

SPORTS OFFICIALS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting: Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 10:30 AM

Sports Officials Council Advisory Committee Members:

Basketball	Jeremy Mikkelsen, Pierre	2023 (1)
Cheer/Dance	Christina Bennett, Pierre	2023 (1)
Football	Mark Smith, Pierre	2022 (2)
Gymnastics	Shavonne Mitchell, Pierre	2023 (2)
Track/XC	Steve Charron, Huron	2023 (2)
Volleyball	Kelley Devine, Sioux Falls	2024 (2)
Wrestling	Bud Postma, Madison	2023 (*)
Athletic Director	Paul Nepodal, Lead-Deadwood	2022 (2)
Native Am. Rep.	John Long, Pine Ridge	2024 (1)
Soccer	Guy McNeely, Yankton	2022 (2)
Ex-Officio	TBD	
Secretary	Bo Beck, Aberdeen	
Treasurer	Terry Duffy, Brookings	

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order by Paul Nepodal, President at 10:30 AM.

Absent was Jeremy Mikkelsen and Guy McNeely. Jo Auch, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director and Randy Soma, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director were also present at the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Devine, second by Postma to approve the agenda. Motion approved 8-0.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

President Paul Nepodal welcomed the new members to the Sports Officials Council:

1. John Long, Native American Rep.
2. Christina Bennett, Cheer/Dance Rep.
3. Bud Postma, Wrestling Rep.

Jo Auch explained/reviewed the purpose of the Sports Officials Council Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes from 4/7/2021

Motion by Smith, second by Charron to approve the meeting minutes from 4/7/2021. Motion approved 8-0.

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Terry Duffy reviewed the financial report.

Terry commented that a number of events did not happen last year due to COVID so the year-end balance was larger than in the past years.

Terry reviewed the current year budget and indicated that there is a larger sum of money designated this year for mentorships due to the push for new officials.

Jo Auch asked Terry to explain what fees the SDHSAA funds to SPOC. Terry commented that SPOC receives \$5.00/official from the SDHSAA along with \$2,600.00 per year in additional support. Jo stated that \$5.00/official is also given to the individual sports groups with the goal to recruit/retain officials.

Motion by Long, second by Smith to approve the Financial Report.
Motion approved 8-0.

6. **Sports Reps Reports**

** Football – Mark Smith

- Mark Smith stated that the football season just finished and that almost all games were played this year. He commented that there were more games played this year on Thursday, Friday afternoons, and Saturday due to a shortage of football officiating crews.
- Mark stated that the championship games used instant replay again this year and he thought it went well.
- There were twice as many games observed this year by evaluators so there will be an increase in the amount spent on observations.
- Randy Soma commented that Mark Smith did a wonderful job in putting together and distributing videos to football officials. Bud Postma asked if people send videos to Mark? Mark replied that he has a Hudl account and he requests videos from schools and views the crews.

** Basketball – Jeremy Mikkelsen

- Jeremy Mikkelsen was absent so Jo Auch did the basketball report. She discussed that mini basketball jamborees are being scheduled. We no longer will be hosting the large basketball jamborees. The mini jamborees are by region and the number of officials that need a jamboree.

** Cross Country/Track – Steve Charron

- Steve discussed the State Track Meet from last year. He stated that it was held at 3 sites both days and that the schedule/times were also altered due to COVID.
- Steve stated that plans are in the works for in-person officials rules meetings around the state this year. The meetings will take place in Huron, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls.
- Steve discussed that the State Cross Country Meet was held in Sioux Falls and went well. Randy Soma added that it went well and was a beautiful day.
- Steve commented that the State Track Meet will go from a multi-site 2-day meet to a one-site 3-day meet this year.
- Steve commented that there is a rule proposal to require automated timing (FAT) for the top 24. Randy Soma commented that there is a proposal in Class AA for 2022-2023. Jo Auch stated that the SDHSAA Board discussed why the proposal wasn't for Class A and Class B and that the SDHSAA Board is in favor of having FAT for all classes.
- Steve asked for rule clarification on out of season participation – for instance, the NIKE Nationals. The rules are as follows:
 - o Regular season to last day of the state meet
 - o Athletes can do whatever they want after the season as long as their coaches aren't involved

For example, in the NIKE Meet, Athletes must be running independently and their coaches should not be working with their Athletes (until the summer window).

** Wrestling – Bud Postma

- Bud Postma commented that the State Meet was held in Rapid City last year. It was the 1st year for girls wrestling championships. Bud also commented that they need to work on scheduling kinks at the State Meet.
- Bud stated that region meetings will be starting soon for the upcoming season and that he knows of 4-5 retired officials that are interested in doing wrestling officials evaluations.
- Bud Postma left the SPOC meeting at 12:26 pm

** Gymnastics – Shavonne Mitchell

- Jo Auch commented that the annual clinic was not held this year. Clinics will be held every 2 years because the rule book gets updated every 2 years. Jo also stated that the State Meet will change from 2 sessions to 4 sessions.

** Native American Issues – John Long

- John Long stated that before the next SPOC meeting that he will reach out to Native American Officials to see how we can do a better job of recruiting and retaining officials.

