

# ***SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION***

Lawton, Oklahoma

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

- Section 1. The organization created by this instrument will be known as *Southwest Oklahoma Football Officials Association (SWOFOA)* and will be referred to as the "Association."
- Section 2. This chapter will be part of the Southwest Oklahoma Officials Association, L.L.C. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Association will be valid only where they are not in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation for the Southwest Oklahoma Officials Association.

### **ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES**

Some of the objectives of the Association are to promote good sportsmanship and maintain a high level of officiating by providing qualified officials for competitive football games in Oklahoma. Other objectives of the Association are the recruitment, education, and training of new football officials.

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. The Association will be open for full membership to all individuals who have shown an interest in officiating football games sanctioned by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association (OSSAA). Each member of the Association shall be assessed dues in accordance with the By-Laws.
- Section 2. Associate memberships will be available to those individuals who wish to further their understanding of the rules of football and are not eligible for full membership under the conditions of Section 1. These associates will not be eligible to vote on Association business, nor will they work as a member of a crew or be eligible individually for the assignment of football games through the Association. Associate members shall not be assessed dues and must renew their associate membership annually.
- Section 3. Unless specifically stated hereafter, references to "member", "members", and "membership" in this instrument refer to full members of the Association.
- Section 4. Candidates for full membership and associate membership will be accepted into the Association by a simple majority vote of the members present who represent a quorum. For this instrument, a quorum shall be defined as twenty five percent (25%) of the members of the Association.
- Section 5. All new members should serve in the Association's apprenticeship program or provide a letter indicating his experience from his former Association.
- Section 6. All candidates for membership shall be introduced to the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting and their membership shall be voted on at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

### **ARTICLE IV. ELECTED POSITIONS**

- Section 1. Officers from the membership will include a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.
- Section 2. The Board of Directors of this organization will consist of the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and three (3) members elected at large by the membership. The Area Coordinator for Football as assigned by the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association (OSSAA) shall serve as ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board.

- Section 3. The term of office for the Secretary-Treasurer will be *two* years. The term of office for the three (3) at-large members of the Board of Directors will be two years, with one (1) Director elected in odd numbered years, and two (2) Directors elected in even numbered years. The Vice-President will serve one
- Section 4. With the exception of the Presidency, if any position(s) becomes vacant, the Board of Directors will call a special election to fill the vacated office(s). Should the President vacate his office, the Vice-President would assume the duties of the President, and a special election would be held to fill the office of Vice-President. Members elected at special elections will serve only the unexpired term of the vacated office.
- Section 5. The office of Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer will be decided by simple majority vote. If more than two (2) candidates are nominated, one (1) candidate must receive more than fifty percent (50%) of the vote.

#### **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

- Section 1. The Association shall conduct business based on the twelve-month period from June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Section 2. A minimum of six (6) business meetings of at least ninety (90) minutes in length will be held during the football season to discuss game situations, mechanics, and rules. The dates, time, and place of the meetings will be determined by the Board of Directors and announced through the local media or by US Postal Service or e-mail to Association members.
- Section 3. Meetings shall be guided by the principles of parliamentary procedure as outlined in "Roberts' Rules of Order."

#### **ARTICLE VI. TAX STATUS**

This association is a not-for-profit organization operated solely for the benefit of its membership.

#### **ARTICLE VII. BY-LAWS**

- Section 1. By-Laws to this Constitution may be made, provided such by-laws are not in conflict with the letter or intent of this Constitution.
- Section 2. The By-Laws shall consist of operating procedures and other information necessary for the successful operation of this Association.

#### **ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. Each member must be notified in writing of intent to amend the Constitution at least two (2) week prior to the meeting at which the vote to amend the Constitution will be held. Notification will include a copy of the proposed changes to this Constitution *and may be provided by electronic and/or regular mail.*
- Section 2. A two-thirds (2/3) approval by the members present who represent a quorum will be required to amend the Constitution.

**Adopted 12/8/1993**  
**Amended 10/27/1997**  
**Amended 10/27/2004**  
**Amended 7/27/2011**  
**Amended 9/11/2019**