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Football official titles

File:NFLprobowlcointoss.jpg NFL officials (striped shirts) and guests are preparing for that coin to begin the 40th annual Pro Bowl. In American football, the official is the person responsible for enforcing the rules and maintaining the order of the game. Seven officials are active in the field during professional and college football matches. Arena football, high school football and other football levels have other officiating systems. Football officials are commonly referred to as referees, but each position has a specific position and a specific name: referee, umpire, head liner, line referee, back referee, lateral referee and field referee. Since the referee is responsible for general supervision of the game, the position is sometimes referred to as the head judge. [1] [2] [3] Features[edit | edit source] File:2006 Navy - Tusla.jpg Official (right) watches navy's Shun White (#26) score touchdown. Visible on his belt is his yellow penalty flag and orange bean bag. American football officials typically use the following equipment: Whistle Used to signal to remind players that the ball is dead, i.e. that play is over or never started. Fine marker or flag Bright yellow flag, which is thrown into the field toward or in the place of foul. For fouls, when a place is irrelevant, such as fouls that occur during capture or during a dead ball, the flag is usually thrown vertically. The flag is wrapped around weights such as sand or beans (or sometimes ball bearings, although this has been discouraged since an NFL game incident showed that they can injure players), so it can be thrown with some distance and accuracy. Officials usually have a second flag if there are a lot of fouls in the game. Officials who run out of flags when they see a few fouls play can drop their hat or bean bag instead. Bean bag Used to mark various spots that are not fouls, but which may be possible execution sites or unlawful touching of the impact of the offending. For example, it is used to mark the location of the cam or when the player caught a punt. It is usually white, blue or orange, depending on the official league, college conference, game level or weather conditions. Unlike fine flags, bean bags can be twisted into a place parallel to the nearest yard line, not necessarily to the actual non-penalty spot. [4] Down indicator Specially designed bracelet used to remind officers of current. An elastic loop is attached to it, which is wrapped around the fingers. Usually officers put a loop around his finger when he is first down, middle finger when he is second down, and so on. Instead of a custom-designed indicator, some officers use two thick rubber bands tied as a down indicator: one rubber band is used as a bracelet and the other is too Some officials, especially umpires, may also use a second indicator to monitor where the ball is ball between the hashtags before the prank (i.e. right hash mark, left or middle between them). This is important when they re-spot the ball after an incomplete pass or foul. Game data card and pencil Officials record important administrative information, such as the winner of the prefabricated coin toss, team time intervals and fouls called. Game data cards can be disposable paper or a lot of plastic used. A pencil with a special bullet-shaped cap is often carried. The cap does not allow the officer to be stabbed with a pencil while he is in his pocket. Stopwatch Officers will perform a stopwatch (usually a digital clock) when it takes time duties, including maintaining game time, maintaining an alarm clock, and time-out and interval between quarters. Uniform[edit | edit source] To facilitate recognition, officials are traditionally clad in black and white vertical striped shirts, white knives with a black belt, black boots and a peak cap. A letter indicating the role of each official appears on the back of the shirt at the college level, and NFL officials have numbers with a small letter or letters above. Shortly after the September 11, 2001, attacks, an American flag was added to nfl officials' t-shirts. The strips were first introduced in the 1920s, pre-em with simple white shirts. College football referee Lloyd Oldis is credited with the idea after the quarterback mistakenly handed the ball over to him. [5] Officials refer to the colloquial struggle as zebras because of their black-and-white striped shirts. [6] During the existence of the American Football League (1960-1969), officials wore red orange striped sweaters. The referees wore red hats, other whites, each with an AFL logo. This appearance was restored in 2009 during AFL Legacy Weekends to mark the 50th anniversary of the AFL founder. The United Football League, which started playing in October 2009, is a major player in the World Cup. Since no team in the league wore red or orange, there was no prospect of a color collision. Since 2010, UFL has switched to a