



10:00 am, March 7, 2011
Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building
Gainesville, Florida

Officials Advisory Committee- 03/09 Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Committee Chairman Greg Bondurant (Section 3 Wrestling). Members in attendance included: John Bauman (Section 3 Soccer); Paul Bosshardt (Section 3 Softball); (Steven Christlieb (Section 2 Volleyball); Mark DeAtley (Section 4 Basketball); Jeff Deen (Section 2 Basketball); Carlton Dill (Section 2 Football); Abrom Douglas (Section 4 Soccer); Pat Fairfax (Section 1 Wrestling); Michelle Field (Section 2 Softball); Don Inman (Section 1 Football); Wilbert Johnson (Section 4 Wrestling); Len Kapacinskas (Section 2 Baseball); Bob McKinney (Section 4 Football); Tom Miles (Section 4 Baseball); Steve Naso, III (Section 1 Volleyball); Bob Pecorelli (Section 3 Basketball); Larry Pope (Section 1 Soccer); Michael Pressman (Section 3 Football); Larry Warrenfeltz (Section 1 Softball); Ed Whipple (Section 4 Softball) and Peggy White (Section 3 Volleyball). Also in attendance were FHSAA staff members Dr. Peggy Jones, Jamie Rohrer, Gary Pigott, Justin Harrison, Shanell Young, Cristina Broska, Jana Horton and Interns Harvard Jones and Mike Furey.

1. Welcome, introductions, purpose
 - a. Standing Chairman, Mr. Bondurant, welcomed Committee Members, discussed the purpose of the Committee and the Committee Meeting and each Committee Member then introduced himself/herself.
2. Review agenda and complete expense voucher
 - a. Chairman Bondurant reviewed the agenda with the committee and then Mrs. Rohrer instructed the Committee on how to submit their expenses on their expense vouchers.
3. Approval of March 8, 2010 OAC meeting minutes
 - a. The 2010 meeting minutes were approved, 22-0. (Motion: White, Second: Fairfax)
 - b. Per the request of Mr. Pigott, Chairman Bondurant invited Fred Collida of *Honig's* to speak about Honig's products for officials and their potential partnership with the FHSAA. During this discussion, Committee Members noted that a standardized clinic gift would be supported and that it would also be nice if the FHSAA Staff standardized the official's uniform, including a uniform jacket. Committee Members felt a standardized uniform would help to bring a more professional appearance to

officials. However, the officials would only be in support of the standardization if the FHSAA were to commit to a standardized logo for an extended number of years, to prevent officials from having to buy uniform items repeatedly.

4. Disperse into sports committees

- a. Chairman Bondurant advised all representatives to disperse into their sport specific committees to discuss and act upon all sport specific agenda items. The entire committee reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

5. Lunch break

- a. Lunch was provided at 12:00 p.m. and the Committee worked through lunch.

6. Committee reports/recommendations by sport:

a) Baseball

1. No action items were submitted.
2. Committee Representatives discussed the standardization of mechanics as the current NFHS mechanics seem to need some work. The Committee Representatives are going to look at alternate options for mechanics and may bring a new recommendation forward prior to the next meeting.
3. The new PDH rule adopted by the FHSAA seems to be working well.
4. Committee Representatives noted that we were experiencing minimal difficulty with the use of composite bats meeting the BBCOR or BESR ratings. It was noted that only non-wood BBCOR bats, composite or aluminum, will be authorized for use beginning 2012.
5. Due to the number of changes with the inspection process and bat rules, Committee Representatives recommended that bat inspections be handled by the local host officials committee at the FHSAA Baseball Finals. The process used by the NCAA was noted and recommended as it seems to be performed successfully on the collegiate level without the opportunity for error and/or incident.
6. It was recommended that the FHSAA standardize topics for field clinics for consistency and that Evaluation Camps be added. The Committee also felt the evaluation component needs to be removed from the field clinics.

b) Basketball

1. Pre-game handshake – Bob McKinney. The recommendation was denied, 3-0.
 - a. This recommendation was not supported by the Basketball Representatives of the Officials Advisory Committee as they felt the current protocol was sufficient and displayed good sportsmanship.

