

# Make the Right Call



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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For those that could not make the conference, the following is some great advice provided by one of the featured speakers, Steve Wilson. Steve, former NFL Official (#29), joined the National Football League in 1999. He has worked a number of postseason assignments including the 2005 Hall of Fame Game and the 2006 Pro Bowl. Prior to that, Steve refereed for 18 years in major college football which included the Pac-10 Conference. Currently, Steve is a motivational - conference speaker and pastor.

The WOA appreciates and thanks Steve for spending the weekend with us and providing some food for thought as we prepare for the new school year.

## You Can Make The Call by Steve Wilson

### Everything starts with CREDIBILITY

Preparation is key  
Remember .... You don't work alone!  
Can you be counted on?

### COMMUNICATION makes the difference

Set the stage immediately with the Head Coach  
More than verbal.  
Can't be a loner

### Strive to be CONSISTENT

"If you **think** it is a foul ...**IT ISN'T!**"  
"Don't be in a hurry to make a mistake."  
Run the play through in your mind. Can you describe in detail?

### Be CONFIDENT

Everything you do on the field is done with purpose.  
Don't make things up.....if you don't know, let them know so you can get back with them....Nobody knows everything.

### CONCENTRATE on Every Play

You can't officiate anything but the NEXT PLAY  
Know your "Keys"

### Use COMMON SENSE

Don't over officiate  
Think before you act

## Special Points of Interest:

SIX AREAS TO FOCUS ON WHEN MAKING THE CALL.

- CREDIBILITY
- COMMUNICATION
- CONSISTENT
- CONFIDENT
- CONCENTRATE
- COMMON SENSE

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# Make the Right Call



Steve Wilson, Tommy Keith and Todd Stordahl during the Panel Discussion at the 2011 WOA Conference

Photo Courtesy of Dick Eglet

“DON'T GROW A WISHBONE WHERE YOUR BACKBONE IS SUPPOSED TO BE”

-- TOMMY KEITH

Keynote speaker, Tommy Keith, brought a great perspective to the WOA Conference. Although Rodeo may not be a high school sanctioned sport in Washington, Tommy emphasized that officiating is relatively the same regardless of what sport you may choose to work. The biggest take-away from Tommy's message is the need for officials to be mentors. Officials should take pride in being able to find and

## WOA Conference

mentor their eventual replacement. Many officials cite “giving back to a sport” as the reason they officiate, but officials also must “give back to officiating” in the form of mentoring.

Tommy had a great line that he shares with his officials, “don't grow a wishbone where your backbone is supposed to be”. He also provided a great visual when he talked about the first time he introduced new

technology to the rodeo officials and described the cowboys sitting around the table with their laptops open.

Each year we are looking for ways to make the conference more beneficial to officials. Please contact us with ideas for speakers or breakout sessions.

The 2012 WOA Conference will be August 3-4 at the Yakima Convention Center.

## 2011 NASO Summit

On July 31, representatives from the WOA attended the 2011 NASO Summit in Atlanta. The theme for this year's Summit was “Image in Officiating: The Perception, The Reality, The Focus”. The Summit provides great opportunities for networking on all levels. Whether you are an official, assigner, or administrator there are plenty of opportunities to

reach out to fellow officials to find out how things are done in their area and it also demonstrates that a lot of the issues faced by officials in Washington are very similar to officials throughout the country. The most beneficial aspect of the Summit is that there are discussions about the current trends in officiating and potential issues that may arise from

these trends.

The WOA encourages all officials to take part in the NASO Summit. Next year's Summit will be held in Portland, July 29-31. The theme for the 2012 NASO Summit is “Taking Care of Business: Reliability and Results in Officiating”.

## WOA Golf Tournament / Scholarship



Terry Cochran, Whitman County

Photo Courtesy of Linda Johnson

The 2011 WOA/ArbiterSports Golf Classic was a huge success. There were 106 players, the most ever for this event.

Proceeds from the golf tournament and auction go towards the WOA Scholarship Fund. This year's scholarship was awarded to

Maggee Cochran. Maggee is the daughter of Terry Cochran, wrestling official and assigner from Whitman County. Maggee will be attending Washington State University in the Fall.

Any high school senior who officiates or child of an official is eligible for the

WOA Scholarship.

The WOA appreciates the efforts of Steve Colby and Michael Thorner in organizing the 2011 golf tournament. This event would not be such a success were it not for these two individuals. Thank You!

## Football: 2011 Rules Clarifications

**Administrative Duties of Game Officials (1-1-8):** This change clarifies that although the jurisdiction of the official may end, there may be situations where the administrative duties of the officials continues until all necessary reports have been filed.

**Injury Time-Out Conference (2-6-1, 2; 3-5-8):** When an injury occurs and the referee grants an authorized conference, it must be an

“Outside Nine Yard Mark Conference”. This will give medical personnel time and space to address the injured player.

**Eye Shade Restrictions Adopted (1-5-3c(3)):** If a player uses eye shade, it must be a single solid stroke and may not extend below the cheek bone. No words, numbers, logos, or other symbols of any type may be included within the eye shade.

**Horse Collar Penalty Enforcement (9-4-3k):** All horse collar fouls are to be treated as live ball fouls.

**Point Differential (3-1-2):** The WIAA changed the point differential from 45 to 40. All aspects of the WIAA adopted point differential remains the same.

**Black Pants:** Black pants may now be worn with short or long sleeves. Black pants can be worn throughout the regular and postseason.



