

Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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WOA and WIAA Create Statewide Agreement



WASHINGTON INTERSCHOLASTIC
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Since 2002, the WOA has been an independent association without a formal agreement with WIAA. Although the mission of the WOA is to provide officials for WIAA member school contests, there was no official relationship between the two associations. When the request came from the WIAA to develop a statewide agreement, the WOA staff and Executive Board felt this

would be an avenue to create a formal agreement between the two associations. Over the course of eight months, the WIAA/WOA Agreement Review Committee negotiated the terms of the agreement and were finally able to come to a consensus at the end of July. The agreed upon document creates a consistent business model throughout the state and streamlines concerns that have existed for the last few years.

The statewide agreement reflects the relationship between the schools and the local associations/boards. It does not deal with the relationship between the officials and the local associations/boards. Since the agreement does not deal directly with the officials,

there is no bearing on the independent contractor/employee debate.

There are two things that need to be remembered as we go about the day-to-day responsibilities. The first is that the statewide agreement does not replace the need for the assigners and the athletic administrators to continue communicating in regard to local concerns and schedule changes that might occur. The second is that officials need to remember they are independent contractors and therefore the officials have responsibilities to the schools once they have accepted the assigned contests.

Special points of interest:

- STREAMLINE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS, OFFICIALS, LOCAL ASSOCIATION/BOARD, AND WOA
- CONSISTENT BUSINESS MODEL THROUGHOUT THE STATE
- THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT REPLACE THE NEED FOR ASSIGNERS AND ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS TO CONTINUE COMMUNICATING IN REGARD TO CONCERNS AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

Teamwork: Succeeding Together

One of the many messages delivered by Stephen Walkom, at the 2009 WOA Conference, was that of always putting the game and your fellow officials ahead of yourself. When officials truly work together

as a team, the individual official will be more successful and will be able to enjoy the success more than if it was achieved through selfish means. While observing officials, regular season or postseason, the

emphasis should be on how the officials worked together as a crew. If they are not working together as a crew, it doesn't really matter how good any one official was that night, the crew will not be as good as it should be.

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Make the Right Call

Where Are All The Officials?



Jim Mullen, Greater Seattle Volleyball conducts a pre-match briefing with a lines judge.

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

There are two areas of recruitment that seem to sometimes fly under the radar.

The first relates to the best source to recruit officials. Some of the best recruits are those individuals currently registered with the WOA in a different sport. Convincing an individual to register for an additional sport is the best way to add an experienced official to an association/board. By doing so, you are

assured of a few things. You know the official understands the mission of providing service to the member schools, the basic information for the official is currently on record with the WOA, and the official may have some skills that will make it easier for them to be successful in the new sport.

The second relates to creating a better atmosphere in order to retain officials. We need to become more

successful in getting officials to return from year-to-year. The only way we can succeed in doing this is to partner with the schools and make sure the conduct of coaches and players promote a positive experience for the officials. Reach out to the leagues you service to see if there is a way for the two entities to work together in creating an atmosphere that promotes a healthy relationship between the schools and the officials.

“CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE. AND THOSE WHO LOOK ONLY TO THE PAST OR PRESENT ARE SURE TO MISS THE FUTURE”

Adapting to Change: A Volleyball Official's Perspective

President John F. Kennedy said, “Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are sure to miss the future.”

High school volleyball has evolved since it became a recognized interscholastic sport just over 30 years ago. As an example, the first few volleyball ‘state’ tournaments were all classification invitational’s held at Renton

High School and now there will be a state tournament for each of the 6 classifications with nearly 1200 student athletes participating – volleyball has certainly grown and changed.

As the sport has grown and changed, so has the officiating. It is incumbent upon each official to keep up with the pace of the changes, attend training sessions and

clinics, and take the rules test each year. We must continue to be vigilant and committed to our sport to do the best we can when we step on that court just as the athletes and coaches continue to evolve in their part of the game. We will use the lessons of the past to help us look forward to the future so we can be part of it and not ‘miss it’.

Article submitted by Cindy C-Wilson, Greater Seattle Volleyball



Doug Miller and Suzanne Thompson, Pacific Northwest Basketball, making sure they are on the same page.

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

In the case of an ejection, it is imperative that the reports are processed properly.

Ejection reports must be submitted to the WOA within 48 hours of the incident. The schools need to receive the ejection report in order to handle the incident.

When completing an ejection

Report Or Not To Report

report, there are a few things to take into account. Ejection report should only contain the facts of what caused the ejection and whatever occurred following the ejection. It is not beneficial nor relevant to provide an editorial of the incident or to provide your opinion as to how the schools should handle

the incident.