custom version of traditional strips. Strips on officers' T-shirts in high school are one inch wide and the college is two inches wide; NFL officials wear T-shirts with an uneven stripe pattern. High school and college officials wear socks with a Northwestern strip pattern, while NFL officials wear socks with two white stripes bordering on one black stripe. In 2006, the NFL completely redesigned the shirt, going into a sleek-looking uniform, which, however, no longer identified a position for a certain officer from the front. Also new in 2006 were black trousers with a white stripe down the side to be worn in cold weather. These looser trousers allow you to layer warmer clothes underneath. [7] During the 2010 season, college officials and high school officials in many states will have the opportunity to wear black cold weather. Black pants became mandatory for college officials in 2011 and for NFL officials in 2012. For decades, all NFL officials wore white hats. In 1979, the judges changed into black hats with white stripes, while other officers continued to wear white. Finally, in 1988, the NFL switched to the style of high school and college football: the referee wears a white hat (which now includes the NFL logo first added to Super Bowl XXXIX), while other officials wear black hats with white stripes. Officers' caps are also used occasionally as additional equipment. If a player doesn't carry the ball steps out of bounds (wide receiver runs deep in passing route or player runs downfield for punt coverage, for example), the official will drop his hat to mark the spot where the player has gone out of bounds. The hat is also often used to signal a second foul that an official would call in a game (those officials who can only have one flag); indicate the unsportsmanly conduct committed against the official himself (as when the player shows the official); or when some other situation requires a physical sign and the officer has already used the usual thing in the game. Some conferences do not encourage the use of a hat in such situations, and the bean bag will be used instead. Officiating systems [edit | edit source] NFL and college football primarily use a seven official system. On the other hand, arena football, high school football and other football levels have other officiating systems. The three official system uses only the referee, head lineman, and line referee, or in some cases, the referee, umpire and head lineman. It is common in youth high and youth football. The four official system is used by the referee, umpire, head lineman, and line referee. It is primarily used at lower levels of football, including the younger varsity and some high school varsity. The five official system is used in arena football, most high school varsity football, and most semi-pro games. It adds back to the judge's four official system. The six official system uses a seven official system, without a back judge. It is used in some high school and small college games. Position and responsibility[edit | edit source] The following positions and duties in the standard system of seven official systems. There are also differences in other officiating systems. Judge [edit | edit source] File:College football - Selvin Young of the Texas Longhorns scores a touchdown vs. rice owls - 2006-09-16.jpg Judge (foreground) follows the action between the Texas Longhorns and rice owls play. File:Ron Winter reviews play the Eagles at the 49ers 10-12-08.JPG Referee Ron Winter reviews play on the replay bench during a game on November 2, 2008 between the San Francisco 49ers and the Philadelphia Eagles. The referee (R) is responsible for the overall and has the final power to take all decisions. Thus, this position is judge and shall be considered as commander. He can be identified by his white cap, while other officers wear black. During each game of scrimmage, the referee positions himself for the offensive team, preferring on the right side (if the quarterback is a right-handed passer). He also counts offensive players. For passing plays, he primarily focuses on quarterbacks and defenders coming up to him. The referee rules on a possible rough passer and, if the defender loses the ball, determines whether it is a list or an incomplete pass. On running plays, judge observes the quarterback during and after he hands off (or side) the ball running back, remaining with him until the action has been cleared just in case it's really playing an action pass or some other trick passing play. After it has been determined that the running back will keep the ball, the referee then checks the running back and the contact for it. Through punts and field goals, the referee monitors the kicker (and holder) and any contact made by defenders approaching them. On punt out of bounds, he uses his vantage point for the punter to direct the nearest side official to the point where the ball went out of bounds. In college football, the NFL and other professional