

NASOA General Meeting – March 9, 2022

Meeting opened at 18:01 CDT at Merrimack Soccer Complex. The Meeting was led by President Tim Holt.

1. Motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the February 23rd meeting as presented. Motion approved.
2. Treasurer Kim Hensley provided an update on finances, reporting that high school game fees have been paid via Game Officials platform. Kim noted approximately 25 officials have not been paid through Game Officials. Of the 25 only 8 have reached out to Kim regarding pay. Alternate payment platforms were discussed, like Zelle and Venmo, and their limitations - e.g. daily transaction limits or bank membership acceptance. Potential conflicts with using Game Officials and non-registered USSF officials could be overcome by entering referees as other type of users. Kim will continue to research best payment options and contact the non-paid officials.
3. “Rule Cards” created by Wanda Porter were discussed and shared with members present who were interested in receiving a card. Reminder to trim edges as corners are sharp.

Darrell Harris noted to disregard Rule 4’s mention of shirts, tucked or untucked as it is no longer a concern for officials.

4. General membership was encouraged to review past meeting minutes on NASOA website to obtain information and FAQs.
5. New assigning platform “RefQuest” introduced. Some assignors have begun moving away from Arbiter and GameOfficials. RefQuest is mainly going to be used on the collegiate level at this time with NCAA and NAIA adopting that assigning platform.

Reminder given regarding the importance of maintaining accurate availability across the numerous platforms being used to assist with assigning.

Membership encouraged to keep their own record/spreadsheet of assignments. Assisting with keeping track of game log if wanting to upgrade (USFF) and helps to keep track of incidents/concerns/mileage/pay for quick reference.

6. HS information shared from Andy Dye

Distance and travel limits continue to be a large issue for assigning, significantly hindering adequate coverage of games. Officials are encouraged to be willing to travel to outlying areas at least once.

District Director, Cedric Thomas requests a list of official’s names who are setting travel/distance blocks who are unwilling to travel. He mentioned that playoff assignments often include travel out of the area, and if officials are unwilling to travel now, it will be a factor in playoff assignments.

Additional reminder to continue to set your blocks.

Numerous Area matches were canceled on 3/8 due to weather. Be prepared for assignment changes, and lower-level games being canceled/rescheduled to accommodate the mandatory area matches that must be played.

Area Matches must be played with balls containing the NFHS and Wilson logos. If Wilson balls not available, match to be played and incident report to be filed.

HS season is ½ complete. Playoffs will begin next month. Aspiring playoff officials should share interest with Cedric, Tim, Andy, and Kris Bailey to request observations for ability to be assessed. Cedric discussed accepting assignments that may be “above” the official’s ability. No shame in identifying that and discussing change of assignment with Andy. The importance is to provide the best service for the customer.

7. Membership encouraged to keep up the good work and maintain a high effort on the field. Positioning, and smart movement discussed. It is inexcusable for ARs to be 10-20 yards off the offside line, especially when moving toward the midline. Be smart with offside flags, save runs when available. If only 1 attacker in the offside position is running to play the ball, consider raising flag earlier. Reading play and increased anticipation encouraged, “keep feet moving” to reduce the need for long catch-up runs. “A body in rest tends to stay at rest” shared referencing Referee movement on the field. Ideal positioning for judging offside discussed for both systems of control, dual and diagonal.
8. Upcoming USSF tournaments discussed. Horizon Cup, March 26-27, Open Cup (Decatur) girls’ weekend of April 9th, Boy’s weekend of April 23rd, NASC Spring Classic April 23rd. Cedric request assigning assistance as two tournaments to be assigned on the weekend of April 23rd. SINC sports, and GOTSOCER are assigning platforms to be used.

Cedric noted that tournament assigning will not conflict with HS playoff assignments.

9. John Hunt Park Championship complex (fields 1&2) receiving upgrades in hopes of attracting more events, including College Conference Tournaments.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 18:49.

Attendees:

Allen Borgen
Kim Hensley
Claudiu Muntele
Celeste Roberts

Paul Galloway
Tim Holt
Bill Pottratz

Darrell Harris
Yamu Moyo
Tracy Reynolds