

WMSOA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**6:30pm****March 5, 2015****Sunnybrook CC**

Officers Present: Mark Lundvick, Paul Holwerda, Duncan Purvis, Jim Krol, Adam Carlson, Matt Koekkoek

Officers Absent: Bob Powers

Also present: Keith Miller

NISOA Liaison...Keith reported that Greg Pilbeam will be taking over for him as our liaison to NISOA.

Spring Midseason Meeting...Logistics for the upcoming meeting, availability and duties of the officers, and an agenda for the meetings were discussed. Duncan has sent out the invitation and information email to all members and will report RSVPs as the meeting nears. Adam will be responsible for bringing drinks; Greg will provide food. It was decided we would stick with the PowerPoint and Adam will handle its creation. Suggestions for content included real-game case studies to be discussed, with a strong moderator helping along the dialogue. Some topics suggested included clock management, hair pulling, etc.

Mailing & Distribution Lists/Dues Payment Reconciliation...A need to coordinate mailing lists was discussed. As it stands, assignors use one list of referees in Arbiter to assign games, Duncan uses a different list of referees in excel for email distribution, and no one is sure what list Bob uses to send dues invoice information. There is concern some people are being missed. In response to Duncan receiving an email from a member admitting he had not yet paid his 2015 WMSOA dues because he had never received an invoice, the question was asked who was verifying whether or not each member has paid dues. No one knew the answer. Duncan will send his email distribution list to Matt and Greg for their review.

End of Game Protocol...Due to a few unfortunate instances of referee abuse that happened last year, the Executive Committee is working on finalizing suggested metrics to improve referee safety, specifically a recommended postgame protocol for the referee crew, to be effective for the fall 2015 season. The protocol will likely require officials to participate in a pregame handshake with the players, and then seek to leave the vicinity immediately following the match. If the crew feels a post-match confrontation is imminent, the crew should retreat to a predetermined safe zone, wait for managers/escorts, then depart safely as a group. If passed by the Executive Committee, a letter will be sent to the OK Conference and to other associations too, with hopes they will also send something similar to the MHSAA.

Attendance Tracking/Incentives...Duncan will add columns to his membership list and begin tracking attendance in an easy-to-view format. Per our Bylaws and Constitution as well as comments made in past membership meetings, assignors are strongly encouraged to give preference for center referee assignments to qualified officials who demonstrate commitment to WMSOA by attending meetings.

New Format for Fall Midseason...Duncan has proposed a new format for midseason meetings, with the hope of putting more of an emphasis on on-field training and real-life refereeing situations. The Executive Committee asked him to draft a proposal of what he is thinking for the fall 2015 midseason meeting and submit it to the EC for review.

Retirement Recognition...Duncan was informed recently just before a game by one of the members of the crew that it was that member's last scheduled high school game after 20 years of service. Duncan drafted some ideas to the Executive Committee that we could implement to recognize the efforts of our retiring members. It was acknowledged that it requires the retiring official to provide notification and be okay with recognition, but – if done correctly – all agreed this approach can make "riding off into the sunset" a win-win for all involved.

New NISOA Officials...Later this spring four officials will sit through a class and take a fitness test to become newly registered NISOA officials.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Duncan Purvis / WMSOA Secretary