

OAOA Softball Committee Meeting

Date: Jan. 21, 2006

Location: OSAA office in Wilsonville

Time: 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Present:

Bob Reichert, OAOA executive board member for softball

Jim Miles, commissioner, Portland association

John Sowell, Douglas County association

John Graham, representing Bruce Foster, Three Rivers association

Steve Pean, representing John Christensen, Rogue Valley association

Jim Luebke and Bill Wulk, representing Rick Booth, Mid-Valley association

Ex-officio members present:

Jack Folliard, OAOA executive director

Cindy Simmons, assistant OSAA executive director

Larry Harwood, state softball rules interpreter

Goals and responsibilities: Jack explained the purpose of the committee is to manage OAOA's involvement with softball through the state. The committee, which will meet twice a year, will offer recommendations concerning officiating ideas and develop and maintain uniform statewide rules interpretations and mechanics. Emphasis on "one rule, one interpretation, one mechanic."

Election: John Sowell from Roseburg elected committee chairman. He will also serve as recorder.

Clinics: Beginning in 2007, the OAOA Softball Committee will organize a series of pre-season clinics held in various locations throughout the state. Idea of having a small group of top softball umpires throughout Oregon to conduct the clinics and provide instruction to local instructors for additional local training sessions. The Rogue Valley association plans to conduct another clinic this spring open to all OAOA members at no charge.

Awards: The OAOA plans to institute a statewide awards program with recognition for top officials in each sport. Winners will be eligible to compete for regional and national awards given by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Tournament selection: Jack said questions have been raised as to whether the current system of using officials from different associations for state championship games is best. Oftentimes, the three officials have not worked with one another before and they aren't always in synch in working three-person mechanics. Discussion of whether it would make better sense to have a crew from a single association work the championship game, as done in pre-championship games.

Standard lineup card: Bob suggested development of a standard softball lineup card that would be used statewide. Currently, there are a myriad of styles of lineup cards being used, with no consistency on how they are laid out. Bob felt a standardized style would benefit umpires and coaches, both.