leagues, and in some high school games, the referee announces penalties and a number of players to commit to them (college and professional), and explains the complex and/or unusual decisions through a wireless microphone for both fans and the media. During instant replay reviews of the NFL and college football, the referee gives a replay to the officer, who is stationed in the press box above the field, playing and then announcing the final score through a wireless microphone. On replays, the NFL referee also reviews the game on a monitor stationed near the sideline and makes a final decision; replay officer makes the final decision in college football. In addition to the general equipment referred to above, the judge also has a coin to perform a pregame (and, if necessary, overtime) coin toss. Umpire [edit | edit source] File:College Football.jpg umpire watches play from behind the defensive line during a game between the UCLA Bruins and the California Golden Bears. The umpire (U) stands behind the defensive line and linebackers (except the NFL described below), observing blocks of the offensive line and defenders trying to guard against these blocks - looking for farm or illegal blocks. Before the beak, he counts all offensive players. During passing plays, he moves forward toward the scrimmage line as play evolves into (1) punishing any offensive linemen who move illegally down until the pass is thrown or (2) punished for throwing the ball when the quarterback behind the starting line scrimmage. It also helps to make decisions on incomplete passes when the ball is thrown short. Because the umpire is where the from the play's initial action, it is considered to occupy the most dangerous officiating position. [6] For this reason, the NFL conducted experiments in the 2001 preseason with an umpire in the offensive back side next to the referee. [8] March 2010 [9] In the last two minutes of the first half, the last five minutes of the second half and any time the offense is inside the five-yard line, the umpire returns to the defensive line at halftime. In addition to his duties on the spot, the umpire is responsible for the legality of all players' equipment. Head linesman[edit | edit source] Head liner (H or HL) stands at one end of the scrimmage line (usually in front of the press box) looking for possible sidelines, encroaching and other fouls against the beak. As play develops, he is responsible for deciding the action next to him on the sidelines, including whether the player is out of bounds. During the start of passing plays, he is responsible for watching receivers near his sideline to point 5-7 yards behind the scrimmage line. He marks forward progress on the ball and is responsible for the chain crew, given his duties. In addition to the general equipment above, the head liner also has a chain clip used by the chain crew to properly insert the chains and ensure the exact location when measuring the first down. Line judge [edit | edit source] File:American Football officials positions.svg This chart shows the relative positions of seven officials (white) in relation to typical offensive (blue) and defensive (red) formations. The line referee (L or LJ) helps the head lineman at the other end of the scrimmage line, looking for possible offside, encroayments and other fouls against the beak. As play develops, he is responsible for the action next to him on the sidelines, including whether the player is out of bounds. He is also responsible for counting offensive players. During the start of passing plays, he is responsible for watching receivers near his sideline to point 5-7 yards behind the scrimmage line. After that he moves back to the line of scrimmage, deciding if the pass is forward, lateral, or if he is illegally thrown behind the line of scrimmage. On punts and field goal attempts, the line referee also determines whether the kick is made from the line for scrimmage. In high school (four-man crew) and minor leagues, the line referee is the official game timer. In the NFL, college and other levels of football, when the official time is kept on the stadium scoreboard clock, the line referee becomes a backup timer. Field referee[edit | edit source] Field Referee (F or FJ) works for defensive on the same sideline as the line judge. He makes decisions near the sideline on his field, assessing the action of nearby running backs, receivers and defenders. He rules on pass interference, illegal blocks downfield, and incomplete passes. He is also responsible for counting defensive players. He was sometimes an official timer, and in many leagues will run the game clock for a six-man crew. [10] [11] With the back referee, he indicates whether field goal attempts are successful. The lateral referee[edit | edit source] Lateral Referee (S or SJ) works downfield for a defensive secondary on the same sideline as the head lineman. Like the field referee, he makes decisions near the sideline on his field