

Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 9

April 2011

How to Maintain Focus During Game, Season by Todd Korth

For any official, maintaining your concentration during a game and throughout the season is important because losing that focus will lead to mistakes. Regardless of how well you know the rules and mechanics and deal with the personalities in your particular sport, plus the challenge of making judgment calls, your performance will be diminished if you are not able to maintain your focus.

Concentration is foundational because if it is lacking, other aspects of your assignment will suffer. Loss of concentration in one game also could lead to further lapses in concentration in subsequent games.

Following is advice for how to maintain focus during a game and throughout the season for optimal officiating

performance.

During a game. A lapse in focus can cause you to be in poor position for a call, which can cause you to interpret a rule improperly. That inability to put other matters aside during a game and give attention to the job at hand is often what separates the top officials from the rest of the pack. The better an official's ability to concentrate and maintain focus during a game or match, the more likely that official will be prepared to deal with any situation that may arise. An official who maintains consistent concentration throughout a game or match will be at ease with the flow of the game, even in the most tense of circumstances.

Over the course of a season. There's no downtime for officials. The best referees

and umpires are the ones who overcome the midseason doldrums. It seems no matter what sport and level you officiate, the middle stretch of the season is when many officials wear down. Mental fatigue sets in.

Officials often hit a "wall," as each game gets repetitious. Sometimes it's inevitable. One of the best things to do to "snap out of it" is to address the midseason challenges. Accept an assignment that takes you out of your normal officiating circuit. Take a game at a school where you have never officiated.

Focus is an aspect of officiating, just like rules knowledge or mechanics. It's easy to get distracted. It happens to all officials.

(The full version of this article can be found in, Referee magazine, April 2011, NASO Member edition)

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WOA Executive Board Meeting - May 2, 2011

On May 2, 2011 the WOA will hold the final Executive Board meeting of 2010-11. The two areas of focus during this meeting are bringing the current year to a close and preparing for the start of the next year.

Although the fiscal year ends July 31, there is a month and a half crossover between when registration begins and the new fiscal year begins.

Some of the agenda items for the upcoming meeting include:

- Region/Sport Reports
- Statewide Agreement Proposals
- 2011-12 Budget
- Personnel Decisions
- Conference Planning

Upcoming Events:

MAY 27-28
SPRING STATE TOURNAMENTS

JUNE 20-21
WIAA/WOA FOOTBALL CAMP

AUGUST 5-6
WOA CONFERENCE AND GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 7
FOOTBALL SENIOR SEMINAR, YAKIMA

AUGUST 28
FOOTBALL SENIOR SEMINAR, CASTLE ROCK

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Virginia Hays, WIAA Hall of Fame Inductee (WOA Hall of Fame - 2004)

WIAA Hall of Fame Inductee - Virginia Hays

On May 11, Virginia Hays will be inducted into the WIAA Hall of Fame - Class of 2011.

Virginia has been involved with officiating in the state of Washington for 39 years, including being on the board of officials, a clinician, and officials coordinator for state tournaments. Her love for sports carried her throughout college where she graduated from Western Washington State College. While at

Western Washington State College, she lettered in volleyball, field hockey, basketball and softball. After college she went on to Washington State University where she received her graduate degree.

Virginia started officiating volleyball in 1972. In 1974, she became involved with the Central Washington Board of Officials, where she served as an assigner for five years. Not only has Virginia been a

part of Officials Committees at the local level, but she has also served at the state level, being a WOA clinician and Officials Coordinator for the State 1B, 2B, 1A Volleyball Tournament.

Virginia was inducted into the WOA Hall of Fame in 2004.

Interested in attending the 2011 WIAA Hall of Fame Luncheon? Please contact the WIAA for ticket information (425.687.8585).

“YOUR

SPONSORSHIP

ALLOWS THE GOLF TOURNAMENT TO CONTINUE TO BE AFFORDABLE TO THE CASUAL GOLFER, WHILE PROVIDING THE PERKS OF A FIRST-CLASS TOURNAMENT.”

Golf Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities

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

The golf tournament has become 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 of the event and they will continue to do so for the 2011 WOA Golf Tournament. With the title sponsor secured, there are still opportunities to sponsor lunch or to sponsor a hole.

Your sponsorship allows the golf tournament to continue to

be affordable to the casual golfer, while providing the perks of a first-class tournament.

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

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



Kevin Gawenit, Inland Empire

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

WIAA/WOA Football Camp: June 20-21

The 2011 WIAA/WOA Football Camp will be held June 20-21 at Central Washington University. This camp is a great way to network with fellow officials and to spend a couple days immersed in high school mechanics.

Camp registrations are limited to fifty campers, so

make sure to contact your assigner to secure a spot for the camp.

The camp focuses on mechanics and philosophy. This is a great setting for young officials or officials who are looking at changing positions. This camp will provide the basics to officiating football and allow

you to start honing your skills for the upcoming season.

Please contact your assigner if you are interested in attending the 2011 WIAA/WOA Football Camp. Priority registration for local associations ends May 15.

Baseball: Coaches Outside Their Dugout

Question: It is very common for coaches to stand in front of their team bench during games.

Is this practice recognized by WIAA? The NFHS Rule Book requires all team members to remain on the bench/dugout unless on defense or acting as a base coach.

