

SPORTS OFFICIALS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting: Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 10:30 AM

Sports Officials Council Advisory Committee Members:

Basketball	Jeremy Mikkelsen, Pierre	2026 (2)
Cheer/Dance	Christina Bennett, Pierre	2026 (2)
Football	Scott Jacobson, Rapid City	2025 (1)
Gymnastics	Jenny Christian, SF	2026 (1)
Track/XC	Tim Casper, Lake Preston	2026 (1)
Volleyball	Nick Huntimer, Madison	2027 (1)
Wrestling	Bud Postma, Madison	2026 (1)
Athletic Director	Mike King, Irene-Wakonda	2025 (1)
Native Am. Rep.	John Long, Lakota Tech	2024 (1)
Soccer	Guy McNeely, Yankton	2025 (2)
Softball	Brett Distel, Box Elder	2025 (1)
Secretary	Bo Beck, Aberdeen	
Treasurer	Terry Duffy, Brookings	
Official Coordinator	Justin Ingalls, Sioux Falls	

1. Call Meeting to Order/Attendance/Welcome to New Members

Meeting was called to order by Kristina Sage, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director at 10:30 AM. Absent was Bud Postma (Wrestling) and Mike King (Athletic Director). Dan Swartos, SDHSAA Executive Director and Randy Soma, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director were also present at the meeting. Kristina Sage turned the meeting over to President John Long.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Casper, second by Distel to approve the agenda. Motion approved 9-0.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

Kristina Sage welcomed the new member of the Sports Officials Council:

1. Nick Huntimer, Volleyball Rep.

Sage explained/reviewed the purpose of the Sports Officials Council Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes from 4/3/2024

Motion by Jacobson, second by Casper to approve the meeting minutes from 4/3/2024. Motion approved 9-0.

5. Financial Report

Treasurer Terry Duffy reviewed the financial report.

1. Checking account activity/ending balance for FY 2023-2024 (Ending balance on 7/31/2024 was \$42,176.48)
2. Checking account activity for FY 2024-2025 (current balance on 11/20/2024 is \$37,357.36).

3. Motion by Casper, second by Mikkelsen to approve the request for start-up money in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Cross Country and Track & Field Officials Association and Wrestling Officials Association and to give approval to Terry Duffy, Treasurer to issue the checks in the amount of \$1,000.00 each. Also, this motion is valid for any future start-up officials' Association(s) if the money is requested. Motion approved 9-0.

Motion by Distel, second by Bennett to approve the Financial Report. Motion approved 9-0.

6. Sports Reps Current Season Reports/State Events (discussion items only, no formal proposals until April meeting)

**** Basketball – Jeremy Mikkelsen**

- Jeremy Mikkelsen discussed the following items:
 - The girls basketball season started yesterday (11/25) with the first games on Thursday, December 5. The boys basketball season starts on December 2.
 - Currently there are 487 registered basketball officials including a good number of new officials.

**** Competitive Cheer/Dance – Christina Bennett**

- Christina Bennett commented that the state event at The Monument in Rapid City went well.
- She also stated that they are working on proposals.
- Christina discussed that some officials are wanting a new uniform shirt with a color change from the current white shirt. She asked what the process was to initiate a change.
- Kristina Sage explained the uniform change process.

**** Football – Scott Jacobson**

- Scott Jacobson discussed the following items:
 - Rule Changes:
 - Home team jersey color.
 - Knee Pads – point of emphasis this year (got better this year).
 - Video observation program went well.
 - Need for a pay increase for football officials (currently \$125.00/game).
 - Recommended that riding mileage be changed from “recommended to be paid” to “required to be paid”.
 - Recommended that the SDHSAA give a pass to all officials to attend the state tournament/finals in the sport in which they officiate.
 - Championship games went well at the Dome in Vermillion. Looking forward to next year.

**** Soccer – Guy McNeely**

- Guy McNeely stated that there are 110 soccer officials and that the state championships in Yankton went well. He would like to request that food be supplied for officials at the state finals.

**** Track/Cross Country – Tim Casper**

- Tim Casper discussed the following items:
 - Website is up and running.
 - Randy, Dan, and I attended a Howard Wood Relays site usage meeting. It was very interesting and intense to see how they propose to change up the location of field events at the Howard Wood Field.
 - Trying to eliminate the South Dakota deviations in track to align with the NFHS:
 - 100 m hurdle distance.
 - 200 m dash to allow being reversed at the state meet.
 - The State Cross Country Meet at Rapid City had 745 runners.
 - The South Dakota Cross Country and Track & Field Officials Association will be putting on four (4) clinics around the state in February and March.
 - There are 90 cross country officials and 100 track & field officials.

