

# San Diego County Football Officials Association Memo

---

**To:** Crew Chiefs, Head Coaches, and Athletic Directors

**CC:** SDCFOA Instructors & Staff

**From:** Steve Coover, Instructional Chair SDCFOA

**Date:** 11/2/2009

**Re:** Weekly Bulletin #8

---

## **Walt Daniels**

We are all saddened by the lose of a great friend and official, Walt Daniels. Walt was one of our all-time great umpires who worked pop warner and CIF championships with the same professionalism. He was a great sportsman who loved this game. We will all miss him and all he did for our association and the game of football.

## **Three Selected to Work the State Championship**

Congratulations to Chris Wiggins, Gene Beck and Brad Yosick who have been selected to work the State of California Championship Bowl Games in December. Let's all get up to the Home Depot Center and watch them work! The San Diego County Football Officials Association has now had 12 officials selected to work the games in four years.

## **Horse Collar Madness**

Observed a game where three horse collar tackles were called in two games (jv/var). I hope we're not falling in love with this call. Of the two called in the varsity game, one was a classic horse collar, the other the runner broke down on his own even though the tackler had the inside of the shoulder pad in the back. Make sure it's BIG. The definition from the rule book states: "No player or non player shall grab the inside back or side collar of the shoulder pads or jersey of the runner and subsequently **pull the runner to the ground.**"

## **Overturning a Call**

If you have completed a play and the crew has incorrectly administered a penalty or some other ruling has been made, and then you change your decision, please consider the following before you begin to correct the error: what was the previous spot, what down was it, and what was the status of the clock. Don't begin to fix the problem until you are clear on all of these items. There is nothing worse that watching officials struggle to recreate what was and find out that they aren't sure of the previous spot, the previous down, or the clock. When there is doubt....move on and don't attempt the correction.

## **Plays Ending Close to the Line to Gain**

On plays ending close to the line to gain, the flanks must pinch and get a good spot. If for some reason you don't have a spot, mirror the other official or move far away from the spot so the umpire knows you don't have one. Umpire is to hand the ball to the closest official to the play or the official with the best spot (in almost all cases – the one closest to the end of the play!) Once the ball is placed, determine if we need to measure BEFORE moving the ball. Moving the ball and then measuring is just asking for trouble! Don't do it.

## **Officiating Out of Your Area**

If you are going to be a "crew saver" and overrule another official, you better be right! We had two instances this week of officials going into another official's area and changing a ruling. Two different game videos show that the intervening official was wrong in changing the ruling official's call. Again, sometimes another angle on a catch or penalty can help; just make sure that the game film will support the changing of the call.

## **Unsportsmanlike Acts by the Defense at the Snap**

It is an unsportsmanlike act for any defender to "use disconcerting acts or words prior to the snap in an attempt to interfere with the offense's signals." These are acts by the defense meant to confuse the offense's signals such as calling our signals or feigning charges at the defense.

**7-Man Mechanics Clinic**

In preparation for the CIF semi-finals and finals, those individuals selected to work those games are invited to a meeting at the SDCOE on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Exact time and room will be announced via the Arbitor. Chris Wiggins and several current NCAA officials will instruct.

**Please and Thank You**

Reminder – Demonstrate your best manners to all game administrators, custodians, coaches and spectators. You never know who you will need to help you! And don't forget "please and thank you" can be your best tools for the game!