c) Football

1. Honig's Florida: official's equipment supplier – G. Pigott
 - a. See 3 (b) above. This item was discussed with all representatives for all sports prior to the dispersal into sport committees.
2. Uniform (foul weather pants) – J. Underwood, Official. **(Editorial)** The recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: Johnson)
 - a. The Committee recommended the editorial change include by local association adoption and by crew as all crew members should be dressed uniformly.
3. Uniform (alternate style shirt) – J. Walters, Official. The recommendation was denied, 4-0.
 - a. This recommendation was not supported by the Football Representatives of the Officials Advisory Committee as they felt the current rules regarding uniform shirts is sufficient.
4. Uniform (visible undergarments) – J. Underwood, Official. **(Editorial)** The recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: Johnson)
 - a. The Committee recommended the editorial change be made as submitted.
5. 25-second clock operator – J. Underwood, Official. **(Editorial)** The recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: Johnson)
 - a. The Committee recommended the editorial change be made as submitted.
6. 7-man mechanics evaluations – B. McKinney. **(Editorial)** The recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: Johnson)
 - a. The Committee recommended the editorial change be made as submitted.
7. Guidelines for classics – J. Underwood, Official.
 - a. The Committee recommended that this item should more appropriately be forwarded to the Coaches and Athletic Directors Advisory Committees.
8. Mercy rule – J. Underwood, Official. The recommendation was denied, 4-0.
 - a. This recommendation was not supported by the Football Representatives of the Officials Advisory Committee as they felt the current rules regarding the mercy rule are sufficient as the Crew Chief would still need to correspond with the coach in this situation.

9. Pre-game warm ups – J. Underwood, Official. The recommendation was denied, 4-0.
 - a. This recommendation was not supported by the Football Representatives of the Officials Advisory Committee as they felt that warm-ups should be managed by the assigned Crew Chief.
10. Running kickoffs – G. Pigott. The recommendation was approved to request an experiment from the NFHS, 22-0 with the clarification on the NCAA rule (loose ball in the end zone. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: Johnson)
11. Flag football (2-yard belt) – J. Underwood, Official. The recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: Johnson)

d) Soccer

1. No items submitted.
2. The Committee Representatives discussed increasing the official's jurisdiction over the contest to begin 30 minutes prior to game time vs. the current 15 minutes as it's very difficult to get all inspections and pregame requirements completed in 15 minutes.
3. Committee Representatives requested for local association training materials to be offered publicly so that training can be streamlined across the state for consistency and to provide assistance to Associations who are looking for additional training ideas.
4. State Evaluations were discussed and Committee Representatives felt it would be very beneficial to begin conducting Evaluations on the state level similar to Softball, Basketball and Baseball.
5. Physical fitness of officials was also discussed. The Committee Representatives felt this was a large component of the evaluation process at the local level and should not be taken lightly. Physical fitness of officials is of utmost importance and is beneficial to everyone involved.

e) Softball

1. Mercy rule – L. Warrenfeltz. The recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Field, Second: Whipple)

2. NFHS experiment with pitching rule – P. Bosshardt. Recommendation was amended by P. Bosshardt to read “Submit a National Federation Experiment...”. The amended recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Warrenfeltz, Second: Whipple)
3. Restriction to bench vs. ejection (discussion only) – J. Rohrer. Mrs. Rohrer noted that beginning with the 2011-12 season, the Officials Guidebook will no longer state that the FHSAA does not “restrict to the bench” for various rules. Therefore, the Officials Guidebook will be streamlined in 2011-12 with the National Federation Softball Rules and officials will enforce all rules as written by the NFHS.
4. 2-day region quarter final schedule (discussion only) – J. Rohrer. Mrs. Rohrer noted that beginning with the 2010-11 season, the Region Quarterfinal round will be played over 2-days. This will increase the number of available official’s crews and may also help to improve the quality of officiating across the state throughout the State Series.

