

# WCSOA membership meeting

*Note: Minutes below are best possible record of conference call given people speaking at same time, connection issues and other factors related to circumstances.*

## Minutes of meeting held Sept. 9, 2020

**Location:** Cyberspace (meeting conducted remotely via Zoom)

**Meeting:** Mandatory interpretation meeting for 2020 season

**Time:** Meeting called to order by president Jim Matranga shortly after 7 p.m.  
(meeting was recorded)

Jim opened with some general remarks and welcome to all in attendance (including officials visiting from other boards)

## Rules interpretation

John Shirley, state rules interpreter

NFHS slides displayed at start of his presentation ... slides and commentary on rule changes and editorial adjustments for the 2020 season.

Note: John's full presentation was recorded and is available on the WCSOA web site.

## Virus rules/procedures

- Pregame: just 1 official with one captain from each team.

- Not a policeman as an official; allowed to talk about social distancing, but no penalty for teams not following rules. It is up to coaches and school administrators to monitor virus response
- Player face covering should be safe (no metal), but is allowed without question.
- For refs, cloth face coverings are optional during the actual game; officials must wear a mask arriving at field, during halftime and when leaving field.
- If there are logos or words on mask, let it go since there has been at this point no guidance on this issue. A non-punishable issue at this stage.
- A player “getting in the face” of an opponent or referee is subject to caution in the game. This is a safety issue this year, determining unsporting conduct.
- No guidance on spitting (by player himself, not at someone).
- Group celebration not advisable, but not punishable either (social distancing issue). This, including pregame huddles, falls under the category as officials not being responsible for social distancing and health requirements.
- Advised to discuss some of these issues with captains and coaches before game (and with your fellow refs).

John wraps up his presentation at 8 p.m., a solid hour of presentation that was well done.

# **WCSOA business meeting**

## **Secretary report**

Minutes from last meeting were posted on web site.

**MOTION:** Joe D. motion to accept minutes from Nov. 25, 2019 banquet meeting. Rob Banyai second. **PASSES.**

## **Treasurer report**

Gary Duquette reports the following balances as of 9-9-20:

- Checking: \$4,305.74
- Savings: \$13,204.27
- Total: \$17,510.01

Gary also reports that the board has purchased flipping coins that will be available for interested members.

**MOTION:** Elmer Deschaine motion to accept treasurer's report as stated above. Al Schoenbach second. **PASSES.**

## **Old business**

### **Meetings**

Andy Mozalak (Awards committee) recommends that Brendan Jugler be named a Life Member.

This typically requires (as per by-laws) a written vote be conducted. Since that is not possible this season, an electronic vote will be conducted this month.

## Commissioner remarks

Joe D. on following topics ...

- Some non-CIAC schools are starting their season this Friday 9/11. (South Kent & Torrington Christian Academy) ... make sure your availability is up to date now.
- First CIAC games/scrimmages will begin on 9/24
- First regular season games scheduled to begin on 10/1
- I plan on having your schedules for the first two weeks out hopefully by 9/17 and I plan on doing two weeks at a time because we do not know how far this whole season will go. If things go smoothly I should have the whole season done by early to mid-October.
- Schools can only schedule 2 games per week and can only reschedule a 3<sup>rd</sup> game for the week if a game is postponed due to weather.
- Season is scheduled to end on 11/7 with some sort of tournament to follow during 11/9 – 11/21.
- Some Prep Schools are thinking about starting games in October – Canterbury, Millbrook, Gunnery ... but nothing definite yet!
- Remember to contact your brother official the night before the game and go over meeting pre-game, uniforms, etc. Referee 1 should contact the other referee(s). Also, if on game day you are running late – make sure you contact your brother official and the school to inform them of such.
- Games are very fluid and cancelations may occur. For the most part we will stand by the 2-hour notice, but the 24 hr. notice may be difficult to police this year.

- Masks: A mask shall be worn from car thru pre-game, again at half-time and after the game as you return to your car. Interpreter shall discuss during game protocol.
- Come dressed to the match – schools will not be open for entering by officials.
- Stay safe – stay healthy ... Play On!

## **More from commissioner**

1. We welcome 6 new members: Jack DeOliveira, Tiago Martins, Richard Safran, Gregg Nicholls, Tim Calder and Feti Jusufi

2. A lot of the discussion will be done by email with questions on procedures, etc. Members are encouraged to ask any questions they have to the Executive Board.

3. Waivers: JD says some schools may ask officials to sign a waiver upon arriving at field. IF that happens member should sign the sheet since our members have decided to referee this season (after being given an opportunity to opt out). By taking assignment we have assumed the risk involved.

4. We should not be trying to create issues with any of the virus-related changes to mechanics and procedures. Let school officials and coaches deal with the majority of the new policies.

## **2020 remaining meeting dates**

Thurs., Oct. 8

- Uncertain location (may be remote again). Starting at 7 p.m.

**Banquet:** Nov. 23 (location TBA)

**Adjournment:** at 8:12