

Make the Right Call



Meet the WOA Office Staff

The WOA staff is comprised of two full-time employees, as well as three contracted individuals (see page 3). The full-time employees are:

Commissioner:

Todd Stordahl has served as the WOA Commissioner since the fall of 2002. Prior to that, he served as the WOA Coordinator from the spring of 2000 until the fall of 2002. Prior to 2002, the WOA staff was also employed by the WIAA. During the 2002 Spring meeting, the WOA membership approved the recommendation by the WOA Executive Board to hire a full time Commissioner to oversee the operation of the WOA, rather than to job-share with the WIAA. The Commissioner's responsibilities include supervising association

business, preparing the annual budget, interpret rules and regulations, carry out the vision of the WOA as approved by the board, and handle issues that arise that may not be directly addressed in the WOA handbook.

Director of Operations:

Kerri Sanders was hired in the spring of 2005, to become the second full-time employee of the WOA. Kerri serves as the Director of Operations and her duties include distribution of ejection reports, processing background checks, organizing the WOA Conference, oversees the awards program, and coordinates the board meetings.

Staff Evaluation:

The WOA Executive Board is

responsible for evaluating the performance of the staff and determining the salary of those selected to work for the association.

Over the course of time, many myths have developed pertaining to the staff and how duties are performed. Here are a few of the myths the WOA would like to clarify:

Myth #1: The WOA staff is also employed by the WIAA

Answer: Incorrect

Myth #2: The Director of Operations serves as the Commissioner's secretary

Answer: Incorrect (not a good idea to say that to her)

Myth #3: WIAA provides direction to WOA staff

Answer: Incorrect

Members of the WOA are covered by two types of insurance. The first is a general liability policy that is included with your WOA membership. This coverage is for any incident involving a participant that occurs while

you are officiating a contest assigned by an authorized WOA assigner. This policy is with American Specialties and is managed by the WOA. The second type of insurance is the Labor and Industry policy that is

managed by the WIAA. L&I coverage is mandatory per state law and is paid by the WIAA on behalf of the WIAA member schools. Both types of insurance benefit the membership, please use them responsibly.

Special points of interest:

- FULL-TIME STAFF IS DIRECTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
- COMPENSATION FOR ALL POSITIONS IS DETERMINED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
- ANNUAL EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
- COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERPRETING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WOA

Inside this issue:

BASKETBALL UPDATE	2
SPIRIT UPDATE	2
WRESTLING UPDATE	3
CONTRACTED STAFF	3
CONFERENCE UPDATE	4

WOA Insurance Benefits

Make the Right Call

Basketball: Shot Clock Awareness



Scott Fetterly, Pacific Northwest Basketball

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

“PROPERLY
MANAGING THE
SHOT CLOCK
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SMOOTHLY”



Pat Kaminske, Snohomish County Volleyball, officiating the 4A State Tournament.

Photo Courtesy of Northwest Sports Photography

This season, the boys will be playing with a 35 second shot clock. For those officials who have not had to deal with shot clock situations before, here are some hints in helping you manage the shot clock. First, find out who your shot clock operator is going to be and their experience level. You should do this while checking the book. Do not wait until the National Anthem is playing to find out this is the shot clock operators first game. Review with the operator when to reset the shot clock. The situations are: Try that hits the rim, kick/fist ball, all fouls that do not include the word double and DEFINITE change in team possession. I also tell them if they aren't sure if they should reset the clock or not, leave it where it is as it is easier for the officials to tell the

operator to just reset as opposed to having to set it back to 18. You should also find out if they know how to reset the shot clock in case there is an inadvertent reset.

While the game is going on, officials should be aware of the time on the shot clock. Whenever there is a whistle, someone should be looking to see what time is on the shot clock. One trick that I use during the game is checking the game clock and shot clock after a made basket or rebound. If there is 2:58 on the clock and 35 on shot clock after team A secures a rebound or touches the ball in bounds after a throw-in following a made basket, I say to myself, 35 at 58. I know that if there is an inadvertent reset on an out of bounds where team A is

going keep possession of the ball and the clock now says 2:45, I know there should 22 seconds left on the shot clock.

Besides accidental resets, the other issue that is most common is the shot clock operator just hitting the reset and letting it go after the made basket or a shot that hits the rim and misses. By the time the player touches the ball receiving a throw-in or secures the rebound, the clock will say 31 seconds. If you see this going on, you should address this as soon as possible, either by yelling RESET when appropriate or go to the table during the next dead ball.

Properly managing the shot clock will help you and your crew keep the game running smoothly and show that you are on top of your game.

Article submitted by Mike Lloyd, Pacific Northwest Basketball

Spirit: We Got Spirit, Yes, We Do!

In 2002, spirit officials were incorporated into the WOA. Spirit includes cheerleading and dance/drill/pom. In Washington State, high school dance and drill teams have been participating in local and state competitions for almost 20 years. High school cheer teams had their first state competition in 2002. In 2003, the first WIAA sponsored state

championships began for both dance/drill and cheer.

Spirit officials not only need to know the NFHS spirit rules, but also have to keep up with the ever changing trends and vocabulary in dance and cheer. Judges also need to process and evaluate a multitude of variables during a performance (i.e. music selection, synchronicity, staging, showmanship, correct

technique) and possess the ability to put all personal biases aside in order to objectively assign a score.