side, assessing the action of nearby running backs, receivers and defenders. He rules on pass interference, illegal blocks downfield, and incomplete passes. He also counts defensive players. During field goal attempts, he serves as the second umpire. In college football, the lateral referee is responsible for the game clock or alarm clock, which is controlled by an assistant on his instruction. Back judge [edit | edit source] File: Back judge picks up the flag for the Rams at 49ers 11-16-08.JPG Back referee Lee Dyer picks up a fine flag during a game on November 16, 2008 between the San Francisco 49ers and the St. Louis Rams. The back judge (B or BJ) stands deep behind the defensive secondary field in the middle, judging by the action of nearby running backs, receivers (primarily tight ends) and nearby defenders. He rules on pass interference, illegal blocks downfield, and incomplete passes. It covers the field area between himself and the umpire. He has the final decision on the legality of kicks produced by scrimmage (kickoffs). With the field referee, he rules whether field goal attempts are successful. In the NFL, the back judge is responsible for ruling a delay in the game violation if the game clock ends. In college football, the back referee is responsible for either the game clock or the alarm clock, which is run by an assistant according to his instructions. In high school (a five-man crew), the back judge is the official timer of the game. The back judge is also an alarm clock keeper in high school games, and one minute is allowed (only 30 seconds are allowed during team time in college games broadcast on television to reduce time). During the four games of the 2010 preseason, the NFL experimented with an eighth official, deep judge, defensive backfield in front of a back judge. The main responsibility for this new position is the receivers' action, and it allowed the NFL to adjust coverage after the umpire was moved to the offensive backfield. The experiment continued for 12 games in the 2011 preseason, but any decision to add an additional official should be approved by ownership. [12] Switching through turnovers, punts and other returns[edit | edit source] Turnover, punts Returning defense, and playing transitions from one direction to another, officials also have to adapt. Field referee, side judge, and back judge then become trail/back positions; and judge, judge lineman, and line judge then become the lead/forward position. The umpire, in his traditional position in the middle of the field, usually remains stationary until he returns and other players pass it. The story [edit | edit source] When the NFL started playing, only three officials (referee, umpire, and head lineman) were used. The field referee was added in 1929 and the back judge in 1947. In response to the encrypting quarterbacks, namely Fran Tarkenton, the line referee was added in 1965 to watch the other side of the scrimmage line. The side referee was added in 1978 because the NFL introduced new rules to open a passing game. The practice that a judge issues penalties or explain complex and/or unusual decisions about a wireless microphone began in the NFL in 1975. College football and other professional leagues soon adopted this practice. For many years, college football referees have been prohibited from publishing the number of foul players except the Mountain West conference (and in all conferences, when an offending player was thrown out). In 2004, the rules were changed throughout college football to allow the publication of a foul player number. Among the various Halls of Fame major North American sports, the Pro Football Hall of Fame is unique in that it did not induce any officials: In the Baseball Hall of Fame, the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Hockey Hall of Fame each induced game officials as members. Employment status[edit | edit source] Since their regular season lasts only 17 weeks, the NFL is the only major sports league in the United States that pays its officials only on a contract and part-time employees [citing is needed]. The advantages of this system are the ability to remove unskilled officials simply without offering them a contract next season, when they should show the reason [citation is needed] when the number of full-time employees is terminated. Critics argue that full-time officials would free them from a second job distraction, but part-time officials point out that the NFL would lose a number of qualified officers because many of them are owners of various companies, presidents or C.E.O.S. Proponents also argue that there is only one game a week and the regular season is only 4 months long, and that having full-time officials doesn't necessarily guarantee that they will be less officiating mistakes. Due to the level of training and review involving NFL officials, additional time becomes unnecessary. Either way, veteran officials can make quite high salaries for their work. The NFL