

Minutes of the 07/15/2008 WCOA General Membership and Football Meeting at Berkley Prep at 6:30 PM.

Football Board did not meet due to the absence of several members.

Attendees: Clem Brooks, Dr. Greg Kaiser, Monty Theus and Steve Clouse Jr.

Booking Commissioners: Ken Calhoun (Varsity and JV).

Absent: Ben Heugel, Harold Greenfield, and Hank Weil (Youth).

General Membership Meeting

Clem Brooks (WCOA President):

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Vice-President of Basketball Jeff Albers was introduced.

Vice-President of Football Ben Heugel was mentioned as being out-of-town on business.

Members-At-Large Kim Mowrey and Larry Rothermel were introduced.

Treasurer Thom Powers was introduced.

EEO Chairman Holly Russ was introduced.

The joint basketball-football banquet at Rick's On The River was mentioned as a very good time by all those who attended. Everyone was encouraged to attend future events as a way to get to know one another.

The membership was encouraged to participate in the organization and warned that their contest assignment rankings could reflect poorly if people are apathetic.

Individuals who do not participate will be warned with a "nudge" letter, after that 4 and 5 ranked officials may find their ranks lowered if behavior is not changed.

Officials must do scrimmages, attend training, attend clinics and prepare at home with the rules book and mechanics book to ensure the WCOA remains an outstanding organization. The organization expects it and the teams we serve expect us to put a quality product on the field.

Clem Brooks and Jeff Albers (Basketball VP):

Awards were passed out from the FHSAA for levels of service -

10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years and 40 years.

Meritorious Awards were also presented from the FHSAA.

Clem Brooks and Greg Kaiser (WCOA Football Training Director – Substituting For Football VP Ben Heugel):

Awards were passed out from the FHSAA for levels of service -

10 years, 15 years, 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years and 40 years.

Meritorious Awards were also presented from the FHSAA.

C.O. Jones Award was given to Reed Williams.

Booking Commissioner / Iron Man Award was given to Phil Crangi.

Most Improved Official Award from 2006 was given to George Richardson.

Clem Brooks (WCOA President):

New members were asked to stand and be recognized.

A proposed change to the by-laws was announced regarding Article VII. Football members were asked to attend the 1st basketball meeting, for the change will be

voted on at that meeting. The proposed change to Article VII, Section 2 would change the term limits of board members and officers from 2 years to 4 years. It was announced that Thom Powers would be resigning as Treasurer for the WCOA, interested individuals who have the ability to be bonded were asked to apply to be his successor by sending in a bio.

Clem Brooks announced that he will not be running for President of WCOA and encouraged anyone interested in becoming the new President to make their intentions known.

The success of the WCOA – USA Football – NFL RA – FHSAA State Football Clinic was relayed to the general membership.

Members of the associating working higher level events were recognized. From arena football – Steve Clouse, Jr., Jerome Ford and Folayan Kindred. Folayan was also recognized for his involvement with Conference USA and the MEAC. Mr. Brooks also stated that he is a scout for the NFL.

Greg Kaiser (WCOA Football Training Director – Substituting For Football VP Ben Heugal):

Apology was made for Ben's absence.

The new WCOA logo was introduced to the membership.

The emphasis in training was shared with the membership and the success of the WCOA – USA Football – NFL RA – FHSAA State Football Clinic was reviewed, plus the plans to continue that partnership with online training for all football members throughout the year.

Plans for a dinner for the Super Bowl XLIII officiating crew were announced to the general membership and all WCOA members were invited to attend. The dinner will be at the USF Alumni Center on 1/30/09 at about 6pm. The cost will be approximately \$50 per person. More information will follow as the date approaches.

Jim Eckler was recognized for his outstanding job at redoing the website and his timely response to placing new items on the website for members to enjoy. He was presented with a \$50 gift certificate to Outback as a token of our appreciation.

Thom Powers (WCOA Treasurer):

Members were encouraged to report changes of address directly to the treasurer, for changing the information only in the arbiter doesn't get communicated to the treasurer.

Football members were instructed to register with the WCOA, the dues are \$50. Mr. Powers serves on the FHSAA Officials Advisory Committee and attended the latest FHSAA Leadership Conference. Items discussed at those meetings were outlined.

A pay increase of \$10 per sport was proposed, but this was tabled given the budget concerns currently facing local school systems. Thus, a pay increase is likely a few years away.

Coaches ejected from a game will now be required by the FHSAA to take a 6 hour online course which they must pay for reviewing sportsmanship and anger management. This will be in addition to the usual suspension and fines.

The FHSAA is also looking at trends of officials, those who eject 4 or more people during the season will get looked at.

There will be no further reimbursement for fingerprinting.

The online test will no longer flip-flop true and false answers, the answers will now always be true on top and false on the bottom. The state is also working on a way to get officials the questions they missed, but it will be a delayed process after the test.