f) Volleyball

1. Approved jewelry – P. White. **(Editorial)** This recommendation was approved, 21-1.
 - a. The Committee recommended the FHSAA come up with specific verbiage for the Officials Guidebook as deemed necessary.
2. Volleyball Committee Representatives also discussed recommendations to be forwarded to the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee. The two recommendations for the ADAC are: Mandatory use of line judge flags for volleyball and coaches attire for state series competition in all sports.

g) Wrestling

1. Secured shoe laces – G. Bondurant. **(Editorial)** The editorial recommendation was supported 3-0 by the Wrestling Representatives to be included in “Wrestling Administrative Guidelines” within the FHSAA Handbook as submitted.
2. Hair cover – G. Bondurant. **(Editorial)** The editorial recommendation was supported 3-0 by the Wrestling Representatives to be included in “Wrestling Administrative Guidelines” within the FHSAA Handbook as submitted.
3. Wrestling Committee Representatives also discussed the possibility of bringing the Officials Guidebook up-to-date with the current NFHS Rules. Representatives noted that the Guidebook should be streamlined with the NFHS Wrestling Rules Book.
4. Local evaluations were also discussed by the Wrestling Committee Representatives. The Committee felt it would be helpful if the same evaluation format was used in all local evaluations for consistency across the state.

7. General recommendations:

- a) Officials evaluations – G. Bondurant. The recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: White)
- b) Instant replay – M. Parks, Official. The recommendation was denied, 21-1. However, the recommendation was then amended to state “guidelines” should be included within the FHSAA Administrative Procedures published in the FHSAA Handbook to stipulate appropriate use of instant replay by home school administration during the State Series. The amended recommendation was approved, 22-0. (Motion: Fairfax, Second: Naso)
- c) Officials patch – J. Underwood, Official. The recommendation was denied, 22-0. (Motion: Inman, Second: Whipple).
 - a. Committee members felt the current rule restricting FHSAA patches to be worn only during FHSAA events is sufficient.

8. Open discussion:

- a) 8-class system – J. Rohrer. Mrs. Rohrer made the Committee aware that all sanctioned team sports, with the exception of Soccer will begin in 2011-12 with 8 classes as approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors.
- b) Artificial noisemakers – P. Jones. Dr. Jones noted that artificial noisemakers are no longer permissible during indoor or outdoor State Series contests. Committee members expressed interest in the FHSAA implementing that rule during the regular season as well as that seems to be where most of the issues arise.
- c) When to report injuries – P. Jones. Dr. Jones noted that all catastrophic injuries should be reported to the FHSAA on the AT6 Report Form in the miscellaneous section.
- d) Pre-game sportsmanship statement – P. Jones. Dr. Jones reminded officials that all officials need to remember to give the pre-game sportsmanship statement to coaches and captains as ejections and unsporting incidents are on the rise.
- e) Ranking system – P. Jones. Dr. Jones addressed the fact that the ranking system may need to be reviewed once again. She mentioned that if any committee members had suggestions, they should forward them to her.
- f) School meetings: officials/security – P. Jones. Dr. Jones reminded the officials of the schools requirements to officials and noted that if items are not provided, it needs to be brought to her attention.

g) On-line officials testing process – P. Jones. Dr. Jones reviewed the current testing process and correspondence from a registered official that addressed concerns of a flawed testing process. Committee members addressed their concerns and noted various ways the process could be improved. A few of the improvements recommended are as follows:

- a. Insert verbiage which test takers must agree to that “certifies” a test taker will not cheat;
- b. Change the name of the “Closed Book” to “Timed Test” and increase the number of questions;
- c. Increase the number of questions on the “Closed Book” and make all questions within the database available to officials prior to the exam as a study guide. This would allow for officials to use their book, but at the same time, they would most likely learn more as they would be using their book more often;
- d. Allow officials 2 chances to take the exam, similar to NCAA; and
- e. Mandate that officials submit the answers and rules references of questions answered incorrectly to the FHSAA in order to post a score.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.