

(Similar meeting covering an identical agenda was held at Grand Rapids Christian High School on 8/11/14)

64 members signed in for the Grandville meeting and 53 attended the make up meeting, plus Executive Committee members.

Doug Turkstra, WMSOA President, opened the high school portion of the fall pre-season meeting at 9:15am, following the NISOA Fitness Test run at the Grandville HS track. Between the end of the fitness test and the opening of the meeting, donuts, snacks, and beverages were available and members who had ordered uniform and equipment items were able to pay for them and pick them up. As an incentive for attending this meeting, WMSOA handed out WMSOA-logoed flipping coins to all in attendance.

**Guest Presenter...**Katie Farrimond, a former D2 soccer player and now licensed Physical Therapist at Shoreline Sport and Spine, presented to the group. Katie covered ideas for conditioning, endurance training, strength training, and agility training specific to the demands of a soccer referee.

**Arbiter and Assignor Report...**Greg Pilbeam gave these updates and began by welcoming everyone and asked a few new members to stand and introduce themselves. Greg shared that the first day of the District Tournament in each season continues to be a real struggle for the Assignment Committee. This past spring, we had to inform schools that we could not staff two games on the first day of Districts, as we had every single other available referee working. The Assignment Committee's frustrations are increased by the fact that many officials showed available to work on that day, but declined the assignments when Greg called them on the phone. Greg reminded all officials to please keep your Arbiter calendar up to date. If you are available to referee high school scrimmages on August 18, 2014 at Kentwood, please let Greg know.

**Referee Safety...**Duncan Purvis referenced the unfortunate and tragic event over the summer where a fellow referee was struck and killed by a punch from a player. It was noted that WMSOA made a donation to the John Bieniewicz Memorial Fund. Duncan used this situation as an opportunity to remind our officials to always be aware of one's surroundings on the field, and taught some "writing mechanics" on how to properly write in your book while also keeping your head up.

**News from the MHSAA...**Duncan and Nick Balcer presented important MHSAA changes for the upcoming 2014-2015 soccer season. These included (1) that blue and green USSF uniforms have been approved as an alternate jersey for officials, (2) the white jersey for the home team and the sock tape color rules are now in effect, but the MHSAA has asked us to use common sense when dealing with these and not to prevent a player from playing or a game from starting, and (3) now, if the referee stops the clock for an apparent injury to any player, that player must leave the field – including the goalkeeper. In light of this significant change, Duncan and Nick talked about different scenarios when an official MUST stop the clock, MAY stop the clock (use discretion), and MAY NOT stop the clock.

**Head Injuries...**Duncan and Nick led the group through a reminder of how the MHSAA asks officials to deal with apparent head injuries. Officials have NO ROLE in diagnosing whether a concussion has occurred or not, so it was suggested that if the game is stopped for an apparent head injury that the official does NOT say "the c-word" but rather asks the school's designated health care professional (may be a doctor, trainer, or coach) to "check this player for an apparent head injury" and let that person determine whether or not the player may return to play. Following a situation when a player does not return to the game due to a head injury, the official must file an Official Report through the MHSAA website as soon as possible.

This concluded the high school portion of the meeting.

**NISOA...**Jamie Pilbeam presented the NISOA portion of the meeting by going through video clips and points of emphasis that were covered at the annual conference for NISOA National officials. An emphasis was put on getting correct anything that could possibly lead to a protested game, including but not limited to substitution rules, fighting versus violent conduct, and rule interpretations. To be considered for postseason assignments, Jamie reminded officials to register on the NCAA Central Hub on Arbiter and complete the NCAA rules test. Greg handed out a refresher test and then there was a review of the test.

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Duncan Purvis / WMSOA Secretary