

# Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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## WOA Mid-Season Report

The end of January will mark the halfway point of the 2009-10 WOA fiscal year. The following are a few highlights of the first six months:

### Golf Tournament:

Even with the poor economy, ninety-six officials made the decision to play in the annual event. The golf tournament committee is looking to increase that number for 2010.

### WOA Conference:

Just the other day, an assigner was telling me how their association has incorporated the message delivered by the keynote speaker, Stephen Walkom. To have people talking about the conference six months after attending speaks for itself.

UPDATE: A few weeks after the conference, Stephen

made the decision to return to the ice. The WOA wishes him the best as he returns to his true passion of officiating.

### Statewide Agreement:

For the most part, the statewide agreement has been implemented without much fanfare. There have been a few items to clarify, but overall it has been viewed as a positive step in the progression of the WOA.

### Ejection Reporting:

This is an area that needs to be a point of emphasis at the local level. Although it seems like there were fewer situations needing the WOA staff to become involved, this is an area that could still see improvement. It would be great to have a season where 100% of the ejections were reported within the appropriate time frame.

### Fall State Tournaments:

No major issues. That is definitely a great thing to be able to say following a round of state tournaments. There is always room for improvement, but the lack of major issues demonstrates the great job by the local associations/boards to make sure quality officials are being assigned to the state tournaments.

### Newsletter:

Developed to deliver information to every member of the WOA.

### Discussion Forum:

Created to assist assigners in communicating amongst themselves about different features available with ArbiterSports and to provide an easy way for new users to find out some of the tricks to maximizing the features of the program.

### Did You Know?

- THE FORMATION OF THE WOA WAS APPROVED BY THE WIAA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY IN THE SPRING OF 1946
- IN SEPTEMBER OF 1947, REGISTERED OFFICIALS WERE REQUIRED FOR FOOTBALL AND BOYS BASKETBALL
- THE OFFICIALS' ADVISORY BOARD WAS FORMED IN 1958 AND WAS CHAIRED BY THE LATE FRANK FIDDLER (WOA HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2008)

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## 2010 WIAA/WOA Summer Football Camp

The 2010 WIAA/WOA Summer Football Camp will be held June 21-22, 2010 at Central Washington University.

The football camp focuses on the WIAA/WOA approved mechanics and is beneficial

to every football official in Washington, regardless of experience level.

Throughout the two days, officials will learn the nuances of specific positions, as well as tips to improve the quality of officiating. This is

a great opportunity to fine tune your skills and prepare for the upcoming season.

If you are interested in attending this year's football camp, please contact your assigner. The registration deadline is May 15.

# Make the Right Call

## WOA Executive Board Meeting Overview



Jason Crider, Pacific Northwest Basketball

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

On January 8, the WOA Executive Board held one of their three annual meetings.

The following is an overview of an Executive Board meeting:

The meeting agenda is divided into three sections.

The first section is for informational items. Each region representative provides a report as to issues that may have come up since the last meeting, as well as

the staff providing updates on statewide issues.

The second section is for action items. The action items for the January meeting included:

- Uniform Vendor Proposals: Can a relationship be forged with a vendor that is beneficial to the entire membership?
- Service Boundaries: How do service boundaries

impact out of season contests?

- Testing: Is there a better format that could be used in administering the rules test?

The third and final section includes planning items, such as the regional meetings and rules clinics.

A draft copy of the meeting minutes will be posted online approximately three weeks after the meeting.

## Wrestling: Consistency of the Stalling Call

“THE KEY TO CONSISTENCY IN CALLING STALLING IS TO ESTABLISH YOUR LIST OF INDICATORS FOR EACH SITUATION”

Reality is, stalling seems to be called differently in different areas of the state. Our purpose here is to begin a discussion on how to make this call more consistent statewide. Veteran officials were asked to share the “indicators” they use in calling stalling. The most common responses are included here.

The neutral position:

- Repeatedly backing out of the 10' circle without significant contact.
- Repeatedly backing to the edge before wrestling aggressively for a takedown.
- Blocking/stopping action with head, hands, or forearm without attempts for takedown.
- One wrestler repeatedly shoots, while other wrestler blocks with no aggressive attempt to score.

The offensive position:

- Breaking the opponent down and riding hips, not coming off to the side with attempts to turn.
- With opponent broken down, tying up wrists or arms with no attempt to turn or improve position.
- Leg ride with no attempt to turn. A guideline is to call the first instance a stalemate. The second instance is a stalemate with an advisement to the offensive wrestler that repeated use of a stalemate is a form of stalling. The third instance results in a stalling call.
- No attempt to return defensive wrestler to the mat from the standing position.

The defensive position:

- Lying flat on stomach, no attempt to come up.

- Blocking action by bringing arms/elbows to the side of the body.
- Holding opponents hands to prevent being turned and/or not using said hold to escape/reverse.
- Being on all fours, preventing action by having arms and legs spread in a wide base.
- When a leg ride is used, stopping action by grabbing/holding the offensive wrestler's arm with no attempt to improve.

The key to consistency in calling stalling is to establish your list of indicators for each situation. What veteran officials have in common is that over the years, they have developed such a list. When they see one of their indicators, they look closer for stalling. If that indicator persists, they make the call.