There will be a \$15 fee for anyone choosing to take a written test rather than the on-line test.

The FHSAA is upset at the number of brawls that occurred last year, there were 18 such events across the state last year. Local associations were urged to include fight and brawl procedures in their training.

It is possible to get a test exemption from the state if a person consistently maintains rank 1 status for 5 consecutive years starting 2003-04. It begins with the sixth year and alternates every other year so long as the official maintains rank 1 status. A form is available on the FHSAA website to ask for an exemption at the link below.

<http://officials.fhsaa.org/forms/08Test-Exemption-Form.doc>

The budget for the WCOA (both basketball and football) was reviewed with the membership.

General Membership Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

The meeting is available on the website to be viewed at the link below.

<http://www.wcoafa.org/virtualmeeting.htm>

Football Meeting

Greg Kaiser (WCOA Football Training Director – Substituting For Football VP Ben Heugal):

Meeting was called to order at 7:55pm.

New members were asked to stand and introduce themselves.

The remaining schedule for WCOA meetings and clinics was reviewed with the membership (the schedule was distributed on the back of the agenda handed out). This meeting represents the 3rd training session for the 2008-09 football season.

The deadlines and requirements of the FHSAA were reviewed with the membership (they were distributed on the back of the agenda handed out).

Members were encouraged not to fail the test and to work with members who are good at taking the test to help them out.

The stricter playoff requirements were reviewed with the membership, they were projected and read out one by one. All previous “shoulds” were changed to “musts.”

The contest assignment list’s procedure for determining a member’s rank was shown to the membership by projection and read out. This is exactly what is

found in the WCOA by-laws and spells out the factors that make up a member's rank.

The committees were shown by projection to the membership and also read out. Anyone not wanting to serve who was on a committee or anyone wanting to serve who was not on a committee was asked to contact the committee chairman.

The WCOA ½ day clinic was announced for Saturday August 16 at Hillsborough High School. The clinic will consist of classroom work in the early morning and then scrimmage work at various sites in the late morning.

The Youth ½ day clinic was announced for Saturday August 2 at St. Joseph Hospital's Medical Arts Building auditorium in the early morning for classroom work, then will continue at the youth fields with on-field training.

It was announced that 15 crews will still be maintained for the upcoming year, no significant changes in crew members were planned. Individuals on leave of absence, etc. will be filled as such spots become available. It was emphasized that the board doesn't fire people off crews. The only time the board removes a crew member is when that individual has already disqualified themselves by getting suspended, failing the test, etc. The referee of each crew is the one who fires and replaces crew members.

Ken Calhoun (Varsity and JV Football Booking Commissioner also standing in for Hank Weil – Youth Football Booking Commissioner):

The schedule was discussed as being mapped out for the season. Extensive hours were spent to ensure fairness of the strength the schedule among crews. TV games were evenly spread among crews, so that crews that did a TV game last year will not have a game this year, and those doing a game this year will not have one next year, etc.

Everyone was asked to update their availability in arbiter and make sure their email address is correct.

When spots on crews are open because people are pulled to be a referee or they are unavailable due to work, etc. the spots are filled from a "pecking order" sheet by position. The pecking order is set by the board and is used by the booking commissioner.

Members were instructed to accept or decline games promptly and not leave games "notified" in status for days.

Members were warned that cancellations and declines that were not fined last year were going to be fined this year. Thus, anyone turning back games after they are published will be assessed a \$10 fine without exception.

Steve Clouse, Jr. (WCOA Football Evaluations Director):

Steve outlined the plan to use game film to evaluate individuals on crews. This is the same format used by the NFL. Everyone starts with 100 points to begin the game and will lose points for incorrect calls, improper mechanics, etc. Every member of the crew can lose points for a gross mistake by the entire crew (i.e. allowing a person to line up in the wrong position on a kickoff, improperly enforcing a penalty, losing a down, etc.).

The goal is to get the evaluations to members quickly so as to give rapid feedback. These evaluations will have constructive comments and not just circled numbers on a page.

Training videos are also available online that demonstrate things that officials did right or wrong.

Youth evaluations will be done by partnering an inexperienced official with an experienced one. The experienced official will work the game with the junior official and submit an evaluation.

Greg Kaiser (WCOA Football Training Director – Substituting For Football VP Ben Heugal):

It was announced that the association was going to join the USA Football website and everyone would have access to the training materials online. There is to be no cost to the membership, and in fact, each member will get a \$10 gift certificate to Hoing's as a reward for the association joining. More details will be shared once we hear back from the folks at USA Football.

Greg Kaiser (WCOA Football Training Director):

The NFHS 2008-09 mechanics changes were discussed with the membership using a power point presentation for the training portion of the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2008, at Berkley Prep at 7:00 PM.
Football Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.