

University of Oklahoma

Football

Game Day Frequency Coordinator

The University of Oklahoma Sports Media Relations Department is seeking an experienced radio operator, who will function as the Game Day Frequency Coordinator (GDFC), and two student assistants (Assistant GDFC) for University home football games.

The Lead will be knowledgeable in the VHF/UHF RF communications with preference given to those with an Amateur Radio license class of Advanced or higher. The Lead GDFC will be required to becoming familiar with all aspects of the Broadcast Auxiliary Service (FCC Part 74) to include bandplans, future bandplans, and FCC Rules and Regulations and is also responsible for the appropriate tasking of the two assistant GDFCs.

The Assistant GDFCs will be the eyes, ears, and legs for the Lead, and will also be expected to quickly learn all aspects of game day frequency coordination. It is expected that one student would be of Graduate, Senior, or Junior standing, and the second would be a Sophomore or Freshman.

The roles and responsibilities of the University of Oklahoma GDFC are primarily to make certain that all entities for which the GDFC has control have a clear and useful frequency for the duration of each event.

Procedures and guidelines are primarily identified in the Society of Broadcast Engineers Game Day Frequency Coordination Procedure Manual (currently version 3) which can be found on the SBE website at http://www.sbe.org/freq_tools.php.

Briefly, coordination is an active, not passive, process. The GDFC must be engaged in pre-event coordination and identify and resolve conflicts.

Expensive tools (which will be supplied) are worthless unless the GDFC is actively involved. Per the Coordination Procedure Manual:

The ultimate goal of this program is to create an interference-free RF environment. Please note that we are not saying we will eliminate all interference, as there are many reasons why (mostly because they are out of our control), interference will continue to exist despite your best efforts. [see Section 2.1.1]

You will be required to attend each home football game (perhaps the Spring game). The University will provide you with OFFICIAL (ALL ACCESS) credentials, a parking pass and a reserved seat somewhere in the stadium. This seat will have a clear view of the RF environment (playing field and stadium floor), a counter top large enough for the supplied laptop, telephone, and RF monitor. You *may* be offered a small honorarium for your work.

The GDFC will serve in the game venue in the same manner as a local SBE frequency coordinator. Your responsibilities will be to monitor not just the Broadcast Auxiliary frequencies (FCC Part 74), but all other frequencies in the vicinity of the venue. These may include not only transmitters in, but also near the stadium, and include vendors, PCS phones, FRS radios, law enforcement, Amateur radio, security, medical, maintenance, stadium management, team management, referee mikes, and coach's mikes. These may cross FCC Part 15 (license-free devices) and Part 90 (Private Land Mobile) devices. Note that the GDC has no authority to coordinate Part 90 radios, but will identify potential conflicts in all frequencies in use at the venue.

The GDC is not a frequency cop or coordinator of ALL frequencies. This is an effort to get users to coexist in a complex, RF-rich environment. If an uncoordinated user is not creating RF interference, there is no reason to move forward with a "search and destroy" mentality. The last thing the coordinator wants is to alienate users with a heavy-handed attitude. Education of users and reduction of conflicts are the primary goals sought

here. If necessary, other methods and personnel may be available to do enforcement. Being a GDC is tough enough. Note that the FCC has assigned different entities to act as coordinator for different FCC Parts. Part 74 frequencies are the only ones which the GDC may coordinate. Conflicts with non-Part 74 devices can only be identified and users put together to allow them to find their own solution.

You must be familiar with the RF landscape of the stadium and be fluent in using the tools provided you.

For more information, contact Gary Skaggs at the University of Oklahoma, gskaggs@ou.edu or phone 325-6440.