** Competitive Cheer/Dance – Christina Bennett

- Christina Bennett commented that the State Meet in Brandon went well and that there was record attendance. Christina also stated that Cheer has been quiet this year and that Dance updated the Rubric this year. She also noted that plans are to spend more time this summer on safety training for officials.

** Soccer – Guy McNeely

- Guy McNeely was absent so Randy Soma did the Soccer report. Randy stated that the State Finals went well. He commented that officials reciprocity with Minnesota helped fill officials for all games this year. Randy also stated that there is still interest in discussion on riding times and background checks

** Volleyball – Kelley Devine

- Kelley Devine stated that the State Tournament in Rapid City went well. There were many positive comments on the new venue – beautiful, good food, ample parking, good seating. It was also stated that there was more room to work with and everything was on time. Also, the ball girls did a wonderful job. Programs were changed this year and the new program was very classy and extremely sharp. Jo Auch said that Randy Soma had suggested the change and recommended the printing company. They have heard many positive comments about the new program format.
- Kelley stated that the following items were brought up at the meeting following the State Tournament:
 1. Mini-Jamborees – need to have mini-jamborees later in the summer for new officials. It was suggested that maybe we record mini-jamborees for late officials to view and complete their requirements.

2. Straw poll was taken to see if we should have all 3 championship matches at the same time. Result determined that this is an idea to consider.
3. Encourage nominees for the Steve Withorne Award.

** Athletic Director – Paul Nepodal

- Paul Nepodal contacted AD's for meeting topics and received the following:
 1. Set rates for officials in all sports
 2. Recruitment/retention of officials – possibly introduce officiating class in high school PE classes
 3. Ability to have officials to comment/evaluate fans, coaches, and sportsmanship of schools
 4. Riding time for officials
 5. Using registered officials to partner with certified officials for post season play if short on certified officials. An example would be to use local line judges for post season play in volleyball
- Jo Auch commented that these are all great topics. She stated that this group makes rules for officials, including post season eligibility. Jo said that she likes the idea of PE classes and using younger students for officiating elementary and middle school games. We do need to protect these younger officials from poor crowd sportsmanship and make it a positive experience. Jo commented that she is not in support of using registered officials for post season. There are more requirements for certified officials and we should be encouraging the registered officials to become certified officials.
- The topic of officials shortage was discussed. We probably have more of a geographic shortage in areas of the state than an overall shortage of officials. Overall, there were 1500 officials last year compared to 1583 this year.
- Jo Auch brought up an idea to think about – paying certified officials more money than registered officials.
- Randy Soma commented that he believes the shortage to fill games is more at the lower level (JV, Soph, 9th).

7. **NASO Report**

Jo Auch commented that the NASO Conference was held virtually last year due to COVID. There has been no decision yet on the NASO Conference this year. Jo will keep everyone updated when she finds out any new information.

8. **Other business**

a. **Steve Withorne Award** – Nominations for the Steve Withorne Award were taken at this time. Larry Osborne was nominated by John Long.

Motion by Long, second by Devine to nominate Larry Osborne for the Steve Withorne award and cast unanimous ballot. Motion approved 8-0.

b. **Policy Reminder** – Elect the President-Elect in April, to take over at the November meeting. Current President of the Sports Official's Council is Paul Nepodal. Current President-Elect is Jeremy Mikkelsen.

c. Pay for Officials, Riding Time Concerns, Treatment of Officials – One objective of the SDHSAA Strategic Plan is for the recruitment and retention of officials. The SPOC committee reviewed a document of officials pay for all sports (130 schools responded).

Jo Auch discussed the following:

1. Pay – need to make more balanced
2. Mileage – need for riding mileage
3. Treatment of Officials – i.e. food on way home from game

Jo asked if the SPOC wants the SDHSAA to set a minimum and maximum pay for officials? Kelley Devine commented that we need to start with a minimum. Paul Nepodal asked do we consider the difference in pay for registered vs. certified officials to encourage officials to become certified? Following a discussion by SPOC, Jo Auch asked the sports reps to have this discussion with their sports groups.

d. Books of Wisdom – Timmins (FB/BB) – The Books of Wisdom for football was distributed to all football officials this year. The Books of Wisdom for basketball is currently on hold.

e. Background Checks – Jo Auch gave a quick update. The committee did not meet this summer. There will be a report at the April SPOC meeting.

f. Post-Secondary Officiating Courses – DWU/BHSU/NSU Interest – Discussion was held about interest in having officiating courses at the University Level.

g. Other Concerns –

Jo Auch discussed the following:

1. Awards – Has had question asked if the officiating awards are for years in South Dakota only or awards for years in all states combined? Jo commented that our rules state that all years of officiating must be in South Dakota.
2. Ex-Officio Position – TBD position. Jo Auch stated that she was curious about the direction of the position and where do we want to go? Do we want to fill the position or eliminate the position? She commented that the position doesn't need to be filled today but she was just looking for comments. Paul Nepodal asked if it is a term limited position? Jo answered no. Paul replied that he believes it is an important position to keep so we have consistency and experience. Jo suggested to think about who we could nominate for the position and discuss at our next meeting in April.

9. Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next meeting of the Sports Officials Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 via Zoom beginning at 10:30 AM.

Motion by Smith, second by Devine to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 pm.

Motion approved 7-0.