

KSHSAA Official Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Benoit, Jeff Freeman, Lane Green, Ron Haag, Gerald Henderson, Jim Knight, Klaus Kollmai, Kurt McAfee, Tom Price, Vicki Raines, Polly Schroeder, Perry Warden. Absent: Robb Ross

Staff Present: Cheryl Gleason, David Cherry, Francine Martin, Mark Lentz

Mr. Musselman started the meeting by welcoming the committee and outlined changes and improvements that have occurred in his 16 years as the Executive Director.

The first topic discussed was the possibility of developing a sit out policy for officials who work state tournaments. It has been suggested that officials who work a state tournament should then sit out (not work) a state tournament the next year in order to give others a chance to work state tournament games. After much discussion there was no recommendation to change the current policy.

Discussion was held on how schools recommended officials and whether or not it would be possible for schools to identify which game they observed an official work during the year. Also discussed was the possibility of weighting the recommendations of schools differently than recommendations of those from league commissioners and area supervisors. Discussion was held on whether a school recommending an official who actually worked a game for them during the current year should be weighted higher than if a coach just observed an official in the past or saw them while scouting. Current policy is schools are to recommend officials they observed during the current year. No action was taken, but further consideration may be given to this topic.

Other discussion topics included:

- When an official is assigned to work a state tournament changing the current mileage (75 miles) to be able to have a motel room.
- Observer/evaluator programs – the group feels this is something we need to continue to look at having. Right now there is a question about whether or not we have enough officials to be observers. If a state observer program is set up – the KSHSAA would need to train the observers for consistency. Leagues are encouraged to try to set up programs for schools in their area to help with improving officials.
- Discussed whether or not to list area meeting attendance and post-season experience on the website like it is in the printed directory. It was explained that the printed directory was mailed to the League Commissioners, Area Supervisors and schools so they would have that information if needed.
- Use of Arbiter was discussed and the concern that some commissioners may not understand all of the features of Arbiter and may not be using them correctly. There are numerous tutorials available for assigners and officials on the Arbiter site. It appears most of the challenges are due to poor information being put into Arbiter. Games being cancelled late, or added, or incorrect schedules being given to commissioners by schools.
- Pink Whistles – is there a specific day or week to use them?
- Discussed ideas for mechanics meetings.
- KSHSAA staff explained that one of the challenges in assigning post season officials is availability of qualified officials.
- Ideas for changing the perception that Area meetings are only for post-season officials. All officials should consider these important meetings and attend if they want to improve.

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Recommendations to be sent to Executive Board for consideration:

- Recommend that only officials who have completed the requirements to work post season be listed for schools to submit as a post season official. Since the idea is for officials listed to work post-season schools waste their recommendation if they list someone who is not qualified. Recommendations should be given to officials who plan to work.
 - Requirements include: Attending mechanics/rules meeting; score 90% on open book NFHS Test I; Attend the required number of area meetings (2 in FB, VB, BB, WR) (1 in BSB, SB) (0 in soccer, track & field)
 - Officials must submit an application to be eligible and indicate which days they are available.
- Recommend that if officials assigned to a state tournament will be staying the night they be allowed to drive their own vehicle if desired rather than be assigned to car pool.
- Recommend that Black pants be allowed to be worn by football officials in place of the white knickers.
- Recommend that officials selected for state tournaments be allowed to have a “pass” at the pass gate for one other person to attend the tournament without paying the admission price.
- Recommend increasing the number of football official recommendations to 15 – since we have gone to crews of 5 this would allow for three full crews to be recommended. (current number is 12 probably based on 4 person crews.)

Committee members felt these issues need to be discussed at the next meeting

- Address issue of recruiting officials and how to retain them.
- Consider Ref Pay statewide
- Educating administrators on how to host officials
- Should there be an age requirement on officials?
- Developing clinics for officials to get information during their formative years.
- When replacing people on the committee consider having an official that is from 1-5 years on committee to give that perspective.
- Develop an observer program – could LOA’s work on this?
- In football consider mandating 45 point rule the whole year.
- All varsity coaches be required to complete some sort of evaluation on officials after each game.
- Officials should also be able to recommend officials for post season play. Give them a vote also.
- Building school responsibility for officials – need to impress upon schools the importance of committing time and effort to the recommendations of officials.
- Consider developing a training program for volleyball line judges.
- League commissioners should fall under the KSHSAA umbrella
- Consider some type of networking program for League Commissioners.
- Consider policies for social media and consequences of posting things that are inappropriate.
- Address sportsmanship issues
- Public Relations – how to get the word out about the rewards of being an official.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2012 at the KSHSAA office.