**WMSOA Pre-Season Meeting Minutes – Fall 2012**

**Saturday, August 4 Grandville Middle School**

**HIGH SCHOOL Meeting**

Following the 8:00 AM NISOA fitness run on the Grandville Middle School track, WMSOA President Doug Turkstra called the fall high school portion of the WMSOA pre-season meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Eighty-one members signed in for the HS meeting.

Doug expressed our thanks to Grandville Public Schools for making the Middle School track and meeting area available to us for our meeting. He also thanked Jaime Pilbeam for again coordinating the WMSOA uniform bulk order with OSI. Members who placed orders were able to pick them up before and after the meeting. Doug also mentioned that a new version of the WMSOA windbreaker, similar to the old style, is available. Cost is $35. Contact Jaime Pilbeam if interested in one.

Four new WMSOA members were introduced and welcomed.

Members are reminded to make sure you are registered with MHSAA for the new season. You cannot work MHSAA games unless you are registered for 2012-2013, so register immediately if you have not yet done so.

WMSOA board members and assignors were introduced: Doug-President; Mark Lundvick-Vice President; Bob Powers-Treasurer; Larry Olsen-Secretary; Members-at-large Matt Koekkoek; Duncan Purvis; Tom Walters; Assignors Greg Pilbeam; Bill Wagner; Matt Carlson. In addition, Greg and John Crumb continue as our contacts with the OK Conference and communicate with them regularly about on-field issues, security and safety issues, pay rates, and other mutual concerns. Contact any board member if you have questions about association matters. Check our website at wmsoa.org for contact information, current pay rates for games assigned by WMSOA, meeting schedules, and other information.

WMSOA is working to include more video training in our meetings and communications. We will see several game clips for discussion today, and there is an “AR Mechanics” video in the works that should be ready soon. We are also continuing our on-field review/assessment program. This is an effort to provide constructive suggestions and feedback to officials. Contact a board member if you are interested in having your game observed.

Jim Haskins, the OK Conference commissioner, was introduced. He thanked all officials for their commitment to the game. He mentioned that the OK is one of the largest high school conferences in the nation and emphasized that the conference needs good officials and wants to support us through good communication and interaction. He says there are many new coaches and ADs this fall getting acclimated to their roles. A point of emphasis is that good conduct is paramount from coaches and players. The conference contacts schools about any red cards reported. The OK website is okconference.org, where they will be doing more write-ups and game summaries; and schools will be able to add information. They are also working on a weekly TV program to spotlight local sports.

Greg spoke about MHSAA plans to go to an Arbiter-based assigning system soon, in which WMSOA will participate. Look for some “bumps in the road” whenever that is implemented. We are NOT on the MHSAA system at least for this fall. WMSOA has almost 1700 games to assign this fall and the new system was not ready for them yet. As always, check Arbiter daily for additional game assignments or changes to your schedule. If you want more games, there will be freshman games available shortly. WMSOA does not assign these games, so you will need to contact schools directly about them.

A number of schools are also going to use REF PAY to pay game fees. You must be able to sign up on line and for direct deposit to participate in this. If you are not paid within two weeks of your game, contact the school and the conference for follow-up. More information will be coming soon.

Both the OK Red and OK White will use a 3-man officiating system this fall; and there are now eight divisions in the OK Conference, with significant realignment of the teams. There will be no tournaments at the end of the season. There are no changes (at least so far) to the overtime procedures for this fall. An updated chart will be sent out soon, primarily to make you aware of the new divisional lists.

When officiating a game, do your job. Call the game that you see. Deal professionally with players and coaches.

1. Check your schedule and contact the school and your partners in advance to confirm where and when the game will be played.
2. If cards are needed, issue them and report them. Call Greg as soon as possible after your game to report a red card for a player, and either a red or a yellow card for a coach.
3. Be safety-conscious regarding injuries. Err on the side of caution. If you think an injury is serious, stop the game. Don’t wait for someone to play the ball out. If you think a player in not “right” to play, don’t let him play, be prepared to take some heat at the moment, and put the details in your game report.

The MHSAA on-line rules review and test are now available. Take them as soon as possible so your record is up to date so your record is up to date and on record if you are interested in consideration for tournament games.

The new NFHS rule book is out. Read it and note the significant changes and the important Michigan exception:

1. DOGSO-H is now a red card only is a goal is NOT scored in the immediately ensuing play
2. If a ball bursts or there is another “interruption” with the ball on the way to the goal on a penalty kick, the kick is retaken.
3. Michigan STILL ALLOWS A SUBSTITUTE for a player receiving a second yellow card in a game. MHSAA DID NOT adopt the new NFHS change to this rule. See the MHSAA Rules Insert for specific Michigan adoptions and procedures.

Several video clips were viewed, showing different game situations and fouls, with discussion following about what the correct decisions should have been and about how the officials dealt with them and might have improved on them.

Following the videos, the HS portion of the meeting was concluded. Following a short break, the NISOA portion of the meeting was begun.

**NISOA Meeting**

Fifty-five members signed in for the 08/04 NISOA meeting (in addition, thirty-two more members attended the combined HS and NISOA make-up meeting on Wednesday, 08/15).

The new NCAA rule books should be mailed soon. They are also available to download and print out from the NCAA website is your book does not arrive quickly. Be sure to read through them. There are a number of rule changes for this season.

MIAA Commission, Jim Nielsen, was not able to attend; but he sent his appreciation for our work last year and looks forward to another good season. New pay rates for MIAA, as well as those for other games WMSOA assigns are available on our website at wmsoa.org.

WMSOA will continue to do “site surveys” at as many of our college game sites as possible. If working at a site where radio equipment is used, be sure to take care of it. Make sure all pieces and parts are securely attached and in good working order. Let Greg know if there are problems.

Do your Arbiter game reports promptly and properly, including score, cards issued, whether a site administrator and trainer were present, and any safety or security issues. Contact Greg as soon as possible about all red cards and any yellow cards issued to coaches. Be aware that there are several new college coaches in our area.

Register on line for post-season tournament consideration and take the required test by August 24.

Know the COLLEGE rules. Don’t make a mistake that provides an opportunity for a protest to be filed. Some of the college changes this year include:

1. NO jewelry for officials other than a watch for timekeeping.
2. Electronic devices like tablets are OK as coaching aids, but electronic communication by phone is not.
3. Referee has discretion in last five minutes to allow clock to run if losing team gets a card or to stop clock for obvious time-wasting by the leading team. (This should be only for very obvious efforts to “manage” the clock by the offending team.)
4. Protests now must be filed within 48 hours and only for errors that impact the outcome or player eligibility.
5. Excessive celebration is now cautionable. Be pro-active to discourage this.
6. ONLY team captains can approach center referee during intervals, unless summoned by the referee.
7. Throw-ins that do not enter the field are now turned over to the opposing team (like HS rule).

Remember that NCAA overtime in the regular season is required for games tied at the end of regulation. Overtime is two 10-minute periods played with “golden goal”.

If there is a serious injury on the field, stop the game. The coaches want the game stopped for anything that looks significant, and especially for head injuries. Our #1 job is player safety.

NISOA will support whatever the NCAA establishes as a “social media” policy. Do not have conversations or post on line anything about your officiating or the players, coaches, or schools for whom you officiate. Don’t communicate directly with players, coaches, or school personnel in any way that could compromise the perception of your integrity and impartiality.

Additional video clips of a number of college game situations were viewed and discussed. After the video session, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Olsen / WMSOA Secretary