

Whatcom-Skagit-Island Football Officials Association and Washington Officials Association Meeting



Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Time: 9:00am

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Notes Compiled by: Nick Perigo, secretary

Attendance:

Present:

WOA: Todd Stordahl

WSI: Pete Lockhart and Nick Perigo

Meeting Minutes:

Todd going over changes Arbiter made for this fall (or more likely February or March)

- Resources tab:
 - Middle School
 - High School
 - Non-WIAA Middle School (Bellingham Schools)
- If Bellingham Schools choose not to be a part of the co-op, Pete will have to enter the scheduling info directly into Arbiter, so officials can get paid. Todd says that it's in the best interest of the Bellingham Middle Schools to join the co-op.
- Setting defaults for when schools import games: 5 for varsity, 4 or sub-varsity, 3 for middle school.
- Question from Pete: When we do a couple varsity games without a BJ, should he change that individual game or the default. Answer: Just make the change in that individual game, and it will be reflected in assignments and bill-to.

Todd confirmed with Pete that all 9th graders in our area play high school football and do not attend middle or junior high.

Question from Todd: How does charging for jamborees work? Pete shared that historically, we have not charged and we've used it as a training. Todd mentioned that we'll leave jamboree as custom in Arbiter and we can adjust if needed in the future.

Todd was curious that sub-varsity was not yet imported into Arbiter, Pete clarified that usually up here we don't get those schedules until mid-August.

Pete went on to explain the three-way game setup that occurs from time to time. Officials ended up earning roughly 1.5 game fee and the teams paid roughly .5 a game fee.

- Pete and Todd will connect when football starts to figure out the scheduling/billing when these games begin. Pete explained his process for scheduling these games, and Todd seemed pleased with that approach.

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Todd explained the process of creating “squads within teams.” For example, under the Lynden High School umbrella, there is a JV squad and a C squad. When reflected in the leveling, both squads are listed as JV. Todd explained that this is an effort to clean up the number of levels to deal with.

As of right now, with add/deduct (for association fees or banquet fees), officials will have to pay the association with a check or Venmo. However, Arbiter should be adding a feature in January that allows for the money to be paid to WSI out of individual official Arbiter Pay accounts instead of having them using Venmo or a check. This is when delaying the season is beneficial in that this feature should be in place by the time football occurs.

Todd shared that WOA will be collecting fees directly from the officials and any fees WSI is holding on behalf of officials will need to be refunded to those officials.

Todd mentioned that WOA is able to distribute money via Arbiter Pay as we see fit. For example, if we need WOA to send X amount of money to pay our assignor and Y amount of money to pay our treasurer, WOA will send those payments directly to those officials on behalf of the WSI.

Pete asked about continuing to collect an assigning fee from officials, and Todd mentioned using add/deduct would be how this could be done.

Discussion of travel. Basketball chose not to change island travel costs because of increasing fees for teams. This is something we can discuss as an association.

- Todd discusses a hypothetical situation to ensure that guys traveling the furthest gets fairly compensated.
 - Example of a Monday afternoon game in Mount Vernon. Three officials live in Mount Vernon and one is coming from Lynden. One approach would be to call the three Mount Vernon officials carpoolers so they get \$10 for travel, and the official from Lynden is marked as the driver and receives the extra money for being “the driver.”

Questions about game reports. Pete wants to know if reports can be re-accessed after submitting initial scores for WOA requirement. This would allow white hats to enter detailed information in the reports including Trotto scores.

- As Todd explored, it does not look like reports can be re-accessed.
- Todd suggested we talk to Bob Berg from Southwest Washington as they use a pretty robust game report system that occurs outside of Arbiter.
- Todd is reaching out to Arbiter as well to see if there are features that can be added or changed to allow for this.

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Question from Pete: When will travel fees be added? Todd mentioned that they are working on that right now, as the fees will be “hard coded in.” He mentioned football should be pretty straightforward as there are not usually more than one game played on a site at a time.

- Pete brought up the Civic double-header scenario. Todd shared that hopefully the program will be able to figure out that if an official works a second game it will automatically not pay them travel for the second game.

Pete shared a concern about schools using their individual sites instead of Civic complex, which will spread us even more thin. Todd shared that he anticipates that we may still be short up to 30% of our officials. We need to let schools know that we need to work with their schedules and look at other nights to host games. Todd: if there are no fans, do games really need to occur on a Friday night? Pete: without fans, doesn't Thursday at 6:00 make more sense?

Pete discussed with Todd that we'll reach out via e-mail if we have questions. Todd thinks that we should hear tonight or this afternoon via social media from WIAA about what things should look like (football in the spring).

What's the plan if we move to spring, with regards to dues and can we put off book ordering? Todd: no books have gone out anyway because of COVID. Todd wants us to order the books but we can hold off shipping so they can be stored at WIAA until we want them. Todd will send out an e-mail on Wednesday or Thursday saying registration is open and that we can edit dues at a later date. Todd mentioned that dues aren't collected until games are worked, so that will occur when/if football occurs in the spring.

Todd discussed the state-wide football Zoom approach. Potentially having on Friday night instead of Sunday night. The Friday night meeting could be a chance to connect and take the place of games that had been scheduled on Friday night.