

## SDCFOA 2024 Mechanics Summer Study Guide

This season we would like to emphasize the use of our 2023-24 SDCFOA Officials Mechanics and Philosophies (Officiating Standards) Handbook.

1. Begin by re-visiting the “Pyramid” on page 1. Building upon strong mechanics is the only way of achieving overall consistency.
2. Establish your personal goals for the season. Share them with your crew if you are a member of one. Pages 3-5 will assist you, as will the “Crew Chief Performance Self-Assessment” which is in your packet.
3. Next, do a full inventory of your uniform and equipment. Pages 6-9 may help you. Replace worn equipment or uniform items, and don’t forget to donate gently used uniform and equipment to the 1<sup>st</sup> year class! Be sure to check your radios and practice with your wireless microphone systems.
4. Review pages 11-17 so you clearly know all your pre-game duties. You should be aware of the responsibilities for each position. You must warm up 1) Your muscles; 2) Your eyes; and finally, 3) Your mind. Get this all done, and be on-time for the coin toss!
5. You must have a detailed understanding of the mechanics for your position. The game mechanics for 3-Officials starts on page 17. 4-Officials is on page 37, and 5-Officials is on page 65. Master these!
6. Practice your signals and ball toss. Signals are listed on pages 100-103 and the penalty signals chart is on page 96-97 of your rule book.
7. Revisit your Pre-Snap Routine. Samples start on page 117. Modify your pre-snap routine for: hurry up offenses; scrimmage kicks; free kicks; red zone; goal line; PATs; and field goals.
8. Prepare to be a Great Dead-Ball Official! Some of the dead ball responsibilities are listed in your Pre-Snap Routine, which is excellent. Pages 124-133 will also be of assistance. Accordion movements, clock awareness, colors separating, ball mechanics, down indicator, cross-field mechanics, and crew communication are just a few of the extremely important dead-ball actions that must be consistently achieved.
9. Prepare to fully participate in the half-time and post-game crew self-evaluation (page 142). Know what questions to expect from your referee. Answer the question(s) quickly with adjustments you will be making if necessary. Do not ramble on telling stories. Our purpose is to make adjustments, not log complaints or tell stories. Save that for the post-game dinner! Repeat that self-evaluation immediately after the game. Get it done before dressing.
10. What is your weekly routine (page 140). Do you have a mid-week evaluation session with your crew? Zoom? Complete your evaluation and new goal setting by Wednesday, then “turn the page.” Now start preparing for the next game, and maybe do a bit of scouting or speaking with another crew who had the teams before.