

OAOA Softball Committee
Dec. 17, 2007, teleconference
7 to 8:15 p.m.

Present:

John Graham, Chairman, Rogue Valley Association
Cindy Simmons, OSAA Assistant Executive Director
Clark Sanders, OAOA Assistant Executive Director
Bob Reichert, OAOA Board Liaison
Larry Harwood, OSAA State Rules Interpreter, Lane County
John Sowell- Douglas County
Jennifer French, Mid-Valley
Ron Wagner, Klamath
John Davis, Portland
Bruce Foster, 3 Rivers Assoc.
Gregg Fowler, Central Oregon
John Lynch, Klamath Falls
Rick Booth, Mid-Valley (Committee Recorder)

Meeting opened at 7:05 pm.

Open Remarks – John Graham thanked everybody for hanging in and getting the things rolling while in the off-season. Thanks for the outside planning committees, and the two clinics that are working for the 2008 OCEP Clinics.

Softball Umpire of the Year Nominations/Vote – John G. talked about the two nominations that are on the table for the 2007 Softball Umpire of the Year. The two umpires were Frank Schofield from the Portland Softball Umpires Assoc. and Jim Postell from the Mid-Valley Softball Umpire Assoc. John spoke on the process being a simple nomination format. The background parameters are wide open, more on a popularity concept while trying to get to bottom which is a selection. This year there were two nominations and it is hoped that associations will strive to have more nominations to recognize their members. John Davis gave a synopsis of Frank Schofield's career in Portland. Jennifer French and Rick Booth gave the synopsis of Jim Postell's career in Mid-Valley. Both John and Jennifer and Rick mentioned the umpire's credentials including their summer work with ASA Softball. Cindy Simmons asked for clarification that we are recommending persons for NFHS (OSAA) recognition. John Graham mentioned also that ASA and NFHS work hand in hand, but this is recognition for the high school program. Both umpires were given high marks for their work at that level. The vote was taken with 7 association members in attendance. Jim Postell was selected as the 2007 Softball Umpire of the Year.

OCEP program requirements: John mentioned there are two Associations that were putting together the required items for OCEP clinics in Feb and March 2008. Rick Booth has been working on the clinic for Mid-Valley. He gave a synopsis of what has been put in place. Clinic date is March 1st from 9 – 4pm . At present there are two locations selected. Both sites are at high schools in the Corvallis area. One of the sites does not want to give commitment yet due to the high school playoffs for basketball and the need for their gym if there is inclement weather. Rick is the contact point for the clinic, Jennifer French is the OAOA Softball Committee rep. Cost is \$20 per attendee with refreshments and lunch being provided. John turned the discussion over to Bob Reichart concerning the Central Oregon Clinic. The clinic is being held Feb 23rd in Bend Or. Timeframe is also 9 – 4pm. Bob mentioned that presently they are looking at Summit H.S. for the clinic. If that does not work there are a couple other Bend high schools to approach. Clinic chairpersons are Gregg Fowler and Bill Stonerod. The Central Oregon group is also charging

\$20 per attendee. John stated we are trying to keep everyone informed and he reminded us that we need to keep OAOA and Jack Folliard to accomplish this. All funds should be going through OAOA for continuity purposes. Clark stated that one major item is that the handouts for the attendees which include the agenda, format, special local items, any other training items required for the clinic which will be in book form must be in 10 days before the Central Oregon Clinic and 20 days before the Mid-Valley Clinic. It is imperative that the paperwork is completed so OAOA/OSAA can put the clinic manuals together. On a side note Rick Booth thanked Clark for his support on updating the OCEP attendee numbers on the OAOA website. This allows for the planning committees to get a general idea who may attend the respective clinics. Clark stated that they would continue to update as numbers come in from the clinics.

Softball Lineup Cards

John G. asked Cindy to clarify the status of the new lineup card. She stated that it is a presently on her desk and that it is a great product. Cindy said that Peter Weber (in charge of Baseball for OSAA) will order 5,000 lineup cards for the OSAA schools. The cards will be a triplicate form for distribution to each team and the umpire. Cindy thanked the committee for all the hard work on the card. Larry asked about cost to the schools? Cindy said this was still being worked out.

State Rules Interpreter - Bulletins – John G. mentioned SRI bulletins that Clark established in football this year. These bulletins came out weekly in the heart of the season. They demonstrated the different looks at some wacky plays along with mechanics issues, new rules implementation etc. Clark commented that production of bulletins should fit the sport's needs. He stated whatever Larry came up with would be put on the OAOA website. Larry stated that he was going to use the OAOA Forum for his correspondence with the OAOA umpires across the state. Cindy stated that SRI's in all sports are required to communicate with their officials. There is no specific timeline established at this time, but the goal is to communicate in a timely manner. John G. stated that he was not in favor of using the forum as the exclusive method of communicating with softball umpires. He stated that there were only about 20% of the OAOA members registered on the forum. John stated we need to go further by developing SRI bulletins and the OAOA forum. Larry asked what the difference was between the forum and the bulletin? John G. stated that the forum is a "chat-type" media for registered users to talk about game situations/rules/etc. It clearly has a value in our communication processes. The bulletins can be a very useful tool to point out, clarify, and bring emphasis to "situations) for softball umpires. Note, when the SRI has ruled it should be considered the final notice to implement. As for when the bulletins should start ... John recommended before conference league play (about April 1, 2008). He mentioned that he would work with Larry to help him make these bulletins a reality. Cindy also stated that the OSAA is available to support the effort for Larry.

