

**OAOA - Softball Committee  
Tele-Conference Meeting  
November 18, 2007  
6:00 pm**

Present:

John Graham, Chairman, Rogue Valley Association  
Ron Wagner, Klamath Falls  
John Davis, Portland  
Rick Booth, Mid-Valley  
John Christensen, Rogue Valley  
Gregg Fowler, Central Oregon  
Bob Reichert, OAOA board liaison  
Jack Folliard, OAOA  
Clark Sanders, OAOA  
John Lynch, Klamath Falls

**Open Remarks** – John Graham stated that it was Mid November and we were having our first meeting of the year. January 19<sup>th</sup> is the Commissioner Rules clinic held in Wilsonville. John feels that we need to have a brain storming meeting on all areas of our sport

**OCEP program requirements:** John spoke on the OCEP Clinic certifications that were held last year at Milwaukee High School (Portland Assoc) and in Medford (Rogue Valley Assoc) He stated that the ASEP Methods course is gone for NFHS requirements while the Principles course is still available. These programs are no longer supported by NFHS. An alternative program called OCEP is approved by OAOA and OSAA. Softball has conducted two approved clinics and scheduled two clinics for 2008. A new official (2006 and beyond) has to attend the Principles Course. If an umpire was in the system in 2005 they were “grandfathered” in and are required to complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of training – the Oregon Certification Education Program (OCEP). The OCEP program prepares officials to be competent at the Championship Level of play. In other words in Football the official is certified under 5 person mechanics, in Basketball under 2 person mechanics and Softball and Baseball in 3 person mechanics.

John mentioned that in Milwaukee last year the Portland Association focused on the need to teach one person mechanics because of the number of umpires they have versus the amount of games required to umpire. John stated that we must focus on the 3 person mechanics for OCEP. If we need to have more training clinics dealing with other areas other than that of playoffs then we should hold those clinics in addition to the OCEP Clinic. The OCEP clinics are not meant for first through third year officials.

John stated that we need to have a standard approach for the OCEP Clinics being held in the state. Maybe 10 things that are important to the umpire that is working the “Championship Series”. We need to solicit Clinicians and Trainers from various areas to teach these clinics. Presently it is unknown who those persons are. John appointed a subcommittee made up of Rick Booth, John Davis, John Christensen, and either Ed Earle or Tim Murphy from the Klamath Association along with John Graham to identify a process for the clinics. The target is to have the plan ready for approval by the OAOA board by mid December. Baseball has a great concept. Football has a good process for the clinics. The committee will define what is a clinician? Who would be the lead person at a clinic? What is the format for the clinic? We wish to ensure consistency in the clinics so when the umpires come together for the show they have the tools to do their job.

Jack Folliard added where we are heading in the future. The model of the Board is to establish certified trainers across the state to go out and service the officials in their associations. We would discontinue the Regional Clinic concept and bring in 10 to 15 trainers to put on one to two day clinics in an establish area of the state.

### **Principles Course**

John Graham asked Clark Sanders to speak on the New Officials Principles Course. Clark stated that those officials that were in the system before 2006 were "Grandfathered" in and did not have to take the course. Presently there is an on-line course that cost \$75.00 from ASEP. It is generic approach dealing with how to be a sports official. Clark stated that he has put together a course titled Sports Officiating 101. Roles and responsibilities/ conflict management, the course is very basic information for the new umpire that has been on the field for at least one season. Clark stated that he had tasked the 7 OAOA Board Representatives to schedule and conduct classes for the upcoming year. He said that 5 out of the 7 had dates established. Pendleton held a class last week. 19 Nov Portland will hold a class, 6 Dec Emerald Assoc will hold a class. 10 Dec Salem will conduct a class and on 15 Dec John Day will hold a Principles class. This leaves two regions still working on dates in the future. Fee for the class is \$10.00 with the attendee receiving materials and power point handouts to take with them.

### **Open Forum**

John Graham asked each person on the teleconference to address something that is on our hearts for the Sports Committee .....

**Jack Folliard** (OAOA Executive Director) The OAOA Softball Committee is responsible for Softball in OSAA. We have the opportunity to make the program better with our involvement. He is appreciative of the group.

**Clark Sanders** (OAOA Assist. Exec. Director) Clark started sending out State Representative Interpretation bulletins during football. He felt that the bulletins gave insight to the game and caused for communication between associations and Sport SRI. He would like to see if the Softball SRI could generate such a thing in our sport.

**Bob Reichart** (Softball Advisor) Appreciated John Graham stepping up and taking the reins for softball. Would like to have the Softball SRI more involved with the teleconferences in the future.

**Rick Booth** (for Mid-Valley) – Rick mentioned the cost for the hospitality for the OSAA championship weekend at OSU. He would like to see if there was any additional funding that could come from OAOA. Jack Folliard mentioned that there was \$700.00 given to all OSAA championship across the state. That some did not use the funding but there just was not enough money available other than the \$75.00 dollars given per sport. John Graham stated that there may be other was of coming up with funds down the road. Rick also mentioned that there were two OCEP clinics set for 2008 – one in Corvallis and one in Central Oregon.

**Greg Fowler** – (Central Oregon) Greg thinks we are on the correct track for upgrading our sport and the committee. Making our clinics more viable and sound will enhance our games down the road. Greg stated we needed to get the Associations more involved to make our playoffs better.

**John Lynch** – (Klamath Falls) John wanted to know about the \$5.00 pay to the officials for mileage. When would it start and how did it work? John also wanted to mention that other sports had great locker rooms and water given to them for hospitality sakes. Why did the umpires have to dress out of there cars? Jack Folliard stated that a couple weeks ago OSAA went and pulled together a Security Committee to address such issues as dressing of officials. There is a resolution going in front of the Executive Board in December to have locker facilities provided for

officials of all sports. There is discussion about having an administrator to be with the officials when then come on site and leave that site. As for the \$5.00 fee for mileage this will be instated in during this school year. Each official will receive a minimum of \$5.00 for mileage when traveling to games.

**John Christensen** (Rogue Valley Softball) John stated that we need set a standard for training in the state. In playoffs and in all methodology of the game. Use of CD's, PowerPoint presentations, for trainers. Train the trainer clinics etc. There are great opportunities for all if we work together.

**Ron Wagner** (Klamath Falls Representative) Echo on Clarks SRI Bulletins. Great times coming up, with more games for playoffs and the opportunity for more officials to work. Ron also echoed the security issues and the ability to be able to leave the games in peace.

**John Davis** (Portland Representative) Echo the sentiments on what we are doing on this committee. As for Portland Association, need to find a way to keep officials. Playing dates need to be addressed so there are games throughout the week instead of all being on Mondays and Wednesdays. Mileage is a big issue as the officials must split the \$5.00 dollars and some may only make 75 cents to get to a game. As for the safety/surety issues ... need support of the home administration so these umpires can leave in peace.

**John Graham** – Chairman Softball Committee (Rogue Valley) Meet in the next few days as far as the OCEP Clinic Committee is concerned. John would like to find a person to record the minutes for the meetings. No one volunteered.....

“Shortcuts to success – consistency = quality.

Do the best you can do with what you have – use what you have not what is written.

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

Meeting adjourned @ 7:28pm

Respectfully Submitted

Rick Booth  
Mid Valley  
Softball Umpires Association