

(Similar meeting covering an identical agenda was held at Grand Haven High School on 3/11/14)

Members arrived for pizza and drinks between 6:30 and 7:00pm. 46 members signed in for the Kentwood meeting and 20 attended the Grand Haven meeting, plus Executive Committee members. A new format was introduced at the meetings. Training meetings will all now follow the same topics as outlined below and talking points will be displayed on a Powerpoint so as to keep all presenters on track and on time.

As an incentive for attending this meeting, WMSOA handed out WMSOA-logoed flipping coins to all in attendance.

**News from WMSOA...**Greg Pilbeam began the meeting at 7:00pm by welcoming everyone and asked five new members to stand and introduce themselves. He anticipates a lot of game cancelations at the beginning of this season due to the weather/snow. Please keep your calendar up to date to assist with rescheduled games needing to be assigned. Greg reported the switch back to the original Arbiter from ArbiterGame will hopefully reduce or eliminate the number of glitches experienced last fall. He also reported that more and more schools continue to utilize RefPay for referee payment and that everyone needs to get on board. If you are available to referee high school scrimmages that may be taking place on March 22, 2014 at either/both Kentwood or/and Hope College, please contact Larry Olson.

WMSOA's membership is now up over 200; however we still find ourselves short of bodies out on the Lakeshore. If you are asked to head west a little bit, please comply, and please keep your ear to the ground for potential officials interested in refereeing high school soccer.

**News from the OK Conference...**In a meeting with the OK Conference, John Crumb and Greg advocated for improved site security, for a site supervisor and trainer to be present at all times, for enhanced security surrounding officials' social security numbers, for a more streamlined red card reporting system, and for a pay raise beginning fall 2015. In that same meeting, the OK Conference reported plans to continue to grow in number of schools, continued emphasis on their desire for referees to be very cautious with and to stop the game immediately for head injuries, and their intention that all coaches will be CPR/First Aid certified by fall 2014.

**News from the MHSAA...**Greg reported the MHSAA will soon be voting on whether or not to allow green and blue as alternate referee jersey color options and that new NFHS and MHSAA rules may again be coming for fall 2014, including the implementation of the new team jersey color requirements.

**Skills Training...**Nick Balcer led the group through a series of video segments where items such as foul recognition, game/player management, urgency, mechanics, teamwork, and situational awareness were all discussed.

**Rule Review...**Paul Holwerda led the group through a review of the Offside rule, including clarification of the important variables surrounding the offside decision, conversation on a few potential "odd" scenarios, a discussion about the perils of Parallax Vision, and some video examples to help put the conversation in context.

**Helpful Hints...**Duncan Purvis led the group through a brief conversation on items for referees to consider when it comes to income taxes. He also led the group through a demonstration of some of the features of arbitersports.com, specifically the "Block Calendar" function.

As an incentive to attend the Spring Cracker Barrel meetings, Duncan announced that each person in attendance will get their name entered into a drawing to win an official US Soccer scarf commemorating the 2-0 win over Mexico in Columbus during World Cup Qualifying (see picture).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Duncan Purvis / WMSOA Secretary