Referees Association serves as a union representing officials in the NFL. Substitute officers were during week 3 of the 2012 NFL season The NFL Referees Association and the NFL dispute the contract. Most of these surrogates were high school or officials from lower college departments. None of the substitutes were Division I college officials because the league wanted to protect them from union opposition and allow them to continue working on their scheduled games at the same time during the college football season. [13] [14] [15] In addition, current and former NFL officials are Division I conference supervisors and prevented their officials from crossing the picket line. [16] [16] The performance of the alternate officials was very carefully verified and ridiculed by fans, players and coaches. The final play of the Green Bay Packers-Seattle Seahawks game in Week 3 saw Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson throw a Hall Mary touchdown pass to wide receiver Golden Tate that officials decided at the same time was caught by Packers safety M. D. Jennings. Before the catch, Tate showed the quarterback with both hands, which the NFL later acknowledged had to prepare an offensive pass interference penalty that would deny a touchdown and led to the Packers' victory. [17] The controversial nature of the replacement officers' decision at the end of the Packers-Seahawks game is widely considered a turning point, which ultimately resulted in an agreement to end lockouts before Week 4 games. [18] [19] [20] Female officials[edit | edit source] Historically all american football officials were men in line with male-dominated sports. In 2007, Sarah Thomas became the first woman to officiate a major college football game, working on a game between Memphis and Jacksonville State. Thomas later became the first woman to start a pelvic game when he worked as a line judge at the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl between Marshall and Ohio in 2009. Since then, with other women have started division I college football. [23] Terri Valenti became the first woman to join united football league in 2009 [24] The UFL then hired Tom in 2010. [25] In 2012, Shannon Eastin became the first woman ever to shut down an NFL game. [26] However, she was a substitute judge, and the league locked up permanent officials because of the labor dispute, so writers such as Darin Gant of Profootballtalk.com and Sam Farmer of the Los Angeles Times lamented that this gender barrier had been broken in this way, and writers such as Tom chose not to strike like Eastin. [27] [28] See also The 1980s. [edit | edit source] Links[edit | edit source] | Markbreit, Jerry (23 November 2005). Jerry Markbreit answers: Former NFL referee answers readers' questions every week throughout the season. Chicago Tribune. 1,1965045.story?coll=cs-bears-asktheref-headlines. ^ Pascoe, Bruce (14 August 2006). Grad of finds fame as an NFL referee. Arizona Daily Star (Tucson). . ^ Zimmerman, Lisa (10 July 2001). Replay Stand: Positively not the visitors. NFL.com. Archive from the original 17/07/2007. //www.nfl.com/news/story/4380287. Retrieved 10.03.2007. ^ SFFOA Orientation Guide. 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Retrieved 26/09/2012. † NFL referees agree on a deal with the league to complete the lockout. Reuters. . Retrieved 27/09/2012. ^ Battista, Judy (27 September 2012). N.F.L. Reaches a working deal with the judges. The New York Times. . Retrieved September 27, 2012. ^ Zinser, Lynn (27 September 2012). Leading Off: N.F.L. Undertreated competence, paid for in good faith. Fifth Down (The New York Times). . Retrieved September 27, 2012. ^ Thomas will become the first female judge in top-level college football. Associated Press. Espn. of 14 September 2007. Retrieved August 6, 2012 † Tom field at Little Caesars Bowl. Associated Press. Yahoo! Sports. of 27 December 2009 Retrieved August 6, 2012 † 1 Reiter, Bill (September 6, 2011). Female ref Conti is still chasing the NFL dream. Fox Sports. . On August 6, 2012: UFL hired the first female official in pro football. United Football League. Newsday. October 6, 2009accessdate =August 6, 2012. . ^ The United Football League publishes officials and explains the differences in the rules for the 2010 season, United Football League. OurSportsCentral.com. 29/07/2010. . Retrieved 29/07/2010. ^ Farmer, Sam (20 July 2012). Former officials oppose the NFL, too. 0,4226558.story. Received on 6 August 2012 One of them is Shannon Eastin, who was a judge at the Middle East Athletics Conference and other leagues. The NFL has never had a woman working as an on-field game official † NFL replacement officials would include the first female ref. ProFootballTalk. . Received on 6 August 2012 † Football referee Shannon Eastin pioneer, but also infantryman. L.A. Times. August 8, 2012 0.6459413.column. Received 8, 2012. External links[edit | edit edit edit

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