Softball Supplemental Umpires Manual – John wants to have a sub-committee to put together a manual that collects the items that are not found in the case books, rule books, umpire manuals etc. Quirky things that we do as Oregon Umpires to perform our umpiring duties. Those things that make umpiring a reality. What is required to go to the playoffs? What to expect when an umpire arrives? A subcommittee will be appointed.

Championship Game- Performance Expectations – The Sports Committee needs to provide the items that are required when coming to the Championship games. Place the emphasis on what is required for 3 person mechanics. Evaluations are a mandatory item to get to the top game. Once at the game there are critiques that will be given which are very important to the umpire who worked, but also how important it is for that umpire to bring back to their association what is required to be in the big game. Cindy came on to say that we have a unique situation in that Softball and Baseball use 2 person mechanics during the year and once we go to playoffs we

change our mind set to 3 person mechanics. Gregg Fowler mentioned that maybe the associations that are preparing for the year could select their umpires at the start of the year and those individuals could start preparing for the post season throughout the year. Cindy stated any ways to get better prepared is best. John G. echoed the same and stated we cannot use the playoffs to prepare we must start earlier, we need to be ready when the playoff starts “ Working to Game Excellence” John Davis mentioned that the concept is great to select early but that is almost impossible for Portland with the amount of umpires in association. They utilize evaluations during the year to pick their umpires. During the year Jim Miles (Commissioner for Portland) does assign umpires to 3 person crews. All umpires must agree before the assignment is made. John Lynch from Klamath Falls asked about if there were any other associations that had the schools provide who they wanted to umpire their playoffs? All associations present stated they did not solicit their schools, but do listen when recommendations for umpires are presented. Cindy did say that we should give the opportunity to the schools for all to work together as we have done in the past years. The selection process remains with each Association.

Train-the-Trainer Workshop – John G. stated that we are getting ready for the clinics this year and the future. On January 20th there will be a clinic held at Wilsonville (OSAA offices) to train clinicians. Purpose of this training is to develop a “pool” of approved clinicians to provide oversight and direction for all future OCEP Certified Training Clinics (hosted by local Associations). The T-T-T clinic on the 20th will provide the SRI (Larry) ideas and be able to obtain OSAA criteria for training that will be the same across the state. This training will offer consistency in all OCEP Trainings. Timing for the clinic is paramount due to the weekend is also hosting the commissioners meeting and Rules Interpretative meeting on Jan 19th. John G. would like to have an email with each association recommending a clinician from their area. These persons must be knowledgeable in the area of umpiring softball. John Davis asked is this person would be traveling all over the state or just locally? Clark stated that the purpose of the pool is to provide local assistance to minimize travel requirements. Larry stated that one of his goals to have a “generic” agenda in place for training at clinics. At least the minimums would be in place. Larry stated that Lane County is holding their OCEP clinic in April next year just before the playoffs to better facilitate the 3 person mechanic format. John G. stated this year Rogue Valley will conduct a three-person mechanics clinic in late April. This is a local event, in preparation for sub round championship games. A training outline will be developed and offered to the SRI and Softball Committee. Klamath Falls, Three Rivers, and Douglas County will be invited to participate.

Open Forum

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

Bob Reichart – Thanks to John Graham and Cindy Simmons for what we are doing this year. We are on the right track and moving forward.

Cindy Simmons – A special thank you to you all – We are a little behind in softball but we are going forward. Thanks to Mid-Valley and Central Oregon for putting on the OCEP clinics in 2008.

Jennifer French – Would like to have a second shirt color that umpires can wear during in games. She would like the sub-committee to look into the concept. John Graham said we have a process that has a person to look into that concept. He asked Jennifer to look into what would be acceptable as per the Athletic Officials Manual, NFHS Umpires Manual etc. If the concept does

not challenge those requirements then the OAOA Executive will bring it up for a vote. Cindy and John both concurred to bring it to the board if there are no challenges.

Larry Harwood – Ditto to everything Cindy and Bob Reichart stated for all the hard work. Now let's implement what we have worked on.

Bruce Foster – Just happy to be there

Gregg Fowler – Thanks to all for the hard work

John Davis – When talking about the training... Would like to make sure that the recipient of the training learns why they are doing something a certain way not just “ just do it and not know why “

John Lynch – No comments

Ron Wagner-. No Comments

Clark Sanders. – Echoed Cindy/JohnG./ and Bob R. Wanted to wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

John Graham – John recognized Rick Booth (Mid-Valley) for recording the minutes for the meeting. Rick has agreed to being assigned as the recorder for the Softball Committee. John wanted to wish all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Reminded everyone that recruiting is very important to the New Year.

Rick Booth – No Comments

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:15pm

Respectfully Submitted

Rick Booth
Mid Valley
Softball Umpires Association