

NASOA Membership Meeting 7 March 2018 V.1

President

Cedric Thomas opened the meeting at 6:00 PM at Merrimack Soccer Complex, Huntsville. 18 members were present. Minutes for the meetings in February 2018 were tabled until all have been posted in the new website.

Cedric pointed out some referees are declining games below their standard of competition. He asked all refs to work the younger player matches and get back to enjoying the game.

He urged all referees to accept the games assigned but if they must decline a game, referees are to explain fully the reasons for declining. NASOA understands some important factors will prohibit accepting games but we are to tell the assigner why.

Cedric encouraged assigners to informally evaluate new and veteran refs to match ref skills with game competition levels.

He cited problems with meeting on Monday nights. After discussion and input from the high school assigner, Andy Dye, the membership approved a motion to have NASOA meetings on alternate Wednesdays starting 21 March 2018. Wednesday nights have relatively few matches across all competition levels. Kim Hensley said that there were fewer than 100 games on Wednesdays in 2017.

High School Assigner

Andy Dye said thanks to all who contacted him about his father's passing in early February.

Andy mentioned a problem that many referees have set short distance limits that have required Andy to keep assigning many games in outlying counties to a relatively few referees. Cedric and Daphne Brown interjected saying it is NASOA's policy that every referee work at least one long distance game per season.

Andy explained many difficulties so far for high school referee coverage: weather, rescheduled games on Tuesdays and Thursdays, shortage of referees, etc. He has already advised school not to reschedule make up games on Tuesdays and Thursdays due to insufficient number of referees, Already too many games are covered using the dual system of control.

Daphne observed that the number of high school referees is the lowest in many years.

High School game reports are most important. Ejections and significant events/conditions must be reported to Cedric, Tim Barron, and Andy Dye via e-mail immediately. This includes field conditions, uniform irregularities, spectator problems, coach/player behavior, etc. Those three will review the report and send it

back to the referee for adjustments. Andy Dye will forward the final report to AHSAA.

Andy reported the State has required one school to prepare a plan of action to address coach/spectator behavior that resulted in a \$500 fine and removal of the coach in question.

Secretary Mike Moran suggested NASOA keep a centralized file of High School game reports. Cedric directed Mike to link up with Tim Barron to work out the details.

Treasurer

Kim Hensley announced pay would be made in Arbiter during the week of 11 March. He said there was only \$15,000 available at the moment but he expects more funds shortly.

Member-at-Large

Gene Uhl asked for an up to date referee fee schedule to put on the new web site. Gene also asked about AHSAA ID Cards- who gets them? Who can get into games with whom? Kim Hensley said the NASOA Board and the official observers are cited in each school's contract to be allowed to attend matches.

Kim Hensley cited a contract paragraph that required the coach to behave like a teacher and any coach behavior beyond acceptable limits may result in a caution or ejection.

Instructor

Daphne Brown related an incident that required the referee to suspend the game to address abusive behavior by a large number of home team spectators. The coach had the spectators removed from the field even before the Athletic Director arrived. Daphne emphasized that the soccer field is an extension of the classroom and unacceptable behavior by anyone is not to be tolerated.

She also urged the referee team to enter and leave the field together; not to place bags between team areas, not to bring anything on the field that they are not willing to leave in case of a hasty exit, She also suggested parking by backing in and to find parking spaces away from the spectators.

Membership

One member cited an incident at a girls' high school game where a coach told a player to "get" an opposing player. Much discussion ensued on how to respond to that incident.

Another member asked what an AR should say to a coach who questions a referee's call or non-call: we should respond – the ref has a different angle and is much closer to the action.

**Instruction
President**

Cedric started a discussion concerning proper communication with coaches. Above all, do not ignore a coach. Acknowledge his comments like “what was that call?” Control the level of civility and keep the communication positive.

However if the coach or anyone crosses the abuse line, we are to take corrective action. Any racial slur must be dealt with promptly.

Cedric related an incident in a high school match with only 12 seconds remaining and a direct kick was called. An attacking player feigned a foot/ankle injury and the referee blew the whistle to stop the clock. As soon as the clock was stopped, the “injured” player got up and ran off the field. This deception allowed the attacking team to organize for the free kick. The referee dealt with the coach and player after the game but the bottom line was that the referee was deceived. Cedric advised referees to not be too hasty with stopping the clock for injuries so close to the end of the match.

Cedric asked two new referees about their concerns: One new referee asked about how to inform the referee that a card was in order. Also he asked about the duty of a referee to call offside in an obvious situation where the AR did not “flag” offside. The referee has ultimate responsibility.

The meeting ended at 7:15 PM

The next meeting will be 21 March 2018 at Merrimack Soccer Complex, Huntsville.

As an attachment to the minutes, this excerpt from our contract regarding coaches and their behavior:

1. **Coaches** – We will use these guidelines in judging proper coach behavior and conduct. Coaches should:
 - (a) Exemplify behavior that is representative of the educational staff of the school and a credit to the teaching profession.
 - (b) Demonstrate high ideals, good habits and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards of the players.
 - (c) Emphasize to his/her players and bench personnel the importance of proper sideline behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field to engage in a fight.

(d) Recognize that the purpose of competition is to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well-being of the individual players and that the most important values of competition are derived from playing the game fairly.

(e) Be a modest winner and a gracious loser.

(f) Maintain self-control at all times, accepting adverse decisions without public display of emotion or of dissatisfaction with the officials.

(g) Pay close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players, refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his team's chances to win.

(h) Teach athletes that it is better to lose fairly than win unfairly.

(i) Discourage gambling, profanity, abusive language and similar violations of the true sportsman's code.