

**WEST COAST OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION, INC.
BASKETBALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES**



Meeting Date: August 25, 2024

Type of Meeting: Board of Directors Meeting, Followed by Open Member Meeting

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting Link

Present: Eric Sperbeck, Bernard Grimsley, Rodney Dickerson, Josh Saunders, Hubert McCloud, Jerome Smith, Romero Green; Richard Miller

Absent: Nolan Padgett, Carl Erickson

- I. The meeting was called to order by Eric at 6:30 pm.
- II. New Membership:
 - a. We have approximately 30 new members in WCOA (split between new officials and transferring officials).
 - b. The board needs to ensure we have a process to see these new officials so they can be assigned appropriately. Eric supports sending 2 crews to MS games (there are always back-to-back games) to get new officials exposure with a seasoned official. Increased game fee makes this more feasible.
 - c. Next new official training class is scheduled for September. Eric will look for the new official training list and send it to Bernard.
- III. Fall Clinic:
 - a. Eric met with Berkley Prep to confirm fall camp as November 2nd.
 - b. Berkley will once again not allow us to cook on the premises.
 - c. Berkley also requested that we end the camp in the early afternoon.
 - d. Eric will reach out to past WCOA members that are doing well at the next level and invite them to the camp. Eric requested the board think of other discussion topics for the meeting.
 - e. Romero requested clarification on why we are tied to Berkley for camp given the restrictions. Eric clarified that they are good partners, it's a free venue and convenient to most.
- IV. Training Schedule:
 - a. Test preparation – Bernard confirmed that when the test opens, there will be twice a week test preparation day.
 - b. New Official Training – Bernard confirmed that training will be held after Labor Day.

- V. Support for Dave L and his JV basketball tournament.
 - a. The board agreed that WCOA wouldn't go backwards on member compensation as requested.
 - b. Dave L agreed to the \$50 rate for member officials.
 - c. Eric negotiated to allow WCOA to use the tournament as a training opportunity. Dave agreed.
 - d. Eric will be doing assigning for free since we will not charge an assigning fee to Dave L.
 - e. Eric wants experienced members to work with newer officials for development purposes.

VI. Contracts for New Season:

- a. All contracts are out to the private schools. No concerns noted.
- b. The Hillsborough contract is complete.
 - i. Official rates have been increased to \$92 for varsity, \$69 for JV, \$55 for MS.
 - ii. ECO rates have increased from \$35 to \$40.
 - iii. Rodney commended Eric's professionalism during meetings with Lanness Robinson, Athletic Director for Hillsborough. WCOA members received a better outcome because Eric took the time to listen and Lanness listened in return.
 - iv. Jerome commended Eric and Rodney for going to bat for members.
- c. Eric said the Pasco contract is done and will need to verify to be 100% certain.
 - i. Rates have been established: varsity \$92, JV \$69, MS \$69 with additional "5th quarter" payment.
 - ii. ECO rates are \$69.
 - iii. Eric recommends that we not reduce ECO rates. The only reason he recommends we do so is if it increases other Pasco and Private schools to use this WCOA service.

VII. The board meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

VIII. General Member Meeting was brought to order at 7:01 pm:

- a. Eric asked committee members if they had anything to report.
 - i. Evaluation Committee – Richard Miller
 - 1. The committee is focused on getting people evaluated early in the season.
 - 2. They are formalizing the committee meeting schedule.
 - 3. Josh Saunders reiterated the need to have the most updated evaluations available for review.
 - 4. Mike Varnadore confirmed that evaluations are stored in a database and are available.
 - ii. Eric expressed his willingness to help formalize any meetings.