The state championship for cheer is held in January and the state championship for dance/drill is held in March. The competition is fierce, the student athletes are talented, and the closing ceremonies are an awesome sight to behold.

Article submitted by Cara Heiner, WSDDJJA

Wrestling: The Lystedt Law

As one looks at applying the new “Concussion Rule” to the sport of wrestling in Washington, the procedures will be similar to what is already being done in injury situations, with only a few subtle changes as evidenced in the following scenarios.

Scenario 1: Head injury WAS NOT caused by an illegal action.

It is important that officials not put themselves in a position of stating or implying they think there is a possible concussion. They have not been trained to make that determination. The coaches or team medical personnel have. The responsibility for making a determination lies with them. All the official knows is that the wrestler is injured. Responding to it like any other injury, the official stops the match due to injury,

calls the coach out to attend to the wrestler and starts the injury time. If the coach or the wrestler wants to check for a possible concussion, the official simply removes any injury time used, but the charged injury time-out remains. There is no limit to how much time can be used to conduct the concussion check in this situation, and there can be no coaching of the injured wrestler during a concussion check. If it is determined that there may be a concussion, the match would end and the injured wrestler would lose by injury default. If it is determined that the wrestler can continue, the match may be resumed.

Scenario 2: Head injury WAS caused by an illegal action.

Again, officials do not want to be stating or implying they think there is a possible

concussion. In this situation, the referee will stop the match at the moment he/she sees the injury. The official will immediately signal that the action was illegal, call the coach out to attend to the wrestler and start the recovery time. If the coach or wrestler wants to check for a possible concussion, it is allowed, but the recovery clock continues to run. If it is determined that there may be a concussion or if the concussion check cannot be completed within the two minutes of recovery time, the match is terminated and the injured wrestler is declared the winner. If the check is completed within the two minutes of recovery time, and it is determined that the wrestler can continue, the match may be resumed.

Article submitted by Terry Beckstead, Western Washington Wrestling

WOA Contracted Staff

The following individuals are contracted with the WOA to help support the efforts of the full-time staff and enhance the services provided to the membership.

Business Manager:

Leah Francis has served as the business manager for the WOA since 2002. Her responsibilities include the handling of the deposits, verifying expenses greater than \$1,000, payroll, human resources, working with the auditors to oversee the end-of-year review and tax preparation.

In her free time, Leah coaches Bellevue College Softball.

Legal Counsel:

John Olson has been the in-house legal counsel for the WOA since 1990. John serves as the lead counsel on all legal matters, although in some cases the WOA will also contract with an attorney who specializes in the matter at hand. All legal matters are first sent to John to decide the proper course of action.

Technology Coordinator:

Tim Stevens has been the technology coordinator for

the WOA since 1999. Tim oversees the database management, the IT support, as well as the web site.

Currently, Tim is working as a contracted employee of the Michigan High School Association. Tim was a longtime high school football official and baseball umpire, and still is active as a college baseball umpire.

The WOA definitely benefits from the expertise these three individuals bring to the table and we appreciate what they do for the association.



The officials marching in during the opening ceremonies of the Mat Classic Championships

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

“IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OFFICIALS NOT PUT THEMSELVES IN A POSITION OF STATING OR IMPLYING THEY THINK THERE IS A POSSIBLE CONCUSSION.”



Tim Stevens goes over the ground rules with the umpires prior to a state championship baseball game.

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey



Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

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Note from the Commissioner:

The fall state championships have wrapped up and I would like to once again say thank you to all the officials that helped make the fall season a success. There are always issues that arise, but it seems like each year we get better as an association in dealing with the issues. Also deserving of recognition are the assigners that put in a lot more time than they sometimes wish in making sure all the games are properly covered.

Communication seems to be flowing between the WOA and officials a lot more efficiently since creating the newsletter. Please remember to send me your ideas or questions for future issues. We want to make sure the newsletter is relevant to the state of officiating in Washington and can only do that with your input.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions that would help in the improvement of the WOA. It is always great to have ideas that can be shared and discussed with the Executive Board, especially if they might lead to a stronger association.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year!

Todd Stordahl
WOA Commissioner

www.woa-officials.com

Keynote Speaker Announced for the WOA Conference



Brooks Schomburg, Pacific Northwest Football and Jeffrey Holm, Columbia Basin Football, walk out for the coin toss during the 2A Championship Game.

Photo Courtesy of Northwest Sports Photography



Don Collins, CIF-San Francisco Commissioner/NASO Board Member/Referee Magazine Contributor, has accepted the invitation to serve as the keynote speaker for the 2010 WOA Conference. Mr. Collins extensive legal

background will provide an opportunity to discuss the many different legal aspects of officiating.

How much control should an association/board have over the officials?

What are the legal pitfalls when creating policies to hold officials accountable?

These are a couple questions that will be explored during the 2010 WOA Conference.

Kerri Sanders and Steve Colby tabbed Mr. Collins as a potential keynote speaker

after hearing him speak at the 2007 NASO Summit.

Commissioner Stordahl welcomed the addition of Don Collins by stating that "Don's legal background will be a great asset to the 2010 Conference as we look at the ways in which officials can be held accountable."

The WOA Executive Board hopes you will make plans to attend the WOA Conference, August 6-7, 2010 at the Yakima Convention Center. Registration information will be available in Spring 2010.