

6 MARCH 2019
NASOA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING V.2

President

Cedric Thomas had a game assignment and was unable to attend.

Treasurer

Kim Hensley opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Cedric wanted the membership to cooperate more fully in accepting game assignments promptly. The assignors for high school, adult league and USSF games have reported too many assignments have “timed out” without any response from the assigned referee. In the high school Arbiter assigning system, referees have 3 days to accept or reject the assignment; in the Game Officials system assignments for HASL - Referees have **5 days** before it times out auto declines; assignments for ASA (D I and D II) - Referees have **3 days** before it times out and auto declines.

High School Game Management

Diego Chulan reported a situation at Madison City Stadium recently. James Clements HS had a JV game and an area varsity game. The electrical power failed before the JV game. Also the field markings were invisible or improperly placed. Diego was able to referee the JV match but darkness precluded playing the varsity match. **A member voiced concern for the lack of support for high school soccer by the Madison City recreation department** that allowed the field to be improperly marked. Diago asked if a special report needed to be made to AHSAA. Kim replied only the normal AHSAA game report is required to include an explanation of events in the remarks section.

Kim reported some schools are cancelling games without notifying the NASOA assigner. There is also an increase in “no show” games this season probably due to new coaches/ADs not aware that the schools will be charged ref fees if games are not cancelled by noon of the game day.

Kim introduced our new referee Kevaghn Hall who will officiate at the Huntsville HS match on 7 March.

The JV Super Cup is 8-9 March at Huntsville HS.

The last day to take the AHSAA test is 8 March.

One member expressed concern that he was assigned two varsity dual referee games. Further discussion revealed he was not comfortable doing duals. He should communicate this to the assigner.

The member also said he understood from an incident two (2) years ago if a referee can't do two back to back games, he/she will not be assigned. Kim responded that information was incorrect.

Member at Large

Caleb Brown suggested that the window for accepting/declining games on Game Officials scheduling system be extended to 3 days.

Membership

Darrell Schmidt asked about the financial status of NASOA with respect to having reserves to pay games. Kim replied there is sufficient funding for referee fees and the high school fees are coming in as well.

Recruiting

Jackie Svehlak voiced a problem for new referees to find critical information regarding signing up, training, uniforms, etc. That information is distributed over multiple web sites. She suggested the board prepare a card with a QR code that contains all essential links to this information. Action – Board will consider at next quarterly meeting. See Annex.

Jackie also voiced concern over the low high school referee pay rates. She gave an example: basketball referees in the local rec league are paid \$25 per hour for U-10 games played in warm indoor facilities. Higher level basketball games refs are paid proportionally higher rates.

Kim said AHSAA is considering raising fees for next year.

Mike Moran, Secretary, suggested that NASOA members as independent contractors might consider a job action to get the attention of AHSAA.

Caleb Brown also suggested a way to drive home the need for referees directly to high school teams would be to hand out a "Refs Needed!" flyer to both coaches and school representatives before every match. This physical reminder may be more effective than the emails sent to the principals, ADs and coaches before the season started.

Some good news on recruiting. The five new referees from the A&M Women's team are actively refereeing. So far there is no response from UAH.

Jackie suggested NASOA participate in freshmen orientation at local universities to highlight the need for referees and to offer a way to earn money. (Board Action).

The next meeting will be Monday, 18 March (During Spring Break).

Kim closed the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Attendees:

Rob Brooks
~~Justin~~ Caleb Brown
Diego Chulan
Bill Buchanan
Kevaughn Hall
Dean Johnson
Jackie Svehlak
Mike Moran
David Barreto
Christian Boyer
Kim Hensley
Darrell Schmidt
Robert Sullivan

ANNEX

Jackie Svehlak's Suggestion for QR Code Handout

- QR Code need to be generated to link directly to the sign up website
- Must be very user friendly
- QR Code can be printed on stickers and/or small business cards for easy distribution to referee candidates
- Referees will be encouraged (required?) to distribute the QR Code cards at all games, tournaments, league meetings, etc.
- Cost is minimal: \$40 +/- for 100 for 2" x 2" stickers