Sam Nishi, Yakima Valley, working Mat Classic XXI

Photo Courtesy of Northwest Sports Photography

## Basketball: Official's Eyes and Ears

During a game, officials rely on their eyes and ears to officiate. Where our eyes are pointed determines our field of vision. Our field of vision is a combination of two processes, watching and seeing. Watching is the active process and requires focus. Seeing is a passive process, you don't have to focus as much as you are just aware of what is in your field of vision. For example, while watching the ball transition from your primary to your partner's primary, you will want to see when your partner picks up the ball so you can go off ball. While watching your primary as lead, the competitive matchup, post play, screens, you will want to see the ball location and potential players who may be entering your primary as well as wanting to see position of

partners and what they are looking at. You need to make sure you have a good balance of watching and seeing and that balance is determined by the competitiveness of the matchup you are watching. The tougher the matchup, the more you are watching, the less you are seeing. If it isn't a tough match up, then you may have an opportunity to see more of what is going on the court. Throughout the game you will want to make sure you are in the best position to not only watch the game, but see it as well.

For the ears, listening and hearing are similar processes to watching and seeing. Listening is the active process, requiring focus while hearing is the passive process. Throughout the game, we hear a lot of things coming

from all sorts of sources in the gym. However, there are times when we need to listen to what is being said. We have to make sure we answer proper questions as well as address inappropriate comments by coaches, players and fans. Ignoring what is being said on the court is not the answer. A good game can turn bad quickly if you start ignoring what is being said. There are also times when we should be listening for horns, either shot clock or end of game. We should never be surprised when either of those goes off.

Using your eyes and ears to officiate the game are a given. Using a good balance of seeing/watching and hearing/listening will make you better aware of what is going on in the game.

Article submitted by Mike Lloyd, PNBOA / SOWB



Scott Fetterly, Seattle Basketball

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

**"USING A GOOD BALANCE OF SEEING/ WATCHING AND HEARING/ LISTENING WILL MAKE YOU BETTER AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE GAME"**

## Spirit: Detecting Bias, Understanding Professionalism

Identifying one's preferences in styles, music, costuming, and composition is a crucial part of preparing to judge cheer and dance/drill competitions. When an official is mentally aware of bias, greater objectivity and professionalism is the result.

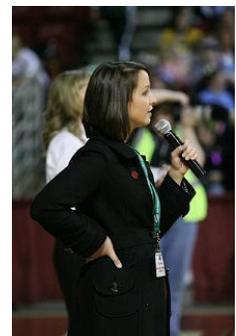
Judges may unconsciously expect to see certain elements based on their comfort zones or concepts they easily recognize and relate to. When a judge brings these comfort zones or familiar concepts to his/her attention he/she has the ability to leave them behind

and not let them affect scoring. By doing so, the judge then allows the program to grow on its own terms rather than requiring it to fit into a particular mold. Appropriate feedback is then given to the team and coach and allows them to grow and progress on their terms, within their range of abilities, thus helping teams experience greater success.

Cheer and dance/drill judges are to have an excellent understanding of professionalism. The world of cheer and dance/drill in Washington tends to be

small, and the result is a great degree of acquaintance between coaches, teams, and judges. Judges need to be aware that their behavior and actions are under constant scrutiny by peers, coaches, parents, and other audience members. If a judge maintains consistency in appropriate behavior and in assessing and scoring teams, he/she will have the ability to uphold high standards of professionalism and gain the respect of peers, coaches, and teams.

Article submitted by Cara Heiner, WSDDJJA



Keri Devine, WSDDJJA, calling drill down at State.

Photo Courtesy of Northwest Sports Photography



# Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

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## **Note from the Commissioner:**

*I hope all of you had a safe New Year! The winter state tournaments begin in less than a month, so with that comes an intense few weeks as teams and individuals compete for the chance to represent their school at a state tournament. As the intensity builds, officials will have plenty of opportunities to step up to the challenge and demonstrate why they belong in the upper tier of their association/board. As is the case with the athletes, officials savor the competition and benefit when all parties involved are performing at their best. Enjoy the next few weeks of the season and the postseason contests.*

*It is never too early to start planning for future issues of the WOA Newsletter. Interested in writing an article related to a spring sport? If so, please send you article idea to [info@woa-officials.com](mailto:info@woa-officials.com).*

Todd Stordahl  
WOA Commissioner

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# www.woa-officials.com

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## **WOA Spotlight: Rick Wells**



WOA representatives enjoying a night at Jacobs Field during the 2008 NASO Summit.

Clockwise starting in the center: Rick Wells, Todd Stordahl, Warren Morrison, Kerri Sanders, Tyler Trimble, Cindy C-Wilson

Photo Courtesy of Some Guy in Cleveland

Every member of the WOA has benefited from the time and effort of Rick Wells. Although many of you have probably never met Rick, there is a very good chance all of you have heard his voice. For the last few years, Rick has served as the narrator for the WIAA/WOA Online Clinics. When the WOA started to discuss the creation of the online clinics, many different delivery methods were discussed. Once the delivery method was determined, the next question to be answered was

who would help make the clinics a reality. At the time, Rick was helping develop the football camp DVD and expressed interest in helping with the creation of the online clinics. Rick's professionalism and willingness to learn the ins and outs of the 'Articulate' program has helped in making the online clinics a success.

As the WOA continues to look on ways to use video to enhance the quality of officiating, there is no doubt Rick will play a vital role in the progress.

Football officials throughout the state receive an additional benefit from his dedication. If you are fortunate enough to work in the Tacoma Dome at the end of the season, Rick's crew creates a video of the game and provides a copy to the officials immediately following the game.

Rick Wells has been an active member of Pacific Northwest Football since 2002. In addition to officiating football, Rick has worked as a lacrosse official for the past 5 years.