

# Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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## NFHS: Officials Code of Ethics

Individuals choosing to make sports officiating their avocation, also choose to conduct themselves according to the standards established for sports officials.

The first, and most important, requirement for being a sports official is to accept the established standards and to do everything possible to make sure those standards are followed every time you go out to officiate a contest.

The ethical standards of conduct for all interscholastic officials established by the NFHS are as follows:

**Officials** shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm and controlled manner.

**Officials** shall work with

each other and their state associations in a constructive and cooperative manner.

**Officials** shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.

**Officials** shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.

**Officials** shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

**Officials** shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches and

the public hold for the profession.

**Officials** shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.

**Officials** shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.

The Officials Code of Ethics can be found in every NFHS Rules book and should be reviewed prior to the sports season. Officials focus on the rules of the sport, but they also need to focus on the established standards of being an official.

## WOA Executive Board Meeting: May 3, 2010

On May 3, 2010, the WOA will hold the third and final Executive Board meeting of the 2009-10 school year. Traditionally, the spring meeting is a relatively short meeting with the focus being more on the planning aspect

of the association. This meeting is also when the Board evaluates the WOA staff and provides feedback as to areas of focus for the upcoming year.

The meeting agenda includes the following items:

- Region/Sport Reports
- Conference Planning
- 2010-11 Budget
- Personnel Decisions
- Constitution/By-Law Review

### Upcoming Events:

- MAY 28-29  
SPRING STATE TOURNAMENTS
- JUNE 21-22  
WOA FOOTBALL CAMP
- JULY 25-27  
NASO SUMMIT, MINNEAPOLIS
- AUGUST 6-7  
WOA CONFERENCE  
GOLF TOURNAMENT
- AUGUST 8, 14, 15  
WOA FOOTBALL SENIOR SEMINARS

### Inside this issue:

- WIAA HALL OF FAME: KEN JONES **2**
- GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIPS **2**
- REFEREE MAGAZINE: AVOIDING LITIGATION **2**
- BASEBALL UPDATE: LINEUPS **3**
- SOFTBALL UPDATE: PITCHING **3**
- SOCCER UPDATE: GOAL KEEPER **3**
- WOA SPOTLIGHT: PAUL COLLARD **4**

# Make the Right Call

## WIAA Hall of Fame Inductee - Ken Jones



Ray Bala, Pacific Northwest, working Mat Classic XXI

Photo Courtesy of NW Sports Photography

On May 12, Ken Jones will be a part of the 2010 Hall of Fame Class inducted by the WIAA.

Ken Jones has been involved in basketball officiating for over 37 years. During his career, Ken worked both boys and girls basketball and had the opportunity to work eight state tournaments. He was privileged to be able to call the championship game three times.

In addition to his efforts on the court, Ken has been involved in the WOA as a board member since 1985, including 12 years as the WOA President. Throughout Ken's tenure as President, the WOA went through multiple transitions involving the structure of the association. The changing of Executive Directors in 1993 and the separation from WIAA in 2002.

Ken was inducted into the WOA Hall of Fame in 2008.

Each year, a member of the WOA Hall of Fame is selected by the WIAA Hall of Fame Committee to be inducted. If you know of an official worthy of consideration for the WIAA Hall of Fame, please begin the process by nominating the individual for the WOA Hall of Fame.

Interested in attending the 2010 WIAA Hall of Fame Luncheon? Please contact the WIAA for ticket information (425.687.8585).

"THE GOLF TOURNAMENT HAS COME TO BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE WOA CONFERENCE"

## Golf Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in becoming involved with the WOA Golf Tournament as a sponsor?

The golf tournament has come to be a great addition to the WOA Conference as it provides an opportunity for officials to compete against each other on the links. There are a lot of great prizes available to win. Even those officials who may not be very prolific golfers (please no

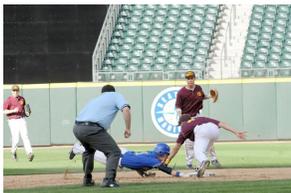
names) have a great time competing to see who can bring home the prize for the highest score.

There are a few different sponsorship levels available. For the last few years, ArbiterSports has served as the title sponsor, and they will continue to do so for the 2010 Golf Tournament. With that sponsorship secured, there are still

opportunities to sponsor the lunch or to sponsor a hole.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the WOA Golf Tournament, please contact Steve Colby ([steve.colby@comcast.net](mailto:steve.colby@comcast.net)).

Proceeds from the golf tournament go towards the WOA Scholarship Fund.



In the middle of the action at the 2009 3A/4A Baseball Championships at Safeco Field.

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

## Referee Magazine: Best Ways to Avoid Litigation

Here are the best ways to avoid finding yourself in court after officiating a sporting event, according to Alan Goldberger's *Sports Officiating: A Legal Guide*.

- Enforce all rules relative to player safety strictly and without compromise or deviation

- Any time a rule requires the officials to ask questions and get answers: Ask questions and get answers!
- Act intelligently and consistently, employing the overriding principle of player safety in enforcing the rules.

