

Umpire Training Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2023

Introductions

Gary Teale opened the meeting at 1:45. Welcomed new umpires and thanked the veteran umpires for their attendance. Gary also gave a brief explanation of the Recruitment Strategic Plan and encouraged everyone to pick up some brochures and business cards for distribution to others who might be interested in umpiring.

Jim McCoy welcomed everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell how many years they had been umpiring.

Arbiter Overview (Bob Francis & Kerry Kelly) & Assigner Requests

Bob Francis introduced himself as the primary Assigner in Arbiter and how his role functions, i.e., working with athletic directors, coaches, WOA and WIAA to ensure that the master schedule is accurate. He then went on to make the following points:

- ✓ Umpires must be certified before games can be assigned. This includes completing the on-line clinic, passing the rules test, passing a background check and completing the independent contractor agreement.
- ✓ Explained how to establish blocks in Arbiter that will indicate to the assigners when you are available to be assigned games. He also emphasized the importance of keeping your blocks up to date and try to do a month in advance if possible.
- ✓ When entering your zip code on your profile page, use the zip code (business or home) that is most usually where you will be travelling from to your assigned games. This will establish what travel fees you are to earn, if applicable.
- ✓ Payments for School games (HS, Junior High, Middle School) will be paid within 72 hours via WOA, but only if a game report (Red R changed to a Green R) has been filed for that game.
- ✓ Payments for non-school games (American Legion, SIYB, Men's Rec, etc.) will be paid monthly by Rich Hobson. Make sure that your SSN and bank information is on your profile in Arbiter.
- ✓ Once you have been assigned a game on Arbiter, please accept or decline as soon as possible. Of course accepting is always preferred since declining a game makes a lot more work for the assigners. Again, keep your blocks up to date.

- ✓ Due to several umpires retiring in NE Washington, there will be more games in that region (Colville, Chewelah, Cusick, Selkirk, Hunter's, Republic, Curlew, etc.) that will be assigned to Spokane based umpires.
- ✓ It is extremely important for you to communicate with the assigners if you cannot make an assigned game.
- ✓ **Kerry Kelly** (Associate Assigner) reiterated the importance of communication when scheduling conflicts arise. He also stated that the assigners *"will have your backs 100%"* whenever there are issues with coaches or players.
- ✓ **Ejections:** If you do eject a coach or player that must be reported through the WOA Central Hub under Ejection Report. Be concise in describing exactly what happened and why the ejection took place. Include game, date, site, name of the person ejected, school team, and reason for ejection. In addition, Contact Bob or Kerry and inform them that you have filed an ejection report. Include a note on your game report.
- ✓ **Concussions:** If a player sustains a concussion, or even a suspicion of a concussion, that must also be reported via the Concussion report on the WOA Central Hub.
- ✓ **Game reports:** For all school games, a game report must be submitted that includes the score of the game. Do not add notes unless there is needed a travel fee adjustment that needs to be made due to carpooling, or if there was an unusual circumstance during the game, i.e., ejection of concussion.
- ✓ The high school season is scheduled to begin on March 11.
- ✓ **Tournaments:** Please review the tournament dates on the main page in Arbiter and please make every effort to make yourself available on those dates.

Basic Rules & Policies (Jim McCoy)

- ✓ **Lightning/Thunder Policy:** If lightning is seen, or thunder is heard, the game must be suspended for 30 minutes from the time of last occurrence. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- ✓ **Jurisdiction:** Umpires are responsible from the time of entering the field until leaving the playing field.
- ✓ **Ejections:** As mentioned above, file an ejections report on the WOA Central Hub and inform Bob and/or Kerry in the game report and by phone.
- ✓ **Threats:** If a coach or spectator(s) threaten you in the parking lot, leave ASAP. Contact Kerry or Bob ASAP. You can also call 911 if you feel you are in immediate danger. Always a good idea to leave with and park close to your partner.

- ✓ **Preventative Umpiring:** Be aware of potential issues and rising tension. Try to correct before it becomes a big problem.
- ✓ **Equipment, etc:**
 - Balls must have the NOCSE and NFHS labels
 - Bats must be wood or with the BBCOR Decal
 - Catchers Helmet must have the NOCSE label
 - Pitcher's mitt cannot be white or gray (or with white or gray laces.)
 - Pitcher's cannot have white sleeves or bands on their wrists & forearms.
 - Players (except the catcher) must have at least one foot in fair territory at the beginning of each play.

Basic Mechanics (Kevin Williamson)

- ✓ **Plate Position:** In the "slot" slightly above the catcher's head. Watch the pitch from the pitcher's hand into the catcher's mitt, follow with your eyes, and minimize head movement.
- ✓ **Plate or Mound:** When working solo, it is OK to work from behind the pitcher's mound, but in NFHS, behind the plate is the preferred location.
- ✓ **Passed Ball:** "Open the gate" (pivot) allowing catcher to pursue the ball. Note: keep your eye on the ball so you don't get beamed by a throw from the catcher.
- ✓ **Ball/Strike:** If a strike, pause momentarily being sure of what you saw, then call strike (in a very loud voice) and physically indicate strike with either the hammer (fist above the shoulder) or the pistol (point to the side). If a ball, stay in locked position and say it quietly so that the catcher and batter know what the call was.
- ✓ **Fair/Foul:** Be slow to call this. Wait until the ball settles or is touched. You cannot reverse a foul call.
- ✓ **Getting Help:** As plate umpire you can ask for help from your partner on a check Swing; Did he go? Point with left hand.
- ✓ **Putting the ball back in play:** After every foul ball it is important to put the ball back in play by pointing with the right hand towards the pitcher and saying "Play" (loudly).

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.