- b. Eric introduced himself and welcomed the new members.
 - i. New members are encouraged to reach out to other members.
 - ii. Eric has been fielding several emails. He gave out his personal cell number.
- c. Middle School Season is Approaching:
 - i. Eric highlighted some rule variations and will be sending out the specific rules.
 - ii. Middle School games require no “FHSAA patch” on sleeve.
 - iii. Eric reminded members that they must register with WCOA and pay their dues to be allowed to work middle school games.
 - iv. It’s required that members register for FHSAA and pay the appropriate dues. Ensure you select the appropriate West Coast Association (Not West Central).
 - v. Review Arbiter and block the appropriate dates in Arbiter and ensure the “Ready” box is checked.
- d. New contracted rates for officials and clock operators were established. There were rate increases for the upcoming season.
 - i. See section VI above for details.
- e. Eric reviewed the process for new official registrations. Go to wcoafila.org for details.
 - i. Mike Varnadore clarified that re-registration is the “annual membership registration” and not the “New Member” tab.
 - ii. Eric reminded members to ensure they are up to date on the Jessica Lunsford Act, background check process.
 - iii. Ensure you check the “ready” box in Arbiter after you have completed the registration process. You won’t show available to assigners unless the box is checked.
- f. Berkley Clinic:
 - i. Scheduled for November 2nd. Mark the date and more information will follow.
- g. New-Official Training Classes:
 - i. Tony Brackins confirmed the next class is scheduled to begin September 16th and held on Mondays and Wednesdays. Class ends on October 24th.
- h. Eric reminded members that they won’t get emails until they register. He also strongly recommended members join the Facebook page for more information.
- i. Eric commended Mike Varnadore for his work on website development.
- j. Bernard Grimsley reiterated the importance of the Training Committee and each member’s engagement in the committee.

- k. Eric said that scrimmages will be available again this fall.
- l. Richard Miller, Evaluation Committee, reinforced how important scrimmages are for evaluations. Reach out to Richard if you want to be evaluated and his committee will work hard to get you evaluated.
- m. Member Guidelines/Expectations:
 - i. Eric communicated his philosophy as VP. He tries to involve all the board, takes their feedback and tries to make things better.
 - ii. Eric communicated that based on feedback, the board is finalizing guidelines on what is expected from members.
 - 1. Engagement - The board wants to reward people that are giving back to WCOA.
 - 2. Attendance - Members need to attend meetings to ensure they are receiving necessary information.
 - 3. Evaluations – Members’ ability to effectively manage games.
 - iii. The board is aware that members may not have moved in their rankings recently. The board now has a better understanding of where people are and will work hard to move people into the most appropriate ranking. The main goal is to put people into a position to succeed.
 - iv. Eric and the board always welcome feedback on rankings. Just make sure it’s respectful and be open to constructive criticism.
- n. Elections:
 - i. Mike Varnadore reminded members that nominations for President will be occurring during football season. The rest of the basketball positions will be nominated during basketball.
 - ii. Rodney Dickerson expressed a difference of opinion and stated that the President election will coincide with basketball elections.
 - iii. Eric was uncertain and stated he will follow up with clarification.
- o. Uniforms:
 - i. Last year it was an option to wear black or gray pre-game jackets. It just had to be consistent as a crew.
 - ii. Eric requested board feedback on transitioning to black.
 - 1. Bernard G. expressed that he’s open to either type...just make it consistent.
 - 2. Richard M. expressed that jackets need to arrive quickly.

3. Jerome prefers the black jacket. But make sure it's consistent as a crew.
 4. Rodney prefers the gray jacket.
 5. Josh doesn't have a real preference...but he does prefer the gray if necessary.
 6. Based on feedback, Eric summarized the consensus for the black pre-game jacket. Anyone ordering new jackets is encouraged to order in black. No objections to this decision.
- p. Eric opened the meeting to general comments:
- i. A member advised that south Hillsborough County, below route 60, has significant traffic. Schedule travel time accordingly.
 - ii. A member wanted clarification on the black jacket. Eric confirmed that new officials should order black jackets. Eric reminded members that the significant game pay increase will offset any added expense of a new jacket.
 - iii. A member wanted clarification on scrimmage start times. Eric confirmed that we are at the mercy of the scrimmage start times and it's difficult to modify them.
 - iv. Jerome S. reminded members that there aren't any changing facilities for MS games. It's acceptable to come to MS games already dressed.
 - v. Tony B. reminded members to be patient with MS game start time and warmups. Eric will send out an update on MS rules this week.
 - vi. John D questioned why some of the new officials aren't getting MS games and he sees experienced officials getting those games. He feels those 4-5 rated officials should get that exposure. Eric agrees with getting the new officials' games. Eric confirmed that he would like to see a seasoned official partnered with a new official for MS games. He doesn't want 2 new officials working the same MS game.

Eric ended the meeting at 7:56 pm and the meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

To be determined

PREPARED BY

Steve Lanham, Secretary