

OAOA Football Committee

October 26, 2014 Teleconference

7:00 PM to 8:10 PM

Present:

Ken Woods, Chair, Salem Football

Pete Caldwell, Northeast Oregon Football

John Campbell, Rogue Valley Football

Steve Fawver, Portland Football

Jason Harris, Mid-Columbia Football

Scott Orr, Malheur County Football

Roy Palmer, Douglas County Football

Dane Sherin, for Darin Rutledge, Klamath Falls Football

Clark Sanders, SRI

Randy Smith, Central Oregon Football

Nick Larsen, for Mike Whitty, Vice Chair, Lane County Football

Jack Folliard, OAOA

Absent:

Brad Garrett, OSAA

Rick Booth, Sec, Mid-Western Football

Larry Leep, SW Oregon Football

Mike Lieuallen, Blue Mountain Football

Bob Rose, Lower Columbia Football

Ken Woods (OAOA Football Sports Committee Chairman) opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

1. Problems with the low number of football officials; recruiting; retention, etc.

There was general discussion regarding getting the increased number of games covered with the reduced amount of football officials available. Rather than informing the schools that they can't cover their game, it was agreed that each commissioner will continue to call their neighboring associations asking for their help in supplying officials to their varsity games. Many associations have moved their

middle school games from Thursdays and Fridays to Monday, Tuesday or Wednesdays because they can't cover the middle schools on the same nights as freshman, junior varsity or varsity games.

Some leagues are scheduling double headers on Fridays which is next to impossible to cover unless the same officials work both games. Getting off work to work 3:30 or 4:00 sub-varsity games is getting more difficult for the officials. Also some schools are scheduling double headers on Thursdays for freshman and junior varsity. The schools won't listen to the local associations so this committee wants OSAA to step in and resolve the problem.

Recruiting and retention have become major problems for the football associations. We all have limited resources and funds. The committee would like OSAA to use their resources in this activity on behalf of the local associations throughout the entire state.

The committee wants the committee Chair to write a letter to Tom Welters of the OSAA asking for help regarding these issues.

2. Increased pressure from schools for early game times; short notice of adding games, etc.

This has become a BIG problem with some associations telling the schools that they can't service their change request. Also it is becoming a problem of getting the second or revised bill paid in time to pay the officials.

The athletic directors are not properly trained and they keep contacting the commissioners with questions that can be easily answered if they were to check with the association's software scheduling programs and not interrupting the commissioners. It was discussed about assessing a fee for game changes. Any fees would have to be approved by the fee review committee. Some associations are charging youth programs for game changes due to their inept attempt of providing accurate schedules.

3. Game cancellations policy; 24 hour notice?; 12 hour notice?; etc.

Officials are taking time off from work, either in the form of vacation, personal time, comp time, or no pay, allowing them to leave work to officiate many early games during the week. Then the game gets cancelled 2-3 hours before kickoff! The officials are out a half day's pay and no game to work. The football committee agreed to a 24 hour cancellation notice and wanted that included in the letter to OSAA. Schools know in advance of most cancellations and the officials should be the first ones notified, not the last.

The game fee cancellation policy in the OSAA handbook states "mutually agreed upon time frame prior to the contest" or "sufficient time to contact scheduled officials". It does not take into consideration the fact that the officials have left work early, with or without pay, to work the game. This is one of the major reasons that we are having problems keeping officials or assigning them to early games. Officials have a regular life and need advance notice in their schedules too.

4. Arbiter Issues.

Arbiter has become very slow, hangs up and does not always deliver advance emails to the contacts advising them of their upcoming games. Arbiter is aware of this but doesn't seem to be fixing the problem. Many associations and schools are not happy with Arbiter right now.

5. Go to 2 ½ inch stripe shirts?

Clark Sanders, SRI, will submit a survey at the end of the season asking for input. If we do change to wider stripes, there would be a 2-3 year transition and the new shirts would be worn in all OSAA games (sub-varsity and varsity). Clark will advise the committee of the results. This would also be a mandated additional cost to officials to buy two new shirts.

6. 2014 Football Official of the Year.

Clark Sanders, SRI, asked for more applicants, as there is only one applicant submitted to-date. The winner would be presented the award at championship games this year.

7. Change of Mechanic for scrimmage kicks.

The Central Oregon Football Association is asking to change the scrimmage kick formation regarding the B favoring the wide side of the field, that the H and L switch their mechanics for coverage during the kick when the B is on the wide side. Clark Sanders, SRI, would assemble a committee and take a look at it after the end of the season.

8. Football Commissioners Retiring.

It was announced that Tim Huntley, Central Oregon Football, and Rick Booth, Mid-Western Football are both retiring at the end of this season. They are both quality guys that strengthened the OAOA with their input and valuable knowledge of being commissioners and their years of service was greatly appreciated.

9. Other

It was announced that there has been a suggested new mechanic be added to Federation football. That would be the covering official would raise their hand as they blow their whistle as the play ends. That signal in NCAA and NFL games signal the start of the 40-second play clock which doesn't apply to Federation rules. More discussion later.

It was asked to apply the 45-point rule to 6A and add the running clock on these games too. The committee agreed that would standardize the 45-point rule for all Federation games. More discussion later.

It was asked that the officials keep track of the 3-minute warm up after half time. It seems that most teams stand and wait for the second half kickoff and don't take advantage of the 3 minutes to warm up. It was decided that it would remain the same and that the officials accept this as part of the half time. As a reminder, half time could be reduced if both coaches agree.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Ken Woods, Chair