

SOFTBALL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – 1/15/2009

Attendees:

Cindy Simmons – OSAA
Jack Folliard – OAOA
Bob Reichert – Softball Advisor
Larry Harwood – SRI & Lane County
John Graham – Chairperson

Greg Fowler – Central Oregon
Ron Wagner – Klamath Falls
Tom Greenough – Mid-Columbia
John Davis - Portland
Jim Miles – Portland
John Christensen – Rogue Valley
John Garrett - Salem

Meeting was called to Order at 7:05 pm by Chairperson – John Graham

Roll was taken and attendees noted above, all other associations were not represented.

Note: When Association Representatives to this committee do not respond or participate, the Committee Chairperson will notify the respective Association. When such Commissioner does not respond to the Committee's requests, the OAOA and OSAA will be notified. This policy is effective – 1/15/2009.

Opening Comments:

Cindy thanked everyone for their contributions and efforts for Oregon Softball. She reviewed the new Oregon Rule regarding 43' pitching distance and the new softball lineup card. All schools are notified of these changes. The card is not mandatory this season. OSAA will print the cards and schools will be able to purchase them for this season. The card will be reviewed with the Commissioners at the upcoming rules clinic.

Jack presented an overview of activities with the Department of Employment regarding potential employment status for sports officials. He emphasized local training and OCEP certification requirements due 2009-10. He presented a listing of associations with low numbers and the need to get all officials trained and certified. About 35% of all softball umpires are OCEP certified. Jack also mentioned that he would like everyone to keep looking at the revamped OAOA web site, both for fee review inquiries, comments, and valuable information for softball umpires.

Larry Harwood, SRI confirmed the need for training and the Lane County sponsored OCEP Clinic on May 9, 2009. More clinics are needed.

General Topics:

John reminded all that the OSAA has requested a written copy of each Association's policy on Conflict of Interest and Attendance Requirements at Study/Business Meetings. All policies are due by January 24, 2009 at the Commissioner's meeting at OSAA. Send copies to OSAA of to OAOA to meet the request timeline.

Additional OCEP training clinics are needed prior to this softball season. To accomplish this and help the neighboring associations, committee members volunteered to contact areas where

a clinic is needed. The following commitments were made to coordinate clinics prior to 3/16/2009:

John Christensen will coordinate with Southwest, Douglas, and Klamath Umpires. John Garrett will coordinate with NE Umpires. Larry Harwood will coordinate with Douglas County along with notifying all associations of the planned Lane County clinic. John Davis & Jim Miles - Portland will coordinate with neighbor associations.

Lane County will host an OCEP – 3-person mechanics clinic on May 9th (Saturday). All associations will be invited as this clinic will emphasize mechanics needed for NFHS & OSAA – Championship and Final games.

Attendees were reminded of the need to conduct in-house Official's Principles Training Course. OAOA has developed a training program designed to assist associations conduct this training for all new officials.

John Graham, Larry Harwood, and John Christensen will work together in updating the softball training and certification plan.

Closing Comments:

All attendees provided closing comments that recognized the committee members and thanked all for their efforts.

Greg Fowler, Central appreciated the committee's efforts.

Ron Wagner, Klamath Falls thanked the committee and appreciated everyone's efforts.

Tom Greenough, Mid-Columbia presented his concerns for lack of schools playing softball in his area and the difficulties in recruiting and maintaining umpires. It is suggested that he work closely with neighbor associations for assignments and training of umpires.

John Davis & Jim Miles, Portland will establish and publish their association-based clinic to invite neighbor association members for training and certification purposes.

John Garrett, Salem thanked the committee for their efforts.

John Christensen, Rogue Valley volunteered to work with the Softball Committee in planning for Clinics and training through 2009 and 2010. His action is very much appreciated and John's talents will be used. Others on the committee agreed and likewise made themselves available. Note: A sub committee will be will designated.

The meeting was concluded at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, *John Graham*, Committee Chair

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