

**OAOA Softball Committee**  
**Jan 13, 2010, teleconference**  
**7:00 pm to 8:15 p.m.**

**Committee Attendees:**

John Graham, Chairman, Rogue Valley Association  
Cindy Simmons – Asst. Executive Director OSAA  
Jack Folliard, OAOA Executive Director  
Bob Reichert, Softball OAOA Board Liaison – Central Oregon  
Larry Harwood – Softball State Rules Interpreter – Lane County

Milan Rencken – Blue Mountain  
Gregg Fowler, Central Oregon  
John Sowell – Douglas County  
Bruce Foster- Grants Pass  
Ron Wagner, Klamath  
Dale Schrum – Lane County Commissioner  
Percy Lumbert III – Lane County President  
Jennifer French – Mid-Valley  
Jim Miles- Portland Commissioner  
Don Mitchell – Portland President  
John Davis, Portland  
John Christensen, Rogue Valley  
Steve Pean – Rogue Valley  
John Garrett – Salem  
Rick Booth – Mid-Valley ( Recorder)

**Opening Remarks** – John Graham welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the year.

**Cindy Simmons** – Gave thanks to the group on line for all they do. Cindy mentioned that we needed to keep our eyes on the training of Oregon umpires. Mentioned that we have to work hard with training the 2 person system during the year and then having to ramp up for the playoffs utilizing the 3 person mechanics. Cindy wanted to thank us for helping pass and implement the new pitching distance rule. She thanked all.

**Jack Folliard** OAOA Update – Jack mentioned there were lots of things happening with OAOA which is its 7<sup>th</sup> year of operation. We are having our first Leadership Conference June 12-13 in Bend Oregon. Jack is excited with the commitment from Barry Mano as the conference Keynote speaker - Barry is the founder and president of REFEREE Enterprises, Inc. Barry serves as publisher/executive editor of REFEREE Magazine. He is also the founder and president of the National Association of Sports Officials. Barry is an expert on all sports from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade player to the Professional leagues. Jack reminded everyone that each association would be given one complimentary ticket for the event valued at \$50.00. Jack encouraged everyone to register and be involved with this very important conference.

Jack spoke on the OCEP and its status this year. He reminded us that this is the year every one wishing to work playoff games must be OCEP certified. If not they would not be certified to work. There are two OCEP Softball games presently scheduled in Medford and Pendleton. Jack also spoke on the Principles Course and having the new persons take the course before they would be able to work next year. Commissioners can go to their Officials.net spreadsheets on the OSAA website and verify who is requiring training at this time.

**John Davis** – Portland asked about the workers unemployment tax concept that Jack and OAOA have been working on and how it will be handled in 2010? Presently there are concepts being worked on with the state tax department and the OSAA.... Jack stated he needs to hear when Salem is contacting officials or associations with questions pertaining to unemployment concerns.

Jack thanked everyone for what they are doing for Softball in Oregon.

**Larry Harwood** – Oregon Softball State Rules Interpreter; Larry mentioned the OCEP clinics that are being held in Medford on March 21<sup>st</sup> and Pendleton on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Larry spoke on the 2 new rules changes that National Federation has established for 2010. He also mentioned that there were a couple umpire manual changes that will go into effect also.

Larry spoke on expectations that he sees should be addressed for Championship game umpires. He is very concerned that umpires are coming to the games and are not trained in the 3 person mechanics that are required. He also stated that the uniform for the games is powder blue shirt with OSAA patch, white tee shirt and heather grey slacks.

Larry brought to the committees attention that of all of the OCEP certification that have been completed in the state. The North Coast Association does not have a certified member to work playoffs or championship games. Larry reminded the committee, last year's OCEP clinic was conducted in Wilsonville to help the local association. No representatives attend. Larry was asked to contact the North Coast Commissioner to encourage them to get some of their members certified.

Larry reminded everyone On January 23<sup>rd</sup> there would be a Commissioner Rules clinic held in Wilsonville.

Jack presented an overview of the number of certified umpires by Association. There are limited numbers or none in a few areas. Emphasis in these areas is needed.

**Dale Schrum** – New Lane County Commissioner – Dale stated he can see softball is in good hands in Oregon. He appreciates the telecom and all the hard work that is put into it and softball in Oregon.

**Jennifer French** – Mid- Valley – Presented an overview of how Mid-Valley has hosted the umpires and that costs are exceeding their ability to pay for food and snacks. She mentioned how a rotation of Associations could conduct the hosting. Due to time constraints the topic was tabled and further discussions will be conducted.

**Gregg Fowler**- Central Oregon – 3-Person Mechanics training.

Gregg spoke on ways for crews to improve when working 3-person mechanics. He indicated a special committee could direct training prior to championship games. John Garrett- Salem stated current OCEP training clinics may not be adequate. Salem is performing one-on-one training throughout the year to get their umpires prepared for the 3 person system. Gregg reiterated that an adhoc committee could help direct training activities.

**Rick Booth** ( Mid-Valley) – One Rule, One Mechanic, One Interpretation

Rick spoke on the differences in umpiring in the State and the need to improve. Some key areas are uniforms, mechanics, and rules enforcement. Current mechanics seem to include something from NFHS, ASA, NCAA, and local umpire practices. Consistency is needed.

There was discussion regarding developing a Softball Supplemental Manual and how best to use the NFHS Umpire Manual. Jack and John both stated that this needed to be addressed in more detail in the future. It is imperative that we have the tools to perform the task at hand.

## **Open Forum**

The meeting was turned over to representatives for their comments.

**John Christensen** – Rogue Valley, John stated that we have done a great job getting around the state training umpires through the OCEP concept. It has been very beneficial to all.

**Ron Wagner**- Klamath, Ron would like to see more compatible training if possible. It was great to hear from everyone across the state. Thanks

**Larry Harwood**- SRI, Larry was glad we got to cover everything on the agenda and looks forward to seeing everyone on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Wilsonville. Larry asked was there going to be a committee meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jack reiterated that the rooms are available; we could meet while the baseball group went through their new rules.

**Jack Folliard** – OAOA, Look forward to the 30 minutes at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> at Wilsonville.

**Percy Lumbert III** – Lane County President, Thank everyone for a very important meeting. Lane County will be working on their 3 person mechanics training. He was very interested in the full crew concept for the championship games.

**Milan Rencken** – Blue Mountain, He has issues with the 3 person mechanics problem and dealing with coaches would like to see these addressed in the future.

**Don Mitchell** – Portland President, The 3 person mechanics are a lot better in Portland since the training has been established. Don also mentioned that if need be Portland could send a team to assist North Coast get OCEP certified.

**Bruce Foster** – Grants Pass, Bruce mentioned that their commissioner works very hard before sending a person to the championship games. Thanked everyone for a great meeting.

**Next meeting:** No meeting date was set at this time.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:17pm

Notes submitted by: Rick Booth

Approved for posting:

John N. Graham  
Chairman  
OAOA Softball Committee