Kevin Malone, Inland Empire; Ric Bishop, Evergreen; Greg Fisher, Western WA; Mark Deichman, Tri Cities; Mike Livingston, Pacific Northwest

Photo Courtesy of Dale Garvey

## Volleyball: 2011 Rules Clarifications

**Scoring Points (1-3-3):** The addition of rule 1-3-3 provides clarification of the proper scoring protocol to use when a team plays with fewer than six players due to injury, illness or disqualification, after the start of the match.

**The Court (2-1-9, 10):** The rules currently refer to playable and nonplayable areas but these areas are

now defined. All playable area outside of the court boundary lines shall be visible to all players and officials. The nonplayable areas are clearly defined. In addition, the first referee has the authority to identify other unsuitable area(s) for play.

**Hair Devices (4-1-5):** Expands the style of items that may be worn in the hair

to include unadorned flat barrettes no longer than 2”.

**Administrative Duties of Game Officials (5-1-3):** This change clarifies that although the jurisdiction of the official may end, there may be situations where the administrative duties of the officials continues until all necessary reports have been filed.

“THE WIAA CHANGED THE POINT DIFFERENTIAL FROM 45 TO 40. ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MERCY RULE APPLY.”

## Soccer: 2011-12 Rules Clarifications

**Bench Personnel (4-1-3):** It is recommended that substitutes wear distinguishing pinnies when warming up outside of the team area.

**Coach responsibilities (4-3):** The illegally equipped player now must leave the field and wait until the next legal substitution opportunity to re-enter.

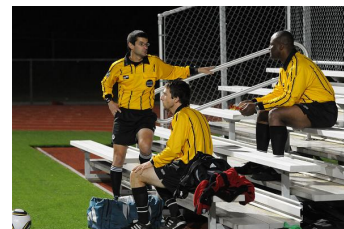
**Additions to Misconduct 12-8-1f(10):** This addition distinguishes reckless play as a cautionable offense.

**18-1-1ff:** Reckless Play - A player has acted with complete disregard of the danger, or consequences for, the opponent.

**12-8-1f(11):** This rule addition addresses illegally equipped

player(s) as a cautionable offense.

**12-8-1f(12):** Previous disqualification of a player for excessive celebration is considered severe. Actions that would constitute taunting, and/or offensive language or gestures are still punishable by disqualification.



(L to R) John Towers, East King County; Chris Bates, Seattle; Friday Enoye, East King County



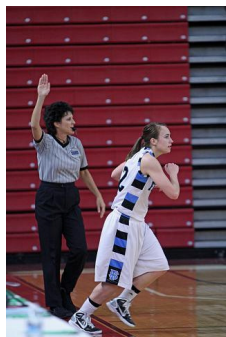
# Officiating the Game for the Athletes!

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

435 Main Ave S  
Renton, WA 98057  
Phone: 425-687-8009  
Fax: 425-687-9476  
E-mail: info@woa-officials.com



[www.gerrydavis.com](http://www.gerrydavis.com)  
1-800-916-9088  
[safe@gerrydavis.com](mailto:safe@gerrydavis.com)



Sarah Miller, Tri Cities

Photo Courtesy of Jim Hausske



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### Note from the Commissioner:

The 2011-12 school year is about to begin. It seems as though the break between school year's is shrinking, but we need to take advantage of the little opportunity there is to get re-energized for the new year.

The WOA Conference was well attended and our keynote speaker did a great job in relating his sport (rodeo) to the sports officiated in Washington. The biggest take-away was the need for veteran officials to understand the need to mentor the young officials and help them learn from your mistakes, rather than making them learn on their own. The greatest pride in officiating should be that of finding and mentoring your replacement. This message was also delivered by several speakers at the 2011 NASO Summit.

Have a great start to 2011-12.

Todd Stordahl  
WOA Commissioner

# www.woa-officials.com

## Boost Your Signals by Todd Korth

Wikipedia describes a signal as "a discrete part of communication." That may be true for things like traffic lights, beacons, economics or distress, but not necessarily for sports officials. In fact, signals should stand out, be clear, concise, crisp and effective.

**Mirror Image.** What are your signals really like? Are they strong, crisp and authorized by your association or league? Stand in front of the mirror, preferably the full-length type, when practicing and take a good look at yourself.

**Get tested.** While you are practicing in front of a mirror, recruit a family member or friend to read off different signals from your mechanics

manual. The less you have to think about the proper signal to use, the more you can focus on your mechanics while utilizing it.

**Slow down.** Sometimes signals can get sloppy because officials hurry through them. Keep it simple.

**Stop.** In most sports, mechanics manuals ask officials to stop and then make a signal. Stop, stand tall, deliver the signal and hold it for an extra second or split second.

**Seek advice.** If possible, watch video of yourself making signals with someone that you feel can help you.

**Eye contact.** Just as it is important to focus on your primary coverage area, a

play, a strike zone or a line, do the same when making a signal.

**Voice and signals.** A hesitant voice, lack of clarity or a weak voice can take away any luster of strong signals.

**Don't hide your signals.** It's best to keep your arms at least at chest level while conveying a signal for most sports. If a player or coach is in the way, wait until your staging area is clear.

**Use approved mechanics.** Stick to the approved mechanics. Poorly executed or unauthorized signals will only confuse the situation and impair communication.

(The full version of this article can be found in, Referee magazine, August 2011)