallest Chapter will have (1) representative. This will be subject to change as enrollment fluctuates for each Chapter.

2. Directors shall serve a term of one (1) year each and may succeed themselves in Office.

3. The Board of Directors shall:

    a. establish major administrative policies governing the affairs of the Association and devise and nurture measures for the Association's growth and development;

    b. act upon all business presented to it by the membership through the Chapters;

    c. render decisions on appeals brought by members against whom sanctions have been imposed by their respective Chapters;

    d. administer the State Cadet Annual Examination;

    e. determine the requirements and the methods to be employed by the Examination and Membership Committee to the respective Chapters; and,

    f. appoint such other committees as necessary.

4. There shall not be less than two (2) meetings of the Board of Directors each year. One such meeting shall be held in April and the other in December. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or by any two (2) members of the Board of Directors upon at least five (5) days notice to each Director. Two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for all purposes.

ARTICLE VI Finances:

1. Each Chapter shall remit annually to the Association an Assessment to defray the cost of preparing and conducting the State Cadet Annual Examination. Such assessment shall be equal to the proportion of the total cost of the examination as the number of its certified applicants taking the examination.

2. Such assessment shall be paid to the Secretary-Treasurer by the earlier of February 1st or thirty (30) days after receipt of a notice of assessment.

ARTICLE VII Parliamentary Authority:

The Rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised—12th Edition) shall govern the manner by which all Association business is conducted.

ARTICLE VIII Conflicts:

Each Chapter shall enact into, and make a part of, its Constitution and Bylaws the following;

"Should any provision herein be in conflict with the Constitution of the New Jersey Football Officials' Association, Inc., the Constitution of the New Jersey Football Officials' Association, Inc. shall prevail, and conflicting provisions herein are hereby null and void."

ARTICLE IX Amendments:

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the Board of Directors present and voting at any regulatory scheduled meeting or meeting called for that purpose, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment(s) has been sent via U.S. Mail or electronic means (i.e., e-mail) to all members of the Association not less than two (2) weeks before such meeting. These Bylaws may also be amended by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors upon receipt of resolutions from each Chapter in favor of such amendment.

NOTE: *Throughout these Bylaws, gender-specific terms are used in order to ease the text flow. Whenever a gender specific term is used, it should be understood as referring to all genders, unless explicitly stated.*

Revised: June 2021