Answer: The umpires have, with support from the WIAA staff, always provided some leeway in that rule. Since

interscholastic athletic programs are considered to be an extension of the classroom, in most sports coaches have the means to communicate with their players throughout the contest. Restricting a coach to the dugout makes communicating with players a real challenge, if not impossible due to the construction of some fields. So head coaches have traditionally been allowed to stand outside the dugout for

the purpose of providing instruction to their players. If at any time that privilege is abused by questioning an umpire's judgment, attempting to intimidate an umpire or an opposing team player, or any other unsporting act, however, the coach should be immediately restricted to the dugout.

WIAA will be submitting a proposal to the NFHS to allow this practice within NFHS Rules.



Dean Strong, Snohomish County

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

Softball: Venue Changes

The WIAA State Softball Tournaments will have a few venue changes May 27-28, 2011.

In December, the WIAA approved moving the 3A Tournament to the Regional Athletic Complex (RAC) in Lacey and moving the 4A Tournament to the Merkel Sports Complex in Spokane. This year's tournaments will

be the first time since 2000 that the 3A and 4A have not shared facilities.

In January, the WIAA approved moving the 1A Tournament to Spokane. Games on Friday will be held at Franklin Park, with the Saturday games being played at the Merkel Sports Complex, alongside the 4A Tournament.

The 2A Tournament will continue to be played at Carlon Park in Selah, while the 1B, 2B Tournament remains at the Gateway Sports Complex in Yakima.

These changes increased the number of umpires, therefore providing softball umpires with additional opportunities to participate in the state tournaments.

“IT IS IMPORTANT FOR OFFICIALS AND ASSIGNERS TO KNOW THEIR EFFORTS ARE APPRECIATED BY THE WOA STAFF”

Soccer: Midseason Conduct Report, State Tournaments

Conduct Reports

With a month to go in the season, the violent conduct and abusive language red cards have been reduced. We all know that this comment will probably jinx us, but it is important for officials and assigners to know their efforts are appreciated by the WOA staff.

Two additional positives that staff has taken from this spring includes the fact that the total number of red cards has decreased, yet the

number of complaints from coaches and fans has not increased. That tells staff that the officials are taking care of business on the pitch and that they are doing so without compromising the integrity of the game.

State Tournament Changes

Every year, the WOA has been asked to review and revise the method used to allocate and assign state tournament officials. There has been some great discussion surrounding a change to the process used.

There are a few details to work out with the proposal that has been submitted to the WOA, but at least there is a road map leading us to a better system. The input received will be used to develop a recommendation for change going into the 2011-12 school year.

Although there will be no major changes for the spring tournaments, there will be a concerted effort to improve the current process of assigning officials.



Ed Uribe, Yakima Valley

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey



Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Note from the Commissioner:

We are a month away from the start of the Spring State Tournaments, which signifies the end of the 2010-11 school year. This has been an interesting year and there have been many issues that have occurred that provide an opportunity for growth and improvement. The WOA staff looks forward to working with the WOA Executive Board and representatives from local associations/boards in the development of the "Sport-Specific Exceptions, Points of Emphasis and Interpretations". This document will provide past decisions that have been made by the staff in dealing with interpretations. This document, as well as in-season interpretations, will help officials throughout Washington become more consistent with rule enforcement and allow for associations/boards to properly prepare their officials for postseason contests when they are likely to work with an official from outside their local association/board.

Todd Stordahl
WOA Commissioner

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WOA Student Scholarship Endowment

The Washington Officials Association Executive Board voted unanimously at their last board meeting to establish an endowment fund for the WOA scholarship program. The fund is created as a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization and as a separate item within the WOA. This means most all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The WOA golf tournament was established a few years ago to help support the scholarship and in addition the silent auction was expanded this past year to increase the amount of money available for the scholarship and to assist in placing money into the endowment fund.

Currently, we are at a point where each and every official can make a difference by contributing funds to the endowment as a standalone gift or in honor of

or in memory of a family member. These charitable donations are a means for you as a donor to leave a lasting legacy while at the same time knowing you will be making a difference in a young person's life through education.

The association provides the stewardship of the account and distributes only the earnings from the endowment fund on a year to year basis. This will be the third year a scholarship award will be made.

Ways in which you can be a part of the endowment fund:

- Consider making a tax deductible donation
- Be a part of the annual golf tournament
- Donate a silent auction item
- Spread the word to eligible students to apply

for the WOA scholarship

The golf tournament is open to everyone and is intended to be a fun event. It is held on Friday prior to the start of the annual conference and is at Yakima's premier golf course "Apple Tree". The proceeds from the special events, tournament, and a portion of your entry fee supports funding of the college scholarship. Sign up as an individual or get a group of friends together and create a foursome.

The silent auction is another method of contributing to the scholarship. Consider procuring an item for the auction. Some ideas would be to contact a local hotel for a couple of nights stay, local golf course donation of a round of golf, or a restaurant donation of a gift card. Use your imagination to help make this a fun event but also to raise money for the scholarship.



Virginia Wilson, 2010 WOA Scholarship Recipient, and her father, Jay Wilson, Snohomish County Football.

Photo Courtesy of Dick Egler



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