

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



Meeting Date: August 5, 2025

Type of Meeting Board of Directors Meeting, Followed by a members meeting

Meeting Location: Zoom Meeting Link

Present: Eric Sperbeck, Jerome Smith, Julia Gonzalez, Mark Olson, Nolan Padgett Sr., Jon Decker, Josh Saunders (Joined at 6:33), Richard Miller (joined at 6:46), Rodney Dickerson (Joined at 6:54)

Absent: Romero Green,

- I. The meeting with the board was called to order by Eric at 6:12 pm.
 - II. WCOA contracted with a “rec-league” in Holiday. Also, a total of 8 YMCA agreements were arranged with Hillsborough sites.
 - III. Eric wants clarification on how the Assignment Committee will be organized and communicate. He’d like to see the committee update Arbiter rankings and ensure clear paths of communication so Nolan can successfully handle assignments. Nolan clarified that Josh is the head of the Assignment Committee, and he is willing to give his input while respecting the committee’s independent authority.
 - IV. Eric confirmed that the summer training camp will be held at Carolwood Day School instead of Berkley Preparatory. He opened for discussion on the specific date. Tentatively set for November 1st, from 8 am to 2 pm. Eric recommended establishing an A and B group to help with participation flow. Eric clarified that the Training Committee is responsible for arranging the details of the training.
 - V. Nolan gave some feedback on the current ranking spreadsheet and defers to the board for changes.
 - VI. Eric challenged the board to revisit the current fining structure and ensure the association is consistent with its approach. Not accepting games timely, declining games due to not keeping Arbiter updated and turning back games after accepting them need consistent consequence. Eric challenged the board to determine a specific dollar amount attached to the fine.
 - VII. Eric wants the board to convene again in August to address the fining and assignment issues.
- Eric ended the board meeting at 6:55 pm and the meeting adjourned.*

- I. The Member meeting was called to order by Eric at 7:02 pm.
- II. Eric introduced himself and the board members.
 - a. Jerome Smith – Liaison for Training Committee and Grievance Committee.

- b. Julia Gonzalez – Liaison for Recommendations Committee and Hospitality Committee
 - c. Josh Suanders – Liaison for Assignment Committee
 - d. Richard Miller – Liaison for Evaluation Committee
 - e. Nolan Padgett Sr – Head Assigner for Arbiter Games along with Marc Olson for rec games.
- III. Eric reminded members that Hillsborough County Schools will have an increased emphasis for JLA compliance. Ensure you have your blue and yellow cards with you when going to Hillsborough schools. They will be asking to see your cards.
- IV. Nolan Padgett introduced himself and reminded members of their responsibilities. Keep your Arbiter account updated and respond quickly. He gave members his telephone number for reference.
- a. Middle School Games – Hillsborough Public Middle Schools (not private) have their games in September. Tuesday, September 2nd is the first game of the season. Games are played Monday through Thursday. Monday games start at 5:30 pm, Tuesday through Thursday games start at 6:00. When assigned, you will be assigned to the girl's game and followed by the boy's game. Be aware that you are assigned both games and not a single game.
 - b. Go into Arbiter and click the "ready to be assigned" button. You will not be assigned games if you aren't marked as ready to be assigned.
 - c. Nolan is giving members 48 hours (Midnight Thursday night) to update their availability in the Arbiter system. He will begin the process of assignments on Friday, August 8th.
 - d. Nolan will release/assign the first two weeks of the season on Sunday, August 10th. Accept the games promptly.
 - e. He will complete the last two-week assignment approximately 1 week into the season. He will send out a reminder to verify your availability in Arbiter.
 - f. Dress code for middle school is black pants, black and white shirt and black shoes. The FHSAA patch is not to be worn.
 - g. Nolan opened for questions.
- V. Eric discussed attendance requirements. He informed members they don't need to respond to him if they will or won't be at a meeting and aren't required to put their name in the chat box during Zoom meetings. Members are encouraged to get engaged in committees.
- VI. Eric informed members that the board is trying to update the ranking requirements. He expressed that 1 rated official are strongly encouraged to be on a committee.
- VII. Fall Clinic – Tentatively scheduled at Carolwood Day School on November 1st from 8 am to 2 pm. This is the next opportunity to be evaluated.

- VIII. Eric shared that the association has picked up new contracts with YMCA and a rec league in Holiday. Eric made it his goal last year to get higher payments for these games. They are now at \$45 per game and this is a nice increase from the past. He encourages members to respect the travel requirements and support the association and these games.
- IX. Eric reminded members that our professionalism shouldn't change with the game level. Middle School and rec games should be treated the same as a regular high school game. Communicate with your partners, arrive on time and be professional at every level. Have a pre-game and take care of business. The fees are up across the board, and we must ensure our actions and behaviors are consistent with our higher pay structure. Always stay professional with game management, players and crowds. If you have a problem with any game, let Eric or any board member know about the issue.
- X. Given space limitations, members can come dressed to middle school games. Mouthpiece and no pockets on shorts are a must in Hillsborough Middle School games. Be flexible with numbers and uniform color. However, mouth pieces and pockets on shorts should be addressed.
- XI. Eric reinforced keeping your Arbiter up to date. The board is working to establish a monetary fine structure to address the 3 areas below. The point of fines is not to be punitive. It's to ensure proper coverage and accountability to all members. Members will be fined for the following three reasons:
- a. You get an assignment in Arbiter and you don't accept the game within 72 hours,
 - b. You get an assignment in Arbiter and you decline the game (Your Arbiter wasn't up to date),
 - c. You accept a game in Arbiter and you "turn back" the game after previously accepting it.
- Legitimate "turn back" justification won't be fined.
- XII. Rodney mentioned that WCOA needs football clock operators for August 22nd. Reach out to him if you are interested in helping WCOA football.
- XIII. Rodney reinforced Eric's previous comment about having your JLA cards ready and up to date. You will be escorted out or not allowed to enter a Hillsborough school if you don't possess your cards.
- XIV. Eric reminded members that WCOA registration is all online.
- XV. Eric encouraged all new members to reach out to Jerome Smith or Tony Brackins regarding training.

Eric adjourned the member meeting at 8:03 pm.

NEXT MEETING First Sunday of each month.

PREPARED BY: Steve Lanham, Secretary