- Do not make up your own rules regarding player safety or attempt to explain the consequences of one course of action or another to anyone.

(Referee magazine, March 2010)

## Baseball: Who's on First?.....Who's on the Bench?

With another April 15 having come and gone, record keeping is probably at the bottom of most people's list of things they want to do right now. And while record keeping can sometimes be an undesired break from the pace of play, maintaining a proper lineup card, along with thoroughly understanding the substitution and courtesy runner rules, can mean the difference between a smooth game and an unnecessary removal of a player from the game.

The primary keys to proper lineup management are in following these basic principles:

1. Develop a system for quickly being able to identify a starter who is eligible to re-enter as opposed to a substitute who cannot re-enter;
2. Become completely familiar with the NFHS courtesy runner rule, which is used (when adopted) for WIAA play. This includes knowing who can and cannot enter as a

courtesy runner and for whom;

3. Develop an effective lineup card system for quickly and accurately marking all substitutes and courtesy runners.

While lineup card management is among the least glamorous aspects of umpiring, knowing who may or may not enter the game can keep players properly eligible and save you much headache later on.



Jon Jackson, Lower Columbia, working the 2009 3A/4A Baseball Championships at Safeco Field.

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Article submitted by Tim Stevens, Northwest

## Softball: 43' Pitching Distance Has Positive Impact

The new 43-foot pitching distance was one of four rules revisions made by the NFHS. Creating a better balance between the offense and the defense was the major rationale for the rule change. Results from states experimenting with the new distance indicated more balls were hit into play. With more balls getting hit there will be more defense

involved thus enhancing skill development and more reliance on all of the players.

In discussing this rule change with fellow officials and coaches we are seeing more offense being generated. There are more base runners and more fielding opportunities. Defensive fundamentals are more of a determining factor in who

wins the ball game.

Offensive strategy with timely hitting, bunting and stealing becomes more important. The competence of the whole team will determine the outcome of the game, not just the dominance of the pitcher. Yes the dominant pitchers are still getting 17 to 18 strikeouts in a game, but close games are still up for grabs.

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Article submitted by Max Howard, Western Washington

## Soccer: Interfering with the Goalkeeper

The NFHS soccer rules are very clear about interfering with a goalkeeper. Anytime the goalkeeper has possession or control of the ball, an attacking player is essentially excluded from any attempts to play the ball, any attempts to interfere with the goalkeeper's attempts to play the ball, or any flagrant foul of the goalkeeper.

Every high school referee is encouraged to read and re-read NFHS Rule 12; Section 4; Art 2 and 3; particularly in light of the national discussions concerning a player interfering with a goalkeeper's attempt to release the ball, where the referee did not adequately protect the goalkeeper and a goal was scored, changing the

outcome of an important match.

As referees we have the responsibility to ensure that the goalkeeper has every opportunity to safely play the ball and to put the ball into play, when the goalkeeper has control or possession of the ball. See the attached link for additional information.



John Snyder, Seattle Metro

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

<http://www.ussoccer.com/News/Referee-Programs/2010/04/Interfering-with-the-Goalkeepers-Release-of-the-Ball.aspx>

Article submitted by George Eastman, South King County



# Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

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### Note from the Commissioner:

Registration information for the 2010 WOA Conference and Golf Tournament will be sent out to all officials by the end of April. The conference allows officials to come together to share ideas, concerns, and potential solutions. This is the one opportunity where we can gather in a relaxed setting and recharge for the upcoming school year. The WOA staff has been working with different officials to re-organize the sport-specific breakout sessions and we are hopeful that the planned changes will make the sessions more engaging and provide a block of time that officials and local association leaders find valuable and worth the time carved out of their busy schedule to attend the conference. We value your time and will continue to make adjustments in order to maximize the value of the conference.

Todd Stordahl  
WOA Commissioner



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## WOA Spotlight: Paul Collard



(from left to right) Paul Collard, Rick Wells, and Jack Folliard (OOA Director) at the 2009 WOA Conference.

Photo Courtesy of George Eastman

Paul Collard has been officiating football in the state of Washington since 1987. Paul began his officiating career with Pacific Northwest Football. In 1994, he worked for the Columbia Basin Football Officials, but then returned to PNFOA. While with PNFOA, Paul was provided the opportunity to work numerous state tournament football games. During his time with PNFOA, Paul served as a board member. His involvement in officiating did not stop with his local association. Paul

became involved in helping with the football camps. His desire to help improve the level of officiating at the state tournament, and hopefully the entire state, led him to become involved in the evaluation program and the senior seminars.

Paul even goes the extra mile in offering to attend local meetings to discuss aspects of football officiating.

In 2005, Paul became the first recipient of the Tom Cross Service Award, which is given to individuals who

exemplify the ultimate service to the Washington Officials Association.

Currently, Paul is an official with the Yakima Valley Football Association and continues to be the lead clinician for the summer football camp, as well as helping facilitate the Senior Seminars.

The WOA thanks Paul for all he has done over the years and is looking forward to many more years of great service to the football officials throughout the state.