Following an ejection, it is not appropriate for officials to discuss the incident with game management or coaches. Since the official does not have the authority to change the ejection, there is nothing positive that can come out of a post-incident conversation.

Football: The \$10,000,000 Hit

No, this was not a bone-jarring tackle of a highly paid running back by an equally pricey linebacker. This was a collision between an official and an assistant coach during a high school football game in San Antonio, Texas. During the game in 2004, the linesman collided head to head with an assistant coach who was in the two-yard belt along the sideline. The blow left both men unconscious and the coach with a serious brain

injury. The coach's insurance company sued the officiating crew and TASO (Texas Association of Sport Officials) for \$10 million. The officials won a summary judgment at trial, but the circumstances have led to a rule change by NFHS. Rules 1-2-3g and 9-8-3 were modified to create a restricted area where up to three coaches may communicate with players and substitutes during dead-ball situations. However, before the ball becomes live

the coaches must move into the team box. No one but the officiating crew will be allowed to remain in an area adjacent to the sideline during play. The first violation results in a sideline warning. The second violation is a five-yard penalty and subsequent penalties will be 15-yards each. Sideline management is important not just for convenience, but for the safety of officials and all team personnel.



An example of a well-marked field and officials who are enforcing the new rule (as well as coaches who are abiding by the new rule).

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Article submitted by Dean Corcoran, Snohomish County Football

Volleyball: Headbands and Bobby Pins – it's all good!!!

Rule 4, Section 1, Article 5 states "Hair devices made of soft material or unadorned bobby pins, no longer than 2 inches, may be worn to control the hair..."

This is great news (especially for mother's who are unable to French braid) but what exactly does this mean? 2 inch unadorned bobby pins are straight forward,

headbands not so much. In a recent email from the WIAA office the following interpretation was made:

"On page 13 of the National Federation Casebook we have 4.1.6 Situation B in which the comment is: A headband must be made of soft material. The reflective material should not be hard, unyielding or easily removed... The WIAA office

has concurred with our interpretation which is: Unless a player can take their "headband" and scrunch or squish it up in their hand then it does NOT qualify as "soft" material and is therefore illegal. This seems to be the most convincing way to clearly describe the intent of the rule."

Hopefully this clears up the definition of headbands.

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Article submitted by Cindy C-Wilson, Greater Seattle Volleyball

Soccer: The Integrity of the Game

The whistle blows and the game starts. As you are watching, you find yourself watching the referee more than the "game itself".

This is not how it is supposed to be. As a referee you need to make sure you don't take the game away from the players. A referee should be there to keep the

players safe and make the calls to keep the game fair.

Some referees take games that are above the level of their abilities just to say that they have done that level of play..... stop and think, am I the best one for the game, or am I doing this game for me.

Before accepting the game,

ask yourself a few questions:

- Is the game above my level?
- Is my fitness where I can keep up with the play?
- Is my personality adaptable to the environment?

Our goal as a referee should be to make the game safe for the players and enjoyable for the spectators.



Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Article submitted by Tim & Dorothy Epps, Skagit Valley Soccer



Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

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Note from the Commissioner:

The WOA Newsletter is the latest attempt to better communicate with the officials throughout the state. The important thing to remember is that the newsletter is only effective if it contains articles that are of interest to the working official. We would like to send out the newsletter every month, but we also know that it will be a challenge to keep the information relevant to the working official. Understanding the challenges we face in reaching our publication goals, it is essential to reach out to the officiating community to ask for assistance. If you would like to suggest a topic to be covered or would like to submit an article to be published in a future edition, please send your ideas or stories to info@woa-officials.com.

Todd Stordahl
WOA Commissioner

www.woa-officials.com

What Officials Need To Know About The Lystedt Law



Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

The Lystedt Law was enacted in hopes of bringing awareness and protection for student-athletes suffering from a concussion. The law outlines requirements for school personnel and parents dealing with athletes who have suffered concussions and the necessary steps in order for the athlete to return to play. Since the law went into effect, the biggest question from the membership is how does this effect what we do? The answer is quite simple. Officials are expected to follow the

guidelines established by the rules book of their sport and to make sure to be aware of what is going on, but at no time are the officials being asked to diagnose symptoms of a concussion nor to determine whether or not an athlete should be allowed to continue participating in a contest.

The officials play a part in helping with the safety of the student-athletes because they are more likely to be in the middle of situations and will be able to provide school personnel with information to

help in creating a safe environment for all the participants.

After checking with representatives from American Specialties, WOA insurance provider, they confirmed the need to follow procedures addressed by the NFHS in regard to dealing with participants. It is extremely important that officials stay within their role and stay away from the temptation of getting too involved in the diagnosing of injuries, regardless of the severity.