**** Volleyball – Nick Huntimer**

- Nick Huntimer stated that the State Tournament in Sioux Falls went well.
- He also stated that the registered number of volleyball officials was up this year.
- The volleyball clinic will be held on July 10-11, 2025 in Sioux Falls.
- Nick asked how to request \$1,000.00 for the state volleyball clinic and will request this from SPOC in April.
- Huntimer also discussed a possible raise to officials pay for state tournament officials and a request to increase the riding mileage fee to \$0.25/mile.
- Kristina Sage reported that she had heard reports of the poor quality of the fabric on the current volleyball officials shirt.

**** Gymnastics – Jenny Christian**

- Jenny Christian stated that the gymnastics season started in the first week of November with meets beginning next week.
- There are 31 total judges (20 certified). This includes 1 new judge and 2 returning judges.
- She also discussed conference/qualifier meets and that the clinic had a great turnout.

**** Wrestling – Bud Postma**

- No Report.

**** Softball – Brett Distel**

- Brett Distel commented that we are going into the 3rd season of softball.
- Distel stated that there will be a change in state tournament locations as follows: State A & State B Tournaments in Aberdeen and State AA Tournament in Sioux Falls (Augustana). He also added that we will be going to a 3-person rotation for umpires at the state tournament this year.
- Currently there are 93 registered umpires, including 19 new umpires. (Approximately 80+ east river officials and 9-10 west river officials). We are working to recruit more officials.
- A discussion was held about softball moving to the fall. Distel stated the following stats on when seasons are held in other states around the country: Summer = 1 state, Fall = 5 states, Spring = rest of the states.

- Distel also discussed the umpire jacket. Currently, we use the Smitty jacket and most high schools around the country are aligning to use both a light weight and a thermal jacket. Smitty will no longer be carrying the current umpire jacket so it will no longer be available.
- Randy Soma clarified the 2-yr process of uniform/jacket adoption. The first step would be to send out jacket pictures in a survey looking for a favorable majority response back. Then, give consent to start wearing the new jacket in Year 1 with a requirement to wear in Year 2. Kristina Sage will send out the survey.

**** Athletic Director – Mike King**

- No Report.

**** Native American Issues – John Long**

- John Long commented that they are continuing to try and recruit Native Officials. He also stated that there are still concerns about school administration control of fan behavior and protection of officials.
- Randy Soma commented that any official with concerns needs to contact the SDHSAA with what is happening/issues. Then, the SDHSAA will contact the school to address concerns and how we can improve/make this better.
- Long stated that he has received questions on why the SDHSAA hasn't changed to the new basketball officials shirt as the survey vote was 52% Yes and 48% No.
- Soma replied that it usually needs to be a higher percentage differences to initiate a change and 52-48 is not enough of a difference to make that change.

**** SDHSAA Report – Kristina Sage/Randy Soma**

1. Procedure for a change in official's uniform.
 - a. Discussed earlier in the meeting.
2. Mileage and Riding Time.
 - a. Discussed earlier in the meeting.
3. Basketball region meetings along with jamboree.
 - a. Scott Jacobson commented that we do this in football. Brett Distel stated that we also do this with our state volleyball clinic/meeting.
4. Cross Country Online Test.
 - a. Randy Soma stated that the Cross Country online test requirement is being removed.
5. Proposals – brought to the meeting today for discussion. Proposals will be on the April SPOC agenda. Discussion was held on the following proposals:
 - a. Proposal #1:
 - i. Change the wording on suspension from officiating for one year for failing to meet the same requirement for 3 consecutive years to: suspended from the sport in which the official fails to meet the requirement for 3 consecutive years.
 - b. Proposal #2:
 - i. Add 3rd classification of registered officials across all sports. This classification would only be eligible to work

regular season contest, no post season eligibility.
Requirements would be minimalized, no jamboree
requirement, 1 region meeting requirement as examples.

c. **Proposal #3:**

- i. Officials shall not work a post season contest within a region that involves a school in which they have a student enrolled.

6. **Out of state officials moving to South Dakota and years of experience credited:**

- a. Randy Soma discussed the question of an out of state official that moves to South Dakota and should the SDHSAA count those out of state years of experience for our awards and/or state tournament requirements. Following the SPOC discussion, Randy stated that this item should be placed on the April SPOC agenda.

7. **Other Items of Concern**

** None

8. **Other business**

a. **Steve Withorne Award** – Nominations for the Steve Withorne Award were taken at this time. The following individuals were nominated: Pete Entringer, Greg Blue, Chad Gordon, and Royce Wuertzer. Following discussion, Motion by Casper, second by Distel to nominate Pete Entringer for the Steve Withorne Award. Motion approved 9-0.

b. **Policy Reminder** – Elect the President-Elect in April 2025, to take over at the November 2025 meeting. Current President of the Sports Official's Council is John Long.

9. **Next Meeting Date/Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Sports Officials Advisory Council will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 beginning at 10:30 AM.

Motion by Jacobson, second by Distel to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 am. Motion approved 9-0.