

Statewide Officials Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Members in Attendance:

Janet Oitzman
Bob Kosower
Mark Showers
Rick McCutcheon
Neil Yazzie
Mike Gillespie
Steve Ganson
Bev Nielsen
Jim Burgess
Ron Tate
Brian Gessner
Dennis Meadows
Emily Alexander
Jim Poquette
Gary Whelchel
Jeanie Kosower
Christie Messner, in lieu of Michele Staples

Members Absent:

Herman House
Don Cerimeli
Michele Staples

(Gary, Jeanie and Christie were not voting members on this committee)

The purpose of this committee, which is established through the Executive Board and the AIA Bylaws, is to meet annually and give input and recommendations for Bylaw change proposals which will affect officials.

Number of Officials per sport

There has been a drop in the number of officials for most sports and there are 3 reasons for this:

1. The economy has improved
2. Registration fees have increased significantly this year
3. Officials can earn more money working for other groups

The state of Arizona has the highest registration fee of all the states, but ranks below 50% in game fees paid. We are able to cover all games scheduled in Arizona, for the most part. The number of games changed for not having enough officials in Arizona is approximately 1.5%. As a point of comparison, in North Carolina, 65% of games are changed for the same reason. Another comparison is the varsity basketball game fee in Arizona is \$55, and is \$75 in Connecticut.

Football Helmet Dislodgement

The football helmet dislodgement chart was distributed and discussed. We cannot change the playing rule but we are using this information as an experiment this year, collecting the data which will be provided to the National Federation.

Background Check

The AIA has seen the need to use a more extensive means of checking the officials' background. It has been determined that by July 2012, all officials must produce an FBI fingerprint card. Each official will need to pay the cost for his/her card. The AIA is discussing the possibility of reducing the registration fee, which

was increased this year, to accommodate the cost of the Fingerprint Card and discontinue background checks.

Fee Structure

We had a lengthy discussion regarding increasing the game fee structure for officials since there has not been a game fee increase since 2006, which is a span of 6 years with no increase.

Some of the reasons for this include that we are competing with our officials who also work for other leagues – club, charter schools, middle schools, etc., which all pay higher amounts for shorter length games. An example of this is Pop Warner football which pays \$60 for a 2 hour maximum game. Other examples are the charter leagues which pay \$50 per basketball game, or the Parks and Recreation league which pays \$30 for a softball game with a 1 hour time limit.

The proposal would be to increase all JV and freshman games (excluding Volleyball) from \$35 to \$40 to compete with these other leagues and to retain our new officials and keep them working with the AIA.

We are proposing to increase the varsity Football fee from \$55 to \$60, due to the length of time these officials are at the site of the game. (1 hour pregame plus a 2 ½ hour game) The varsity Softball game fee is also proposed to be increased from \$40 to \$45, so the Varsity fee is more than the sub-varsity levels.

Three proposals were put forth to increase the other varsity game fees, namely Baseball, Basketball, Soccer and Wrestling. The first proposal was to increase these sports game fees by \$5 each and 10 individuals voted for this. The second proposal was to increase these sports game fees by \$2 each and this proposal had 4 votes. The third proposal, which was for no fee increase in these sports, received 0 votes.

We plan to present these proposals separately in the order of their importance as determined by this committee, and recognize that they must be presented correctly with pertinent backup information to support this increase before it comes to the vote of the Legislative Council.

Metro Mileage adjustment

The last increase in mileage was given in 2005. We want to submit a proposal to the Bylaws for some increases this year.

We propose to move this fee from \$7 to \$10 per day as the cost for gas and travel in the metropolitan cities has grown tremendously.

The plan is to give a breakdown of what this increase will cost the schools, and